

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 first Gold STARS rating in the United States (and two subsequent gold ratings) through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.
- Ten platinum, 15 gold and one silver [LEED-certified](#) buildings.
- Fifty percent 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 seventh year in a row by Arbor Day Foundation.
- First 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.
- Sixty-three percent reduction in potable water use per square foot since 2002.
- First large scale residence hall greywater system in the United States saving one 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.
- Forty-eight percent 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.
- Sixteen percent local and community-based and/or third-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.
- Three-thousand square foot aeroponic greenhouse attached to dining center plus two outdoor gardens for dining center use.
- One-hundred community garden plots offered to residents of Graduate & 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.