

At a university, sustainability encompasses four 'E's: environment, economics, equity, and education. Sustainability is about people, requires collaboration, depends on community, and involves considering whole systems and how things connect to each other. In the most basic sense, sustainable actions meet present needs while enhancing the environment and the ability of future generations to thrive.

In December 2018, UC Davis was internationally recognized as the [greenest university in the United States](#) (and 3rd greenest in the world) by the University of Indonesia GreenMetric World University Ranking.

A FEW SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Through its Climate Action Plan, the campus has reduced greenhouse gas emissions below year 2000 levels and is working to reach carbon neutrality by 2025.



- UC Davis installed a 16.3 megawatt solar power plant, the largest so far of any U.S. university. For more on UC Davis renewables, visit: <http://renewable.ucdavis.edu>.
- West Village, a 130-acre development on the campus that opened its doors in 2011, is on track to become the nation's largest planned zero net energy community.
- On an average weekday, 70 percent of students, faculty, staff and visitors use sustainable transportation (walking, bicycling, carpooling, riding a bus or taking a train) as their primary means of commuting to campus.

- The student-run Unitrans bus system, served by a fleet of 45 buses fueled by compressed natural gas, carries over 20,000 riders on an average day. The campus has more than 42 miles of bike paths and more than 20,000 bike racks.
- Aggressive recycling, composting and reuse efforts prevented 75 percent of campus waste from entering the landfill this past year. Aggie Stadium, the nation's first zero-waste stadium, won second place in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's nationwide 2017 Game Day Challenge.
- The campus achieved a 27% water savings from 2008 levels of water use, and uses about 70 percent less water per person now than in 1969. Some of our water conservation actions include converting landscapes to be water-conserving, using reclaimed water in our cooling towers, retrofitting fixtures, and engaging the campus community in helping identify leaks and change water wasting behaviors.
- Campus collaboration with external partners on water supply resiliency and sustainability led to gaining a surface water supply that reduces pressure on limited groundwater supplies, further builds collaborative relationships in the region, and improves water quality. In addition, UC Davis collaborated with multiple agencies to form the only known Groundwater Sustainability Agency in the state of California that is comprised of multiple agencies for a whole sub-basin. The state has heralded this breadth of collaboration.
- Nine UC Davis building complexes are certified LEED Platinum, the highest ranking awarded by the US Green Building Council. Pictured here, the Manetti Shrem Museum of Art was certified LEED Platinum, which is a challenging accomplishment for an art museum, given the climate control requirements for art works.

