

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

- No. 1 overall institution in the U.S. in [AASHE STARS](#) (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System).
- No. 1 doctoral institution and No. 1 U.S. institution in the [2022 AASHE Sustainable Campus Index](#).
 - AASHE STARS is the globally recognized sustainability rating system.
 - UCI is a two-time recipient of the AASHE STARS Platinum rating (2018 & 2021).
- 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.

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 [Environmental Justice Collective at UCI](#) in 2021, a student-led group working to respond to the intersecting crises of environmental, racial, and social justice.
- In 2020-2021, 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

- UCI is committed to the University of California's goal of achieving carbon neutrality for scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. The campus has reduced annual greenhouse gas emissions by 22,000 metric tons annually through energy efficiency projects, on-site renewable energy, and use of carbon free electricity.
 - 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.
 - UCI is home to two all-electric student housing communities, [Plaza Verde](#) and [Verano 8](#).
 - Plaza Verde opened in fall 2019 to 1,400 undergraduate student residents.
 - Verano 8 opened in summer 2022 to 1,055 graduate student residents.
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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

- [UCI's Campus as a Living Lab \(CLL\) program](#) is now in its eighth year, serving as a hybrid seminar and internship experience for undergraduates to become sustainability leaders on campus while also preparing for green careers of their future. 16 students are participating in the program for the 2022-2023 academic year.
 - UCI serves as a key partner in the City of Irvine's quest to win the [2022 Cool City Challenge](#). A key component of the challenge is the [Cool Block program](#), in which teams commit to taking and demonstrating more sustainable actions. UCI currently has over 20 student participants.
 - Certified as a Bee Campus USA in 2021, a student-led effort to educate the campus community on the environmental importance of bees. Learn more about Bee Campus USA [here](#).
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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.
 - Since 1996, UCI has hosted the [Shadetree Partnership](#) on campus, having planted more than 30,000 trees in the community through volunteer tree planting projects. This proudly serves as UCI's longest-standing sustainability community partnership.
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WASTE

- 80 percent campus waste diversion rate, meaning 80 % of all campus waste is recycled, reused, or composted. Learn more [here](#).
 - [160 water bottle filling stations](#) located on campus and in student housing. On average, more than 3 millions reusable water bottles are filled annually, helping to reduce over 90 tons of single-use plastic waste annually.
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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](#).