

Cornell University

Sustainability Fast Facts

Cornell University holds a Platinum Rating, the highest possible from the Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) and is advancing an innovative path to campus carbon neutrality by 2035.



Climate Leadership

- On track for campus carbon neutrality goal by 2035, with 51% reduction in emissions since 2008
- [Earth Source Heat](#) will heat the campus using a breakthrough deep geothermal technology
- MOOC [Cornell Climate Fellows](#) course has reached 3,000+ citizens from 65 countries since 2017
- 85% of students believe climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time

Academics & Research

- Sustainability research has increased 141% in the last decade, with 36% of all faculty contributing
- 91% of academic programs offer [sustainability courses](#), a total of 811 offerings across 29 departments
- 41 undergraduate and 78 graduate sustainability [majors, minors, or concentrations](#) offered
- 40+ [living laboratory](#) projects and learning initiatives support 6,000+ students each year

Campus Operations

- [15 solar arrays](#) and a hydropower plant provide 100% renewable electricity on sunny days, all year
- Lake Source Cooling provides 100% fossil-fuel-free renewable cooling to campus from Cayuga Lake
- [28 green buildings](#), including 5 LEED Platinum Buildings with green roofing and solar arrays
- Cornell Farm composting diverts [7,400 tons of food waste](#) from residences and dining halls annually
- Grounds staff use a mobile solar trailer to power fossil-fuel free landscaping equipment
- Water use has dropped 25% since 2005, with 116.5 million gallons conserved last year alone

Culture & Engagement

- [40+ student](#) sustainability organizations
- “Culture of Sustainability” award recognizes [outstanding staff & team sustainability leadership](#)
- 100% of new students receive a [free bus pass](#) & complete a climate & sustainability [learning module](#)
- [75 Green Offices](#) and 15 Green Labs have been certified across campus
- The [Sustainability Maps](#) feature 300+ points of interest from bike parking to reuse stations
- 100% of staff have sustainability as a key job responsibility across all positions and levels