

SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Facilities & Services
Sustainability



[SDSU in Princeton Review's 2021 Guide to Green Schools](#)

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According to The Princeton Review, the schools on the list share superb sustainability practices, a strong foundation in sustainability education and a healthy quality of life for students on campus. SDSU is the only school among the South Dakota Board of Regents' institutions included on the list.

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"Having SDSU's name added to the list of Green Colleges is incredibly exciting. It shows that each of our

individual-, department- and universitywide efforts are making an impact and getting noticed,” said Jennifer McLaughlin, SDSU’s sustainability specialist.

The Princeton Review’s selections were based on a combination of school-reported data and student opinion, collected in 2019-2020 via institutional and student surveys. It also uses information from many sections of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report, which SDSU completed in February and earned a silver rating.

When selecting the schools in the guide, The Princeton Review factored in the school’s Green Rating, which is based on institutional data obtained from school administrators. The 10 survey questions covered these key factors:

- whether students have a quality of life on campus that is both healthy and sustainable;
- how well a school is preparing students for employment in an increasingly green economy; and
- how environmentally responsible a school’s policies are.

Student survey responses included student ratings of how sustainability issues influenced their education and life on campus; administration and student support for environmental awareness and conservation efforts; and the visibility and impact of student environmental groups.

Out of the nearly 700 schools considered for this project, all [416 Green Colleges](#) profiled on the site are, in The Princeton Review’s opinion, truly up to the task of training the next generation of leaders, who will be responsible for putting green ideas into practice.



Facilities & Services Adds Electric Delivery Vehicle to Fleet

Any day now you will see a new delivery vehicle driving across campus. This vehicle will be fully powered by electricity and will be added to Facilities & Services Customer Service Center's delivery vehicle fleet. As an electric vehicle, it will emit zero pollutants as it drives. Since electric vehicles do not emit various gases and pollutants while running, they are an essential element in reducing air pollution and mitigating climate change.

This will be the 24th electric vehicle that Facilities & Services has in its total fleet, and the first electric vehicle to be used by the Customer Service Center.

Keep your eyes open, maybe your package will be delivered by this sustainable vehicle!



Wokini Initiative Included in AASHE's 2020 Sustainable Campus Index

Compiled by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education the Sustainable Campus Index pulls together a list of top performers in each of the sections of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. It also recognizes institutions with exceptional, innovative sustainability practices that do not fit into the standard credits of the STARS report. According to the AASHE Sustainable Campus Index, programs featured as institutional highlights were "selected by a team of AASHE staff based on the level of innovation and overall impact in advancing sustainability, potential for replicability, and the added impacts this would present."

The Wokini Initiative was recognized for its innovative structure to support American Indian students. Wokini Initiative programs include hiring an American Indian student recruiter, scholarships for students, grants for faculty and staff, and cultural competence trainings.



Sustainable Holiday Guide



5 Tips for a Sustainable Holiday Season

Follow these five tips to incorporate sustainability into your holiday season.

1. **Use reusable ware** – replacing disposable ware with reusable dishes reduces the amount of waste generated.
 2. **Shop local** – shopping local boosts the local economy.
 3. **Consider the gifts you give** – it takes energy and natural resources to produce goods. Instead of giving a physical item, consider a more sustainable option such as donating to charity, helping with a task, or giving an experience (i.e. a virtual cake decorating workshop).
 4. **Watch the wrapping** – most wrapping paper is unrecyclable. Consider using material that can be recycled or reused such as old maps or gift bags.
 5. **Eat green** - wasted food contributes negatively to the environment by emitting methane gas in landfills. Cut back on the amount of food you prepare and save all leftover food to eat for another meal. For bonus sustainability points, focus your meal on plant-based food.
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Inaugural Sustainability Ambassador Program Completed Last Week

Students, staff, and retired staff from across campus participated in the 2020 Sustainability Ambassador program. The 5-week program enriched participants' understanding of sustainability and empowered them to share and practice what they learned with those around them.



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