

USC earns top ratings for sustainability innovations and operations



Environment-friendly groundskeeping and dining services highlighted as part of university's ambitious sustainability goals

The [2022 Sustainable Campus Index \[https://www.aashe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SustainableCampusIndex-2022.pdf\]](https://www.aashe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SustainableCampusIndex-2022.pdf) ranks the University of Southern California as a top performer in multiple sustainability practices. USC's

electrified groundskeeping equipment and sustainable practices have earned a “Green Zone” certification [<https://agza.net/>]. USC Hospitality [<https://hospitality.usc.edu/>] is recognized for providing a low-impact dining experience for students and faculty on campus.

The Index is produced by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE [<https://www.aashe.org/>]), a governance association for sustainability at colleges and universities around the world.

First “Green Zone” University

As highlighted in the Index, USC is the first university to be certified by the American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA) as a “Green Zone.” USC’s beautiful campuses are maintained without gas-powered equipment and use innovative groundskeeping techniques in drought-burdened Los Angeles. In addition to reducing noise and improving air quality on campus, USC’s use of electric landscaping equipment reduces 89 tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year, according to AGZA estimates.

Top Ten in Sustainable Dining

USC ranked #7 in dining services among graduate degree-granting universities. To support a holistic food system, over 40% of all food purchases come from sustainable agricultural sources. Most packaging and utensils are compostable as part of the university’s Zero Waste initiative. USC partners with a neighborhood food pantry, St. Francis Center [<https://www.stfranciscenterla.org/>], to redistribute unused food to the community daily.

Silver “STARS” Rating

In addition to sustainable food services and landscaping, USC earned a Silver Rating [<https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-southern-california-ca/report/2021-07-29/>] for overall performance in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). The STARS rating is a transparent measurement of sustainability activities in academic institutions.



Benchmarking Progress

To match USC's bold research and interdisciplinary teaching in sustainability, the university is transforming its facilities and physical operations. From solar energy, to water conservation practices, to waste diversion and water refill stations, the Los Angeles campuses are becoming models of transformation.



Mick Dalrymple

Reducing the campus-wide contributions to climate change and other sustainability challenges through broad infrastructure planning is no small feat. Mick Dalrymple, USC's Chief Sustainability Officer, is part of a team of dozens of professionals and hundreds of volunteers who are rapidly accelerating USC's efforts to integrate sustainability into all activities of the university. While the AASHE recognitions suggest the university's hard work is starting to pay off, Dalrymple says that Trojans will not rest on these laurels.

“The Silver rating and recognition for successful programs are great benchmarks of our progress, but they are the baseline not the finish line.”

USC has set ambitious goals to become a climate neutral campus by 2025 and reach key sustainability targets by the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The framework to achieve a sustainable campus is [Assignment: Earth \[https://sustainability.usc.edu/assignment-earth/\]](https://sustainability.usc.edu/assignment-earth/) – an expansive vision that includes education, research, equity and inclusion, operations, and engagement across the university.

Dalrymple believes the USC community is up to the challenge.

“We have the intellectual resources and talent to be a world leader in sustainability. And our faculty and students have the passion and drive to take action – today.”

