



10 THAT GET IT

(continued on next page)



Middlebury College

2,350 students; Middlebury, Vermont

#1

Another college with Middlebury's record might have taken it easy on green initiatives this year. After all, Midd's outdoorsy intellectuals had already earned recognition for such ambitious

projects as recycling materials from a demolished building. But the school pressed on, giving its study-abroad program a shot of green last fall: A partnership with a renewable energy company makes it easy for students to offset carbon dioxide emissions associated with travel. More important, the Panthers now learn how to leave a lighter footprint on their excursions, and study-abroad students can win \$500 grants to research environmental solutions like geothermal power in their adopted countries.

Highlight ENERGY: A wind turbine supplies 25 percent of the campus recycling center's energy; a new power plant fueled by wood chips from a local willow farm could halve fuel-oil use.

WASTE: Sites for swapping goods encourage reuse. The campus recycles 60 percent of its waste. **Lowlight INVESTMENTS:** Despite creating a committee on ethical investing policies and a fund to support initiatives like environmental research and green campus buildings, Midd's trustees do not disclose information about current investments. **If you go** Track down author Bill McKibben. He directs a fellowship program that brings environmental journalists to campus. **Score: 93**

COOL CROWD

Organic food? Check. Solar power, biodiesel buses, and composting? Check, check, check. Colleges large and small get their green on.

NOT LONG AGO small private colleges had a near monopoly on campus environmental initiatives in the United States. But today supersize public universities are nipping at the nimble, hemp-shod heels of those pioneers by adopting green building standards, expanding environmental studies programs, and converting fleets to zero-emission vehicles.

This represents a dramatic shift even from last year, when *Sierra* ran its first "Cool Schools" roundup and filled all but two of the top ten spots with private colleges. In the following pages, you'll find a diverse mix of institutions—from North Carolina's

850-student Warren Wilson College to Arizona State University, the country's second-largest school with 51,500 students.

The top schools earned points in ten categories: policies for building, energy, food, investment, procurement, and transportation; curriculum; environmental activism; waste management; and overall commitment to sustainability. A perfect score in every area would give a school 100 points.

Like every ranking system, ours is imperfect. To be sure, dozens more schools deserve praise. But after weeks of reporting and analysis, we're confident we picked the nation's environmental leaders.

ABOVE: ISTOCK/PHOTOHAMSTER
BELOW: BOB HANDELMAN

That said, you might ask why the Eco League colleges and the University of California system—two environmentally proactive institutions—don't rank on this list. Schools in the Eco League consortium, which focuses solely on environmental studies, hardly play on a level field with schools that serve students in 150 degree programs. Meanwhile, the ten campuses of the UC system—neither wholly independent nor entirely unified—could not in fairness be compared as separate institutions. *Sierra* decided to feature them separately as "Shining Stars" (page 32).

If you're excited about or frustrated with initiatives on your campus or convinced we've missed a great green school, you can vent or brag at sierraclub.org/greencolleges. We hope you'll join the conversation—so we can make next year's list even better. —*Lea Hartog*



Looking for bright ideas?
Start here →

Eighteen U.S. colleges and universities have offset 100 percent of their greenhouse-gas emissions

#2



University of Colorado at Boulder

29,000 students; Boulder, Colorado

Eight years ago the University of Colorado (CU) became the first U.S. university to buy renewable energy credits. Today the mile-high school supports local offset projects. CU does more than buy its way out of carbon guilt, however. The Buffaloes have also made strides in reducing emissions produced in the first place: Eighty percent of students commuted car free last year.

Highlight TRANSPORTATION: Tuition covers city bus passes and loaner bikes. Most campus shuttles, or Buff Buses, run on biodiesel. **Lowlight ENERGY:** Only 7 percent of the school's energy comes from renewables; 85 percent comes from natural gas and the rest mostly from coal. **If you go** Consider spending a semester studying ecology and conservation in Quito, Ecuador. You'll spend time in a cloud forest reserve and at a women's artisan cooperative. **Score: 91.5**

Arizona State University at Tempe

51,500 students; Tempe, Arizona

#6

With the nation's second-largest student population, Arizona State University can make a big impact with small changes. Although the Sun Devils have not switched entirely to xeriscaping with native plants, they have phased out wasteful flood irrigation from more than 70 percent of the campus and now water most of the grounds at night. Last fall ASU inaugurated its School of Sustainability, where students learn about—and create—land-use and urban-planning models that minimize harm to the environment.

Highlight WASTE: Partnered with a nearby farm to compost organic waste. **Lowlight ENERGY:** Although it has signed the presidents' pledge (page 31) and intends to buy carbon offsets, ASU hasn't drafted a plan to reduce its carbon footprint. **Score: 87**



#3

University of Vermont at Burlington

10,750 students; Burlington, Vermont

10,750 students; Burlington, Vermont

Don't know which lightbulb to buy? If you lived on campus at the University of Vermont, home of the Catamounts, you'd know whom to ask. Dorm volunteers offer fellow students green guidance.

Highlight FOOD: Buys 35 percent of dining-hall food from local farmers. **Lowlight INVESTMENTS:** Recently created a socially responsible investments committee but hasn't implemented its policies. **If you go** Rent discounted snowshoes, telemark skis, or a canoe from the UVM Outing Club. **Score: 91**

University of Florida at Gainesville

50,000 students; Gainesville, Florida

#7

With the 2007 national football and basketball championships under their belt, the Gators went on to become winners in environmental policy. A water facility processes 3 million gallons of reclaimed water per day and serves more than 90 percent of the campus. While most university fleet vehicles run on E85 ethanol (85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline), some chug along on used oil from campus cafeterias.

Highlight WASTE: Campus recovers 40 percent of its waste; aims to divert, reclaim, or reuse 100 percent by 2015. **Lowlight ENERGY:** Relies on a local utility that uses a mix of sources, including 40 percent coal. **Score: 86**



BELOW: KRISTEN BART; LEFT: GRACE/UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER/CASEY A. CASS; ABOVE LEFT: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA NEWS BUREAU; OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT: OBERLIN COLLEGE; RIGHT: CYNTHIA MILLER

Warren Wilson College

850 students; Swannanoa, North Carolina

Forgoing football games and frats, Warren Wilson's Fighting Owls work 15 hours per week plowing the college's organic fields or helping with ecofriendly building projects.

#4

Highlight OFFSETS: Partnered with the city of Asheville to purchase offsets for 100 percent of its carbon emissions. **Lowlight INVESTMENTS:** No transparency or reported sustainable-investing policies. **If you go** Stop by the Cow Pie Cafe, a student-run vegetarian eatery that serves mostly foods grown on campus. **Score: 88.5**

Oberlin College

2,200 students; Oberlin, Ohio

#8



Last spring Oberlin students competed in the Ecolympics to reduce their energy use and waste. Even in the Ecolympics off-season, they stay at it. Last fall eight students secured university funding for a new themed residence dedicated to green, energy-efficient living.

Highlight ENERGY: Although half of the school's energy comes from a local utility that relies primarily on coal, the campus now sources the other 50 percent from renewables. **Lowlight TRANSPORTATION:** No free public transit; isolated location encourages students to use cars. **If you go** Take a class with David Orr, a Lyndhurst Prize winner best known for promoting environmental literacy in higher education. **Score: 85**

University of Washington at Seattle

39,250 students; Seattle, Washington

The home of the Huskies is one of the few universities whose overall energy use has decreased (by 10 percent between 2000 and 2005) despite campus growth. All the university's energy comes from renewable sources (including hydropower), and 14 buildings are slated for construction or renovation in compliance with LEED standards.

#9

Highlight INVESTMENTS: Endowment funds support renewable energy and LEED-certified development projects. **Lowlight STUDENT ACTIVISM:** Environmental advocacy remains a fringe activity. **If you go** Sign up for courses in the College of Forest Resources—many of them include field trips to the Pacific Northwest's awe-inspiring woodlands. **Score: 84**



#5

Evergreen State College

4,400 students; Olympia, Washington

Evergreen first made headlines for getting rid of grades and majors in the 1970s. Now the college creates buzz with its environmental policies, which include a mandate that all new building projects comply with silver-level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Less than a quarter of students use their intercity bus passes (included with tuition) to get to school, but new bus shelters with solar-powered lighting may help them get jazzed about public transit.

Highlight STUDENT ACTIVISM: At least nine campus organizations take on environmental and social justice issues. **Lowlight INVESTMENTS:** No transparency or reported sustainable-investing policies. **Score: 88**

Tufts University

8,500 students; Medford, Massachusetts

Often teased for being an Ivy League wannabe, Tufts surpassed its prestigious peers in environmental stewardship years ago. Recent eco-moves include joining a program that lets students help pay for renewable energy projects in Massachusetts through their electricity bills and creating a campus printing service that uses soy-based inks and recycled paper.

#10

Highlight INVESTMENTS: Created a \$100 million micro-finance fund for investments in developing countries. **Lowlight TRANSPORTATION:** With no subsidies for public transit in suburban Medford, the 50 percent of students living off campus receive no incentives to commute green. **If you go** Visit tuftslife.com to get the scoop from students on local activities. **Score: 82**

Did you know?

More than 550 campus kahunas have signed the **American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment** (this package calls it the **presidents' pledge**) and committed to auditing their schools' greenhouse-gas emissions, developing concrete plans for going carbon neutral, and reporting their progress.

from electricity through renewable energy certificates. * Western Washington University, the University of Central Oklahoma, Evergreen State College, Concordia University Texas, and Unity College use 100 percent renewable energy to power their operations.

High school students and young adults have persuaded 200 U.S. colleges and universities to commit to paperless admissions processes by signing the online Students Plant the Seed petition. * New York University buys more green power than any other school in

SHINING STARS

THE ECO LEAGUE

Students interested in a hands-on environmental education need look no further than the Eco League. The five liberal arts schools in this consortium—**Alaska Pacific University, College of the Atlantic, Green Mountain College, Northland College, and Prescott College**—approach nearly every course with a single goal for their 2,900 students: the active pursuit of environmental studies.

The Eco League schools pride themselves on integrating experiential learning into the curriculum—from for-credit backpacking trips to analyses of “leave no trace” ethics and how education can affect avalanche safety. That’s why *Sierra* highlighted their efforts last year.

Checking in with the Eco Leaguers, we found that adventures and accolades haven’t distracted them from reaching even higher. College of the Atlantic has started paying to offset all its greenhouse-gas emissions. Green Mountain College now gets more than half its electricity from generators powered by methane from dairy cow waste. And Northland College students voted to tax themselves \$20 per semester to fund clean-energy projects. ecoleague.org —*Lea Hartog*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Also in a league of their own are the ten University of California campuses. With 220,000 students and 170,000 faculty and staff, the UC system has the ecological footprint of a large city. Efforts to reduce that footprint one campus at a time mean the system now leads the higher-ed pack in making big green changes.

At UC Berkeley, for example, campus dining options are 65 percent vegetarian, reducing the use of resource-intensive meat-based meals. (Pound for pound, more energy, water, and land go into producing meat than vegetables.) Harvests from UC Davis olive trees that once left oil slicks on bike paths have been put to better use in a line of award-winning olive oils.

Meanwhile, UC Santa Cruz has offset 100 percent of its carbon dioxide emissions since last fall, and four of UCLA’s high-rise dorms now have solar-powered water heaters. Farther south, UC San Diego generates 7.4 megawatts of its electricity (10 to 15 percent of its total energy) using renewable sources including methane-powered fuel cells, solar, and wind. universityofcalifornia.edu —*Michael Fox*



Zipcar to the Rescue

College friendships forged around the search for a late-night ride to the local taco truck have taken a backseat to ready-when-you-need-'em communal vehicles, thanks to Zipcar. With 400 vehicles on more than 70 campuses, the company allows members to reserve and rent wheels at an hourly or daily rate (less than \$10 an hour, often discounted for students). Universities like the idea of a single car serving multiple students, because building a new parking structure can cost more than \$30,000 per stall.

According to Will Toor, coauthor of *Transportation and Sustainable Campus Communities*, car sharing might change mindsets about living on campus without a vehicle more than alter the munchies. —*Peter Frick-Wright*

ISTOCK/THIRTEEN-FIFTY
OPPOSITE PAGE: TRENT CAMPBELL

for up to three years for master’s and doctoral students pursuing environmental degrees. **DEADLINE:** mid-July.

MORE INFO: es.epa.gov/ncer/fellow

FIELD: WATER

The American Water Works Association’s **LARSON AQUATIC RESEARCH SUPPORT** program sponsors a \$5,000 scholarship for a master’s student and a \$7,000 scholarship for a Ph.D. candidate preparing for a career in aquatic, analytical, or environmental chemistry; corrosion control; or treatment and distribution of industrial and domestic water supplies. **DEADLINE:** mid-January.

MORE INFO: awwa.org/conferences (click on “AWWA scholarships”)

FIELD: YOU CHOOSE!

The **ROBERT AND PATRICIA SWITZER FOUNDATION’S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM** offers \$15,000 for one year of graduate studies at New England or California universities. Fellows can prepare for environmental work in a variety of fields, including architecture, journalism, economics, and chemistry. **DEADLINE:** early February.

MORE INFO: switzernetwork.org

Looking for more resources? Check out the Sierra Student Coalition’s list at ssc.org/resources/opps.php.

5 THAT FAIL

The College of William and Mary 7,500 STUDENTS; WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Despite student protests, William and Mary interim president W. Taylor Weveley III refuses to sign the presidents’ pledge (page 31) and has no climate plan. Administrator Anna Martin told the campus newspaper, “Signing it would be making promises we aren’t sure we can keep.”

George Washington University 20,000 STUDENTS; WASHINGTON, D.C.

The most expensive school in the nation has yet to invest in fighting climate change. GW doesn’t offer its students incentives to use the D.C. Metro and lacks a green building policy. While GW president Steven Knapp signed the presidents’ pledge earlier this year, the school has not taken any steps to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions as the agreement requires.

Howard University

10,500 STUDENTS; WASHINGTON, D.C.

Howard does not recycle and has no green design or procurement policies. Although one manager has launched an environmental-awareness campaign on campus, university officials say they’re waiting for students to press for change before implementing new policies.

Texas Tech University 28,000 STUDENTS; LUBBOCK, TEXAS

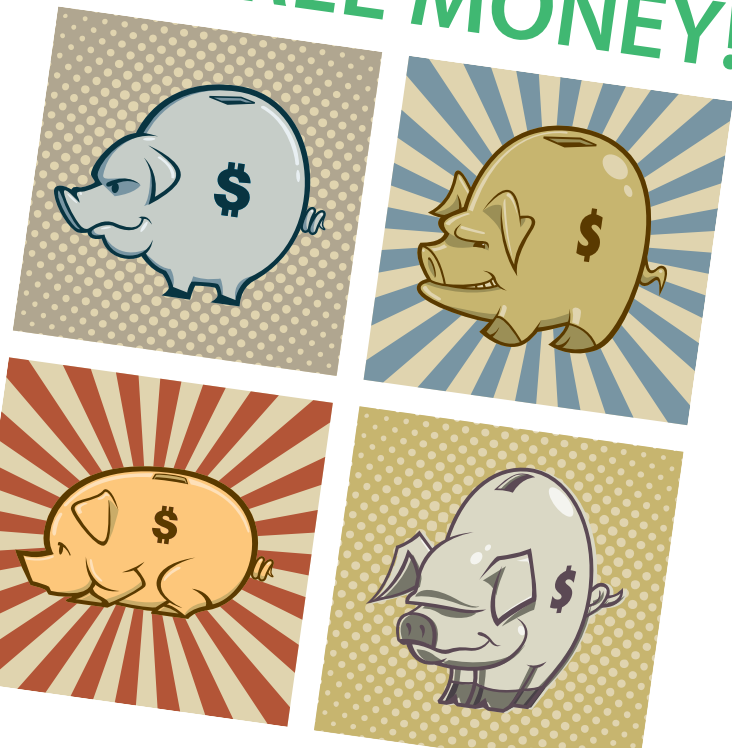
Texas Tech’s Masked Rider mascot is probably hiding his identity because he’s embarrassed by the university’s lack of eco-initiatives. Texas Tech has no campus-wide sustainability policies or unified water-conservation plans for its fields and grounds, despite having published studies on water-saving techniques for the Texas plains. Simply watering the grounds at night instead of during the day could slash water needs by up to 25 percent.

Valdosta State University 11,000 STUDENTS; VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

Want to protest your school’s less-than-green projects? If you attend VSU, schedule an appointment with the administration first. Campus protests can occur only with administrative approval in a “free-expression area” during two nonconsecutive hours each day.

—*Lea Hartog and Michael Fox*

FREE MONEY!



POP QUIZ: You’re heading to grad school for a green degree. Should you (a) take on a soul-crushing heap of debt to cover tuition or (b) apply for one of these fellowships and borrow slightly less? Answer: (b), baby—if only so that, postgraduation, you can afford to take one of the non-profit jobs on page 36.

FIELD: ENERGY

Students attending universities funded by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Biological and Environmental Research are eligible for **GRADUATE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTAL FELLOWSHIPS**, which pay tuition and related fees as well as a \$19,200 annual stipend. **DEADLINE:** early February.

MORE INFO: www.atmos.anl.gov/gcep

FIELD: LAW

The American Bar Association’s **FELLOWSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW** awards eight- to ten-week summer internships and \$5,000 stipends to law students from traditionally underrepresented groups (based on ethnicity, income level, ability, age, and other characteristics). Fellows intern at government agencies and public-interest groups focusing on environmental, resource, or energy law in seven states. **DEADLINE:** late January through late April, depending on the state.

MORE INFO: abanet.org/environ/committees/lawstudents/fellowship_home.shtml

FIELD: SCIENCES

The EPA’s **SCIENCE TO ACHIEVE RESULTS** program awards up to \$37,000 per year

the country. * Thanks to a coalition of students, all 15 institutions in the University System of Maryland are conducting greenhouse-gas inventories. Some are converting buses to biodiesel and starting green building projects, with the goal of eliminating carbon emissions. * Climate change stresses agricultural systems, which could result in price spikes for crops such as hops and barley, the basics of a beverage close to many students’ hearts. Cincinnati State Technical and Community College students connect those

OUTDOOR ACADEMIA

FROM ZERO TO HERO

Receiving a D- at TRINITY UNIVERSITY in San Antonio could instill the fear of flunking in any ambitious undergrad. But that's how low *the school* scored on last fall's College Sustainability Report Card, a comprehensive evaluation of campus operations and investments published by the academics, philanthropists, students, and financiers at the Sustainable Endowments Institute. In less than a year, Trinity completed its first campus-wide audit of greenhouse-gas emissions, switched to printer paper with recycled content, and committed to using LEED standards for a new science building. It even ranked among the top five schools in the EPA's RecycleMania competition.

Enough already? Not for Trinity. The university also purchased wind energy to power 15 percent of its operations, signed the presidents' pledge (page 31), completed a LEED-certified building renovation, began offering organic food in dining halls, and banned all Styrofoam products from campus. Presidential Task Force on Sustainability chair Richard Reed says, "In light of the report, we acted very locally, very fast." —*Michael Fox*



A SNOW-COVERED SLOPE may be as quiet as a library, but until recently only the boldest of scholars would claim that hours spent there counted as study time. Some colleges, however, have embraced the outdoors as a classroom, offering such nature-inspired courses as avalanche science and backcountry skiing.

At St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, undergrads minoring in outdoor studies debate the merits of snowshoes versus snowmobiles and the ethical implications of ski lifts. Adventurers at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, can earn credit for rock climbing, telemark skiing, and kayaking, and undergrads can spend three months exploring environmental issues or take six- to nine-day adventure trips known as "Scrambles." And last September environmental politics professor Phil Brick brought seven Whitman students down Hell's Canyon to help research a book with author Mary O'Brien. "We couldn't have done it without the outdoor program," Brick says. —*Peter Frick-Wright*

Concentrated solutions use less packaging and require less energy to transport than typical detergents. Look for plant-based ingredients to avoid spending your dollars on fossil fuels.

WHERE TO FIND THEM: Drug and natural-foods stores, Staples, Whole Foods

Soda bottles, flip-flops, and tires—reborn as rugs? You bet.

WHERE TO FIND THEM: gaiam.com, uncommongoods.com

Skip the gas-guzzlers (and maybe the freshman 15) with emissions-free wheels.

WHERE TO FIND THEM: craigslist.org, local bike shops, Target

ECO-DORMS

AH, DORM LIFE: cramped space, bad food, and—what's this?—solar panels. Schools around the globe have taken to greening campus housing with innovations such as renewable energy, recycled building materials, and composting facilities. Last year 318 students at California's Pitzer College moved into a new residence hall that has rooftop gardens, solar panels, and low-flow showers and toilets. Most building materials, including lumber and metal, came from within 200 miles of the campus.

At Kentucky's Berea College, 50 to 100 students live in the Ecovillage, a group of apartments and learning facilities built around a permaculture food forest (where food grows among trees instead of on a cleared swath of land), vegetable gardens, and a wastewater-recycling system.

Across the pond, Amsterdam's Tempohousing mods old shipping containers to make prefab temporary housing. Shipping containers? Prefab? The results are far from dreary. Two years ago the innovative recycler built a 1,000-unit student housing project from containers painted bright red, with floor-to-ceiling windows at either end. —*Katie Mathis*

Paper products make up the largest portion of municipal solid waste. Bonus: You won't have to take out the trash as often.

WHERE TO FIND THEM: craigslist.org, freecycle.org, home supply stores

SHOPPING (AND SCAVENGING) LIST

- REUSABLE MUGS, PLATES, AND SILVERWARE \$0-\$60
- VEGGIE-BASED AND CONCENTRATED CLEANERS \$4-\$9
- POWER STRIPS \$10-\$15
- LINENS AND TOWELS MADE OF BAMBOO, HEMP, OR ORGANIC COTTON \$20-\$200
- COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS \$5-\$15
- RECYCLED RUGS \$24-\$360
- BIKES \$100+

Good Grub

CLAIRE'S CORNER COPIA New Haven, Connecticut

Yalies flock to this vegetarian, environmentally responsible, and organic cafe for whole-grain pancakes with warm berries and, according to students, "ridiculously good" smoothies. Not only does Claire's donate 10 percent of its profits to charity, but it also provides health insurance to its treasured waitstaff.

PEARL STREET Boulder, Colorado

It's hard *not* to find green cuisine in this mile-high mountain college town. All the restaurants around the University of Colorado have committed to zero-waste and organic operations. The nearby Pearl Street pedestrian mall offers an impressive array of choices, including the wind-powered Kitchen Café and organic-centric Sunflower Restaurant.

BOOK LOVER'S CAFE Gainesville, Florida

"Come for the books, stay for the food" reads the front of the menu at this vegetarian restaurant that doubles as a used-book store. Just five blocks from campus, the University of Florida hangout also serves several delectable vegan dishes, such as tofu quiche and carrot cake.

CACTUS TAQUERÍA Berkeley and Oakland, California

With two locations flanking the UC Berkeley campus, Cactus Taquería provides inexpensive and Earth-friendly Mexican food to plenty of Cal students. Die-hard Cactus fans claim the food—featuring Niman Ranch meats and Hoffman Farms poultry—is well worth braving the day-care atmosphere. Fortunately, you can always get your burrito *para llevar*.



FARM 255 Athens, Georgia

Serving only local, seasonal cuisine, Farm 255 offers dishes like tuna tartare; pork-meatball pappardelle; and a risotto of arugula, chevre, and lemon zest. Most of its food comes straight from the eatery's own seven-acre organic, biodynamic farm near the University of Georgia. While it may be more expensive than your average student-budget meal, the value is tremendous. —*Michael Fox*

Want more?

Find revealing details about our top ten schools, on-campus conservation tips, and other Web exclusives at sierraclub.org/greencolleges.

OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT: ISTOCK/LEAF
OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT: ISTOCK/TALSHAR
INSET: ISTOCK/JUANMININO
ISTOCK/PARADIBERTONI

dots at the annual Save the Ales bash. * Indiana University dorm residents compete to conserve water and electricity in the monthlong Energy Challenge. This year students saved nearly 614,000 gallons of water and more than 400,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity. * After the student government refused to include a sustainability fee on the school ballot, the Student Environmental Center at Southern Illinois University gathered 2,500 signatures to put the fee up for a vote, and it passed overwhelmingly.

HOT jobs

to chill the planet

by Lea Hartog and Michael Fox



Side share to Bonnaroo?
Death Cab For Cutie
Fan needs lift. Call
(423) 555-1212

Wildlife Biologist

WHAT IT TAKES: A bachelor's degree in biology, wildlife ecology, or a related field. Depending on your goals, a master's or Ph.D. in biology may also be necessary. Field research experience and knowledge of GPS and GIS are helpful.

TOP SCHOOLS: Colorado State University, Cornell University, UC Berkeley and Davis; many top universities have strong biology programs.

STARTING PAY: \$35,000

WHO'D BE INTO IT: Scientifically inclined types who want to work outside and protect wildlife

HOT SPOTS: Most of the Western states, though jobs can be found wherever there is wildlife

INTERNSHIP OR SUMMER JOB: Local, state, and federal public-land-management agencies often have summer field positions; professors also offer field research and monitoring opportunities.

Campus Sustainability Coordinator

WHAT IT TAKES: A bachelor's degree (master's preferable) in public administration, environmental studies, or a related field. A few years of experience in resource conservation could give you a leg up.

TOP SCHOOLS: Harvard University, Indiana University, Syracuse University, Tufts University, University of Colorado, University of Georgia

STARTING PAY: \$30,000 to \$75,000, depending on the school, location, and your experience

WHO'D BE INTO IT: Sustainability experts who want to affect a large community without ever leaving college

HOT SPOTS: College towns. Look for more of these positions opening at community colleges and high schools as environmental responsibility becomes the norm.

INTERNSHIP OR SUMMER JOB: Most schools with this kind of position offer student internships or work-study positions. Nonprofits such as NW Green Campus (nwgrecampus.org) also have opportunities.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

American Hiking Society's National Trails Day:
americanhiking.org/ntd.aspx

Bureau of Land Management public-lands volunteers:
blm.gov/volunteer

EPA volunteer water-monitoring program:
epa.gov/volunteer

National Wildlife Foundation: nwf.org/volunteer

The Nature Conservancy: nature.org/volunteer

Sierra Club: action.sierraclub.org

U.S. Fish and Wildlife volunteers: www.fws.gov/volunteers

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms: www.woof.org

Green Building Consultant

WHAT IT TAKES: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accreditation and a bachelor's degree, preferably in architecture or engineering

TOP SCHOOLS: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rutgers State University of New Jersey, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

STARTING PAY: \$38,000

WHO'D BE INTO IT: People who want to help change the built environment and work toward a generous salary

HOT SPOTS: Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and anywhere there's lots of new construction

INTERNSHIP OR SUMMER JOB: The U.S. Green Building Council, which administers the LEED program, always has a few internships available (check usgbc.org for listings).

Environmental Journalist

WHAT IT TAKES: A firm grasp of climate-change science and multimedia experience, according to *Los Angeles Times* environment editor Geoffrey Mohan. Plus a bachelor's degree in science, law, or politics, though reporting experience often counts more than a degree.

TOP SCHOOLS: Columbia University, Northwestern University, UC Berkeley, University of Missouri; for specialized science and environment reporting: Michigan State University, New York University, University of Colorado at Boulder

STARTING PAY: \$30,000, depending on the market and medium

WHO'D BE INTO IT: Inquisitive, open-minded people who enjoy telling stories and deciphering technical concepts

HOT SPOTS: Environmental journalism is taking hits as media corporations cut costs, but stories still beg for coverage nationwide.

INTERNSHIP OR SUMMER JOB: Writing and reporting internships with newspapers, magazines, or Web-based publications

Outdoor Education Coordinator

WHAT IT TAKES: A bachelor's degree in environmental studies, education, or a related field and experience with children

TOP SCHOOLS: Middlebury College, UCLA, University of Colorado, University of Oregon, University of Washington, Vanderbilt University

STARTING PAY: \$25,000 to \$30,000 at nonprofits. Many farms and camps offer modest stipends and provide room and board. Park agencies offer opportunities to advance to higher-paying naturalist positions.

WHO'D BE INTO IT: Energetic and patient outdoor buffs who want to spread their love for the environment to young people

HOT SPOTS: Communities with a lot of young families and access to the outdoors

INTERNSHIP OR SUMMER JOB: Summer camps or farms with children's activities almost always have opportunities for college students and recent graduates.

WEB SITES for COOL GREEN JOBS

- ecojobs.com
- jobs.grist.org
- jobs.treehugger.com
- sierraclub.org/careers
- sustainablebusiness.com/jobs



CAMPUS COLLABORATOR:

Praween Dayananda, 25

THE JOB: As the campus field coordinator at the National Wildlife Federation's Austin, Texas, offices, Dayananda helps universities audit their greenhouse-gas emissions and launch behavior-changing campaigns.

WHY HE DOES IT: "Our planet that has miraculously sustained life so far is changing because of our actions. We still have many ways to improve the situation."

ADVICE: "Don't limit yourself to working for a typical green group. Any work is fine as long as it is done with a sense of compassion and concern for humanity and our planet."



WEED WARRIOR:

Serena Dennis, 24

THE JOB: A river ranger at Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah, Dennis rafts the Green and Yampa Rivers to remove invasive plants and teach environmental stewardship.

WHY SHE DOES IT: "I never thought I'd find a job that combined restoration with white-water rafting. I love working with volunteers and knowing I made a difference."

ADVICE: "Internships! They are a great way to find out what you are interested in, make connections, meet people, and gain valuable work experience."



GREEN BUSINESS WHIZ:

John Dowker, 25

THE JOB: As an associate at Seattle-based Cascadia Capital, Dowker helps renewable energy entrepreneurs refine their business plans and raise money.

WHY HE DOES IT: "Clean tech is really taking off, and helping grow the clean economy is pretty cool."

ADVICE: "Lots of clean-tech start-ups are looking for people who can fill multiple roles. This lets you learn about different areas of the business and helps you figure out where you want to focus your career."



RUST BELT ORGANIZER:

Kim Teplitzky, 23

THE JOB: After working with the Sierra Student Coalition during her senior year of college, Teplitzky stuck with the group and became a regional organizer. She helps college and high school students launch Campus Climate Challenge campaigns.

WHY SHE DOES IT: "When I graduated, it was a perfect fit to jump into organizing with the SSC on the Climate Challenge and help students run similar campaigns."

ADVICE: "Get trained! Most groups are looking to hire young people who already have some experience."



MASTER MAPPER:

Aaron Johnson, 25

THE JOB: As a biological science technician with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Johnson studies the life cycles of invasive plants to find ways to control them. He also uses remote-sensing data to create maps of weed-distribution patterns.

WHY HE DOES IT: "I get to work outside and satisfy my desire for hands-on work with plants, while I also get to be at the high-tech frontier of weed management."

ADVICE: "Do as many projects with professors as you can—and summer internships in a wide array of fields."

BACKGROUND: LORI EVANES