

CU Boulder – a GREEN Venue!

Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose, Recover, Reciprocate

For more than half a century, CU Boulder has been a leader in climate/energy research and interdisciplinary environmental studies programs. We are also actively engaged in variety of sustainability and day-to-day “green” practices on our Boulder campus. Here is what we do and how we excel at being a green venue!

- Awarded the 1st Gold STARS rating in the United States (and two subsequent Gold ratings) through AASHE.
- 10 Platinum, 15 Gold, and 1 Silver LEED-certified buildings.
- 50% of non-LEED-certified buildings retrofitted or renovated to be more sustainable.
- Nationally recognized green labs program with subzero refrigerator energy reduction, equipment sharing, and solvent recycling initiatives.
- Use of eco-friendly cleaning supplies and innovative water/electricity/salt-based cleaning system.
- Awarded Tree Campus USA honor for 7th year in a row by Arbor Day Foundation.
- 1st major institution to implement a large-scale application of compost tea to reduce herbicide use.
- Steam-based weed control for interface with sidewalks and other paved areas.
- 10,000 sq’ of campus landscaping dedicated to growing pollinator-friendly plants.
- 63% reduction in potable water use per square foot since 2002.
- 1st large scale Residence Hall greywater system in the United States saving 1 million gallons of water annually.
- Low-flow faucets and showerheads installed in all Residence Halls.
- Triple-filtered water stations in nearly every building on campus to make carrying and refilling personal water bottles easy.
- Stringent energy use reduction programs have allowed energy consumption to decrease by 21% since 2005 while square footage has increased.
- Net-zero electricity indoor practice facility at Folsom Field.
- Phantom-load outlets, motion-activated switches, AV equipment timeouts, and occupancy sensors installed to reduce energy use.
- EnergyStar-rated equipment purchasing along with equipment sharing and repurposing initiatives.
- Solar arrays producing an estimate annual production of over 2.8 million kilowatts.
- Campus power plants utilize co-generation to increase energy production.
- NCAA Division 1 zero-waste athletics program and stadium with 85% game-day diversion rate.
- 48% overall campus waste diversion rate.
- First-in-the-nation, on-campus, student-led recycling center recycling over 150 tons of cardboard, glass, and plastic annually.
- Promote the use of reusable bags and travel mugs in dining centers and retail markets.
- Largest Bio-digester for post-consumer food waste in Colorado.
- Send pre- consumer dining food waste to local farms for animal feed.
- Send post-consumer dining food waste to compost, made available to local communities as mulch.
- 16% local and community-based and/or 3rd-party certified (Fair Trade, organic) products in on-campus dining centers.
- Offer a variety of healthy, plant-based dishes including 20% mushroom hamburger in our dining centers.
- 3,000 square foot aeroponic greenhouse attached to dining center plus two outdoor gardens for dining center use.
- 100 community garden plots offered to residents of Graduate and Family Housing.
- Continually train staff, students, and faculty and conduct on-going outreach to increase participation in sustainability efforts.
- Green Office Certification program with participation from over 30 units or departments.