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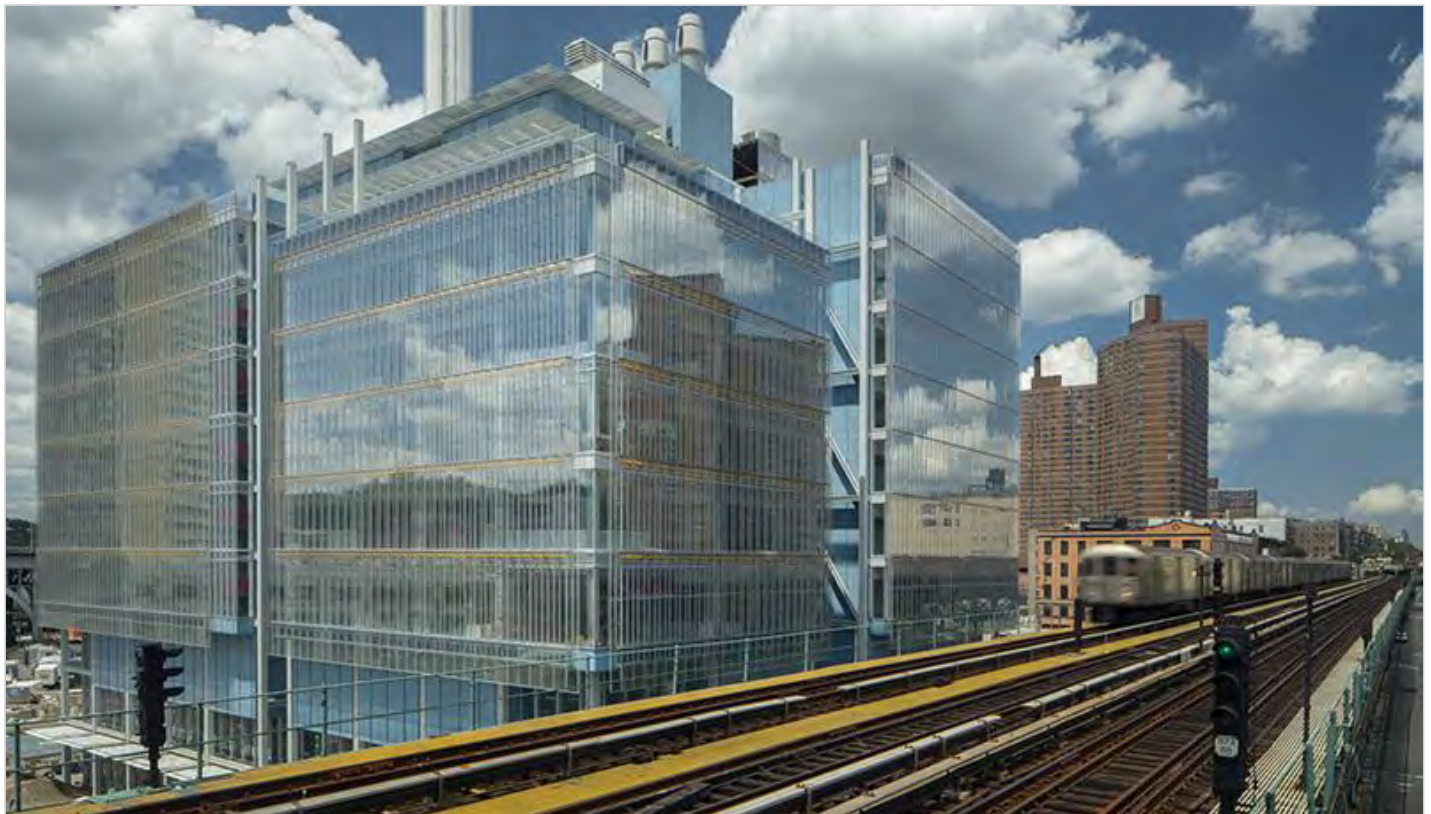
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As a global leader in higher education and research, we are committed to attracting and engaging the best minds in pursuit of greater understanding, pioneering new discoveries, and educating the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and innovators. We seek dedicated people to join in our mission.

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Today, universities remain vital engines of pioneering research and new ideas for addressing society's most urgent problems. The defining spirit of Columbia University is bound up in the pursuit of new knowledge and a constant reimagining of how to do things better. In Manhattanville, Columbia is reimagining what a 21st-century urban university can be.



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Lee C. Bollinger, Columbia University President

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Good sleep is key to supporting your overall well-being. Getting some quality shuteye can help support your immune system, improve memory function and boost your mood. Learn more about the importance of sleep and how you can prioritize it.

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Family Building

From pregnancy/fertility support to helping pay for college, Columbia supports you and your family at any stage in the pathway to parenthood. Take advantage of virtual appointments and coaching, education resources, and doctor referrals.



Employee Assistance Program

EAP is a network of free or discounted services to support your personal success and help with everyday challenges. Talk to a counselor, get referrals, and find well-being resources.



Tax Savings Accounts

Several tax savings accounts are available to help you pay for commuting, healthcare and dependent care expenses, and save for retirement. Setting up accounts will reduce your current taxable income.



Well-being

Nothing is more important than your health, but staying fit and living well can be a challenge. Columbia offers a variety of programs to inspire you to make healthy choices, support your personal goals and help you stay motivated.



Mental Health

The University is committed to supporting the mental health and well-being of you and your loved ones. We offer a range of resources, education programs, and counseling services to help you live better and thrive.



Health Condition Services

Health Condition Services are special programs for disease management, chronic illness, and health services for you and your loved ones. Support services include UnitedHealthcare (UHC) programs and Columbia on-site and virtual resources.



Travel Assistance

Whether travelling on University business or a personal vacation, Columbia can help with travel services through the Employee Assistance Program. We also offer travel insurance for the unexpected.



Retirement Savings

Columbia's retirement savings and financial planning programs help you set goals and provide a foundation of retirement income in addition to your personal savings and investments.

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