

GREEN “FIRSTS AND BESTS”

In 1991 UC Irvine adopted standards to outperform California’s Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards by 30 percent, use 100 percent reclaimed irrigation water, CO₂ sensing for ventilation control, and no rainforest hardwoods.

Two buildings at UC Irvine bear the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum rating for new construction. Another eight buildings carry LEED gold certification for new construction.

UC Irvine placed sixth in the Sierra Club’s ranking of the country’s “Coolest Schools,” based on eco-friendly energy supply, efficiency, food, academics, purchasing, transportation, and waste management.

2011 Second Nature Climate Leadership Award recognizing leadership, academic, research strength, and innovative carbon-reduction strategies.

UC Irvine was cited as a “Tree Campus USA” in 2010 and again in 2011 by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the program’s sponsor, Toyota.

UC Irvine’s Sustainability Program earned the 2011 Urban Land Institute’s “Best of the Best” Award for Orange County and the Inland Empire.

In 2011 UC Irvine was named a silver award winner in the League of American Bicyclists’ first “Bicycle Friendly University” program.

Previous awards include:

- 2008 Governor’s Environmental & Economic Leadership Award – Climate Change
- 2008 Flex Your Power Award – Best Overall
- 2009 EPA Region 9 Environmental Leadership Achievement Award
- 2010 Green California Leadership award

In 2010 UC Irvine achieved more energy savings than any other California university participating in the Statewide Energy Partnership.

UC Irvine has the most efficient energy infrastructure of any North American campus (base-loaded co-generation with five ways to harvest and use recovered heat).

UC Irvine developed the Smart Lab design for new and retrofitted laboratories, raising the bar nationwide for energy-efficiency by cutting laboratory energy consumption in half.

UC Irvine’s 2011 average vehicle ridership of 1.87 is the highest for any employer of comparable size in the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

UC Irvine diverts 75 percent of its waste from landfills through recycling, composting, and reuse.

Mesa Commons, which feeds 2,000 freshmen daily, is the University of California’s first “zero waste” dining facility.

UC Irvine’s dining program was the first to label the carbon footprint of food entrees at the point of sale.

UC Irvine’s on-site native tree nursery, an innovative joint venture with the Irvine-based Shadetree Partnership, provides 1,000 trees for the campus each year.