UC Berkeley: 2018-2019

UC Berkeley finished its first-ever complete submission for the Sustainability Tracking, Rating and Assessment System, or STARS, earning a high Gold rating with 78.5 points. That result placed UC Berkeley 11th out of 349 colleges and universities having completed a full STARS assessment. The campus's top-ranked environmental sciences programs helped UC Berkeley earn top-notch STARS scores for its sustainability-themed undergraduate and graduate programs and sustainability-focused research. UC Berkeley also earned perfect scores in fields that measure diversity and equity in the campus community. The STARS rating additionally earned UC Berkeley a coveted spot among the top 20 greenest universities, according to the Sierra Club and the Princeton Review.

The popular Cool Campus Challenge returned to UC in April 2019, and UC Berkeley took the overall honor as the Coolest UC, achieving the most carbon-saving points of any UC campus or medical center. Engaging more than 4,200 participants, or 7.5 percent of the campus, UC Berkeley is saving tons of carbon dioxide from participants' actions, equivalent to taking 500 cars off the road for an entire year. Also in support of carbon reduction action, UC Berkeley's chancellor, in coordination with students, signed a memorandum of understanding committing the Berkeley campus to 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2050.

Berkeley received five best practice awards at the annual California Higher Education Sustainability Conference. UC Berkeley's efforts on zero waste curriculum and operations, environmental justice, toxin reduction and climate action took the honors. The awards highlight the breadth, depth and leadership in sustainability the campus both values and excels in.

