

## SUMMARY OF OVERALL HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

### VISION

Prepare the next generation of thinkers, innovators, and entrepreneurs to help the world meet its profound environmental and social justice challenges.

### MISSION

Provide responsible management of resources, demonstrate leadership in sustainable business practices, and serve as a living laboratory for sustainability.



### KEY AWARDS

- Only campus in nation to have been ranked among Sierra magazine's top 10 "Coolest Schools" for 12 consecutive years; ranked first in the nation 5 times (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020).
  - "Coolest Schools" means the campus doing the most to help "cool the planet" and reduce emissions through campus efforts in energy, transportation, waste, research, etc.
- Two-time recipient of the AASHE STARS Platinum rating (2018 & 2021); UCI's 2021 sustainability report received the highest score ever obtained by an institution at 88.59 points.
  - AASHE STARS is a globally recognized sustainability rating system: Platinum is the highest rating tier available.

### ACADEMICS

- Nearly 50% of undergraduate and graduate courses are sustainability-related. Over 900 undergraduate-level courses and over 430 graduate-level courses are sustainability-related.
- Over 96% of the academic departments offer sustainability-related courses
  - View the 2021 Sustainability Research Inventory.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- Launched the UCI Black Thriving Initiative, which recognizes and responds to anti-Blackness as an existential threat to UCI's mission as public research university.
  - Learn more about the UCI Black Thriving Initiative here.
- Over \$112 million was dedicated to offer grants to low and middle income students to minimize their cost of attendance, reduce the need for borrowing, and promote access and affordability.

### ENERGY

- Committed to the University of California's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2025, having reduced GHG emissions by 22,000 metric tons annually.
  - Learn about UCI's climate strategy in the Climate Action Plan.
- Recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Energy for being the first educational institution to improve energy efficiency 20 percent by 2020, exceeding this goal seven years early.
  - UCI consumed 23 percent less energy in 2013 than in 2008.

### FOOD SERVICES

- UCI Dining offers 200 new plant-forward menu items making 30 percent of menu options vegan- or vegetarian-friendly.
  - Learn more about UCI sustainable dining here.
- Fair Trade University designation in 2018, representing commitment to sourcing Fair Trade.
  - Learn more about Fair Trade University here.

## GREEN BUILDING

- 32 LEED certified buildings, 21 Platinum and 11 Gold; the most LEED Platinum for New Construction in the U.S.
    - [LEED](#) is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification through the U.S. Green Building Council.
  - Recent LEED Platinum certified buildings include the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building and Middle Earth Housing Expansion.
    - See complete list of LEED buildings and learn more about their features [here](#).
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## RESEARCH

- Over 30 percent (475 researchers) of UCI faculty conduct sustainability-related research in nearly 97 percent of academic departments.
    - View the [UCI Sustainability Research Inventory 2021](#).
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## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Certified as a Bee Campus USA, a student-led effort to educate the campus community on the environmental importance of bees.
    - Learn more about Bee Campus USA [here](#).
  - [FRESH Basic Needs Hub](#) is a student-initiated effort that promotes equitable access to basic needs through student empowerment, community collaboration, and institutional integration.
    - Students have access to weekly food pantry distribution and fresh produce program.
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## TRANSPORTATION

- First campus in nation to convert bio-diesel shuttle fleet to an all-electric bus fleet, providing more than 2 million student rides per year. UCI now has 20 all-electric shuttles.
    - This was an incredible student-led effort, with students voting to decommission gas-powered shuttles and replace with an all-electric fleet. Learn more [here](#).
  - Platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University designation from the League of American Bicyclists.
    - UCI provides bicycle education programs and classes through [BikeUCI](#).
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## OPEN SPACE

- Since 2010, UCI has been designated as a [Tree Campus USA](#) through the Arbor Day Foundation, recognized for efforts in establishing and sustaining an urban tree canopy.
  - The campus is designed to encourage open space access, providing opportunity for research, teaching, community engagement, and respite.
    - [Aldrich Park](#) - 16 acre central park; the “heart” of campus
    - [Ecological Preserve](#) - 60 acres located on the West Campus; commonly used for research projects and class instruction
    - [San Joaquin Marsh Reserve](#) - 202 acres of coastal freshwater marshes on the North Campus; serves as a natural laboratory across campus disciplines
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## WASTE

- 80 percent campus waste diversion rate, the highest in the UC system.
    - This means the campus diverts 80 percent of all its waste from landfill to recycling and composting facilities. Learn more [here](#).
  - UCI, along with all other UC Campuses are [phasing out single-use plastics](#) as part of the commitment to achieve zero waste.
    - The new policy will transition UC away from plastic bags in retail and dining locations and eventually eliminate single-use plastic food service items and plastic bottles by 2023.
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## WATER

- 90 percent of campus landscaping uses recycled water, which is highly treated wastewater from showers, toilets, sinks, dishwashers, etc.
  - In 2018, the central plant was retrofitted to use treated recycled water, saving approximately 80 million gallons of potable water (water considered safe to drink). Learn more [here](#).
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## WELLBEING

- UCI is among the inaugural US cohort to adopt the Okanagan Charter, recognizing a dedication to infusing health and wellbeing into the campus environment. Learn more [here](#).