# **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!



colorado.edu/sustainability

## CADEMICS/RESEARCH/ADMINISTRATION

- » First-in-the-nation, on-campus, student-led recycling center recycling over 150 tons of cardboard, glass and plastic annually.
- » Continually train staff, students and faculty and conduct on-going outreach to increase participation in sustainability efforts.
- » Creation of Vice Chancellor for Sustainability reporting to the Chancellor to be filled in 2025.
- » \$79.9 million funded toward environmental research (among the top 10 in the nation).
- » 329 faculty engaged in sustainability-related research in over 69 departments (⅔ of all departments).
- » 474 sustainability-related courses offered in 52 departments (19% of all courses).
- » Awarded the 1st Gold STARS rating in the United States (and two subsequent Gold ratings) through AASHE.

## 🏆 ATHLETICS

» Net-zero electricity indoor practice facility at Folsom Field.

colorado.edu/ecenter

- » NCAA's first Division 1 zero-waste athletics program and stadium with up to 85% game-day diversion rates.
- » 2023 winner of the Fan Engagement Award in the Pac-12 Zero Waste Basketball Challenge.

#### 🔊 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) GOALS

- » A 50% reduction (from 2019 baseline) in Scopes 1 and 2 emissions by 2030.
- » A similar 50% reduction in feasible Scope 3 emissions by 2030.
- » A clear path to a zero emissions target for all categories by no later than 2050.



#### **ENERGY/WASTE**

- » 11 Platinum, 19 Gold and 1 Silver LEED-certified buildings on campus.
- » 50% of non-LEED-certified buildings retrofitted or renovated to be more sustainable with an additional 18 buildings scheduled for improvements in 2025.
- » Nationally recognized green labs program with subzero refrigerator energy reduction, equipment sharing and solvent recycling initiatives.
- » Stringent energy use reduction programs have allowed carbon emissions to decrease by 9%, energy consumption per person to decrease by 22% and energy use to decrease by 21% per square foot despite campus growing by 31% since 2005.
- » Campus power plants utilize co-generation to increase energy production.
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- » Green Office Certification program with participation from over 40 units or departments.
- » Feasibility studies underway for use of geothermal energy.
- » Phantom-load outlets, motion-activated switches, AV equipment timeouts and occupancy sensors installed to reduce energy use.
- » Solar arrays producing an estimate annual production of over 2.8 million kilowatts with an additional 1.1 megawatt array to come online in 2025.
- » EnergyStar-rated equipment purchasing along with equipment sharing and repurposing initiatives.
- » 48% overall campus waste diversion rate.
- » Single-use plastic ban pilot program in Engineering Center.
- » 83% of construction-related waste is recycled/reclaimed.
- » 63% reduction in potable water use per square foot since 2002.



- » Awarded Tree Campus USA honor for 14th year 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 square feet of campus landscaping dedicated to growing pollinator-friendly plants.
- » 100 community garden plots offered to residents of Graduate and Family Housing.

### HOUSING/DINING

- » Use of eco-friendly cleaning supplies and innovative water/electricity/salt-based cleaning system.
- » 1st large-scale Residence Hall greywater system in the United States saving approximately 700,000 gallons of water annually when fully operational.
- » 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.
- » Promote the use of reusable bags and travel mugs in dining centers and retail markets.
- » 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.
- » 3,000 square foot aeroponic greenhouse attached to dining center plus two outdoor gardens for dining center use.
- » Offer a variety of healthy, plant-based dishes including 20% mushroom hamburger in our dining centers.

