

UC IRVINE ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

2019 - 2020

ENERGY

2020 purchased electricity for direct access accounts now carbon-free

90% of the main campus purchased electricity is now 100% carbon-free.

TRANSPORTATION

Received Platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University designation by the League of American Bicyclists

Achievements in promoting and enabling safe, accessible bicycling on campus.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Created and strengthened virtual outreach platforms and tools

As the campus shifted towards remote learning and work, the Sustainability Resource Center and Student Housing Sustainability created a student-run blog, transitioned to hosting a virtual Earth Week, led a COVID-19 seminar focusing on community resilience, and expanded social media presence.

WASTE

Achieved an 81 percent waste diversion rate

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, UCI successfully maintained a diversion rate of 81 percent, the highest in the UC system.

WATER

Replaced 7,500 sq-ft of turfgrass with native and non-native drought tolerant plants

This collaborative greenhouse research project will save approximately 75,000 gallons of water/year.

DINING

Expanded vegetarian and vegan options to be offered at every food station in Brandywine

Dedicated vegan grills were established to ensure proper preparation of food.

HOUSING

Launched the Mesa Court Fair Trade Initiative

Over 52 Fair Trade programs hosted, providing education on Fair Trade vendors and purchasing of certified goods for residential programs.

GREEN BUILDING

Completed two new student housing projects - Plaza Verde Student Apartments and Middle Earth Towers

Plaza Verde is UCI's first all-electric student housing project, utilizing heat pump water heaters and an electric outdoor grill system. Middle Earth Towers is a LEED Platinum-certified project featuring a 50kW photovoltaic system, natural ventilation, and stormwater treatment systems including green roofs.

PROCUREMENT

Hosted Office Clean-Up Day

Provided paper shredding services and e-waste recycling for faculty and staff, collecting over 3,000 pounds of e-waste.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Expanded Student Leadership Institute for Climate Resilience (SLICR) across UC System

Provided training to 30 faculty and staff statewide to support development of SLICR programs.