Cornell University Sustainability Snapshot

National Rankings
- Cornell is the #1 Ivy and #1 institution in New York State according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). We are also 1st among Ivies for Public Engagement, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Building Design & Construction, Energy, Waste Minimization, Demolition Waste, & Water.
- 7th year in a row achieved STARS Gold Rating – the longest running of any in the world. 1st in Coordination & Planning.
- #1 Ivy league institution and 7th in the nation as rated by the Princeton Review Green Honor Roll
- Leading the Ivies in overall successful carbon reduction, and most ambitious neutrality goal

Campus & Climate
- Goal of carbon neutrality by 2035. On track with emissions down 36% since 2008, over 50% since 1990.
- 40,000+ solar panels are helping to power the campus – providing 10% of campus electricity
- 60% of the Cornell food budget goes to purchasing locally and sustainably sourced food
- Composting rates have doubled in the last two years
- Annual water consumption has dropped by 800,000 gallons since 2005
- Sustainability Map features 300+ points of interest including the 21 green buildings, bike parking, & gender neutral bathrooms
- Sustainable Landscape Trail launched in 2018 featuring focal points of research and practice on campus
- Avoided over $154,000 electricity cost during the 2016 Winter Setback Program
- The House, a residential community at Cornell Tech, opened as the world’s tallest & largest passive residential building

Academic Leadership
- 30% of all faculty are involved in sustainability research - 10% of all courses include sustainability topics, spread across 79 departments
- 466 faculty fellows involved with sustainability through the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future
- $6.7M of funding for sustainability research has been provided by the Atkinson Center since 2013
- 1500+ students have taken Leadership for Sustainability and Green Revolving Fund sustainability courses focused on peer education and campus operations

Campus Engagement
- Planning for a comprehensive campus-wide Sustainability Plan aligned with UN Sustainable Development goals is underway
- 50 Green Offices and 12 Green Labs have been certified across campus
- New steering committee leading Think BIG, Live Green and campus engagement expansion
- Composting program launched in all Residential communities in 2018
- Human Resources’ Management Academy Sustainability Course for staff is in its 4th year
- New student orientation events include sustainability and climate literacy
- Entry & exit student survey measures sustainability literacy and engagement; 85% of student believe climate change is pressing issue, 70% stated they value attending a University with sustainability as core value
- Portable clean water truck deployed at Slope Day and other events to help achieve goal of eliminating bottled water use
- 150+ members comprise sustainability governance and oversight with 10 focus teams and numerous working groups

Planning for the Future
- Work is underway to explore Earth Source Heat, a new geothermal technology, to heat the campus
- Cornell has a goal of 100% renewable electricity for campus; work is underway to achieve with community solar
- The Climate Action Plan and several governing Assemblies have endorsed climate change literacy for all students & staff