

Print view for <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200909/cool schools/default.aspx>

[Click for Normal View](#)

homepage - sierra magazine - September/October 2009 - cool schools



Would you sacrifice the Arctic National
Wildlife Refuge for a climate bill?

Tell us what you think

CREDO
mobile

SIERRA

Cool Schools: The Third Annual List

Sierra Magazine's College Rankings: A Comprehensive Guide to the Most Eco-Enlightened U.S. Universities

Only on the web! Get the [complete college rankings](#) for the third annual Cool Schools list, then [listen to Avital Binshtock](#), Sierra magazine's lifestyle editor, on [Sierra Club Radio](#) discussing how and why we ranked the schools.

In Cool Schools:

- The top 20
- The full list
- Students write about their winning schools
- Universities that got extra credit
- 3 that failed
- Community colleges
- Kicking coal off campus
- How about the sports programs?
- What's next: green jobs

Back in the day, high schoolers looking at colleges (and *U.S. News and World Report*) were mainly concerned with three things: prestige, location, and whether the place had a rockin' social life. These days, however, applicants look for something more: a school with green credentials.

"Ten years ago, I don't remember any student asking me about green campuses," says Steven Roy Goodman, a college admissions strategist at [TopColleges.com](#). "Now it's quite common for students to be keenly interested in how environmentally responsible colleges are."

Today, two-thirds of university applicants say that a school's environmental report card would influence whether they'd enroll, according to a survey by the [Princeton Review](#), a test-prep company.

Elite schools competing for the best and brightest have taken the cue. [Harvard University](#) leads the

pack in energy efficiency, [Yale University](#) revolutionized its food operations, and the [University of California at Los Angeles](#) revamped its waste management.

		ACADEMICS	ADMINISTRATION	EFFICIENCY	ENERGY	FOOD	PURCHASING	TRANSPORTATION	WASTE MGT.	BONUS	SCORE*
1	UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER	8	9	9	3	7	8	10	10	5	100
2	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE	8	10	8	9	7	8	8	8	2	98
3	MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE	8	10	9	6	7	8	8	7	5	98
4	UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT	8	8	9	7	7	8	9	7	4	97
5	COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC	8	8	8	10	7	9	5	9	3	97
6	EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE	6	10	9	7	7	9	7	7.5	4	96.5
7	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA CRUZ	8	8	7	5	8	9	10	6	5	96
8	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY	8	7	9	4	9	7	9	8	5	96
9	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES	8	9	8	3	5	9	9	10	5	96
10	OBERLIN COLLEGE	6	9	9	6	7	9	6	10	3	95

Get the [top 20](#) or the [full list of 135 schools](#).

For *Sierra's* third annual ranking of planet-preserving colleges and universities, we e-mailed a lengthy questionnaire to sustainability experts at hundreds of schools. The survey covered eight categories: efficiency, energy, food, academics, purchasing, transportation, waste management, and administration. Schools could earn up to ten points in each category, and up to five bonus points if they had additional green initiatives. [See the final rankings](#), calibrated to create an out-of-100 rating system.

Rather than focus on one or two issues such as energy conservation and investment choices, we sought a comprehensive overview of each campus's sustainability efforts. Weigh in on our coverage below, and possibly influence next year's list. —**Avital Binshtock and Michael Fox**

To discuss and debate our coverage, and possibly influence next year's list, go to the [Cool Schools page](#) on the Sierra Student Coalition's Web site.

[Cool Schools 2008](#) | [Cool Schools 2007](#)

Comments



Compass Team said...

University of Oregon did make it; I think they are ranked 25th.

[Reply](#)

[Triple Pundit](#)



take care clinicSM at select *Walgreens*


Visit a Take Care Clinic.

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Writers](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Advertise](#)

Search

Back to School Special: Sierra Club Names Top Ten Eco-Enlightened Schools



By [Deborah Fleischer](#) | August 20th, 2009  [0 Comments](#)



By Deborah Fleischer, [Green Impact](#)

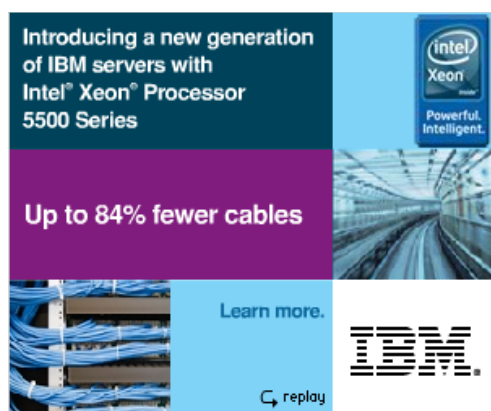
Colleges are getting their green on. From local, organic food to renewable energy to green building, for students who embody green values, the [Sierra Club](#) just announced the [top ten eco-enlightened colleges](#), with the [University of Colorado](#) (CU) heading the pack. Go Ralphie (CU's buffalo mascot)!

According to Sierra Club, "Back in the day, high schoolers looking at colleges were mainly concerned with three things: prestige, location, and whether the place had a rockin' social life.

These days, however, applicants look for something more: a school with green credentials."

For students who want to attend a school with a green track record, or for returning students interested in improving sustainability programs on their campus, the Sierra Club guide is a great resource. And hopefully by studying at a green campus all students will leave with a greener ethic to apply to their work and lives.

Our Sponsor Message [Continue Reading Below »](#)



The Sierra Club assessment ranks academics, administration, efficiency, energy, food, purchasing, transportation and waste management. Schools could earn up to ten points in each category, and up to five bonus points if they had additional green initiatives. The final rankings can be found on the [Sierra Club](#) web site.

CU ranked highest for its programs in transportation and waste management, with room for improvement in the energy category.

[Harvard University](#) got a high grade for their energy efficiency programs, [Yale University](#) is recognized for its food operations and the [University of California at Los Angeles](#) recognized for revamping its waste management.

[Texas Tech](#), [DePaul University](#) and [Southern Illinois University, Carbondale](#) are called out for their lack of progress.

		ACADEMICS	ADMINISTRATION	EFFICIENCY	ENERGY	FOOD	PURCHASING	TRANSPORTATION	WASTE MGT.	BONUS	SCORE*
1	UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER	8	9	9	3	7	8	10	10	5	100
2	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE	8	10	8	9	7	8	8	8	2	98
3	MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE	8	10	9	6	7	8	8	7	5	98
4	UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT	8	8	9	7	7	8	9	7	4	97
5	COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC	8	8	8	10	7	9	5	9	3	97
6	EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE	6	10	9	7	7	9	7	7.5	4	96.5
7	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA CRUZ	8	8	7	5	8	9	10	6	5	96
8	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY	8	7	9	4	9	7	9	8	5	96
9	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES	8	9	8	3	5	9	9	10	5	96
10	OBERLIN COLLEGE	6	9	9	6	7	9	6	10	3	95

Other resources to check out

The [Sustainable Endowments Institute](#) recently launched the [Green Report Card](#), a new, interactive web resource that profiles hundreds of colleges in all 50 U.S. states.

They have a [Google interactive map](#) that lets you see visually where the best rated schools are located in your geographic area of interest. And the interactive database allows you to compare [top ranked](#) schools, which were assessed on policies and practices in nine main categories, including climate change and energy, endowment transparency and food and recycling.

In addition, [The Princeton Review Green Honor Roll](#) has its own list of the top ranked schools.

Best practices and key trends

Some of the best practices and trends that stand out after reviewing both the Sierra Club guide and the Green Report Card:

- **Full-time staff dedicated to sustainability:** A majority of schools have recognized the need for full-time campus sustainability administrators.
- **Local food:** Many schools are devoting at least a portion of their food budgets to buying from local farms and/or producers.
- **Climate change:** Over 500 schools have committed to achieving carbon neutrality in the long term by signing the [American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment](#).
- **Green housekeeping:** Some schools have revamped their housekeeping policies by switching to 100 percent green cleaning supplies, 100 percent recycled toilet paper, and microfiber cleaning cloths (instead of disposable towels).
- **Green building:** Green building policies are becoming more widespread.
- **Transportation:** Alternative-fuel vehicles, as well as car-sharing and bicycle-sharing programs, are becoming more prevalent.

Deborah Fleischer, founder and president of [Green Impact](#), works with mid-sized companies to launch green initiatives that encourage innovation and grow market share. She brings expertise in sustainability strategy, program development, stakeholder partnerships and written communications. You can follow her occasional tweet @GreenImpact.



Tags: [Green Schools](#), [Sustainability](#)|Categorized: [Management and CSR](#), [Uncategorized](#)| [Share This](#)

1 retweet

- [Comments \(0\)](#)
- [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

1. No trackbacks yet

1. No Comments - Be the first to comment!

Leave a Reply

There are 3 ways to comment on 3P

1. Guests

Comment Instantly
Below:

2. Facebook Users

Login to your Facebook account



3. Members

[Register](#) for an account or [login](#).

Name (required)

Email (required)

URL

Comment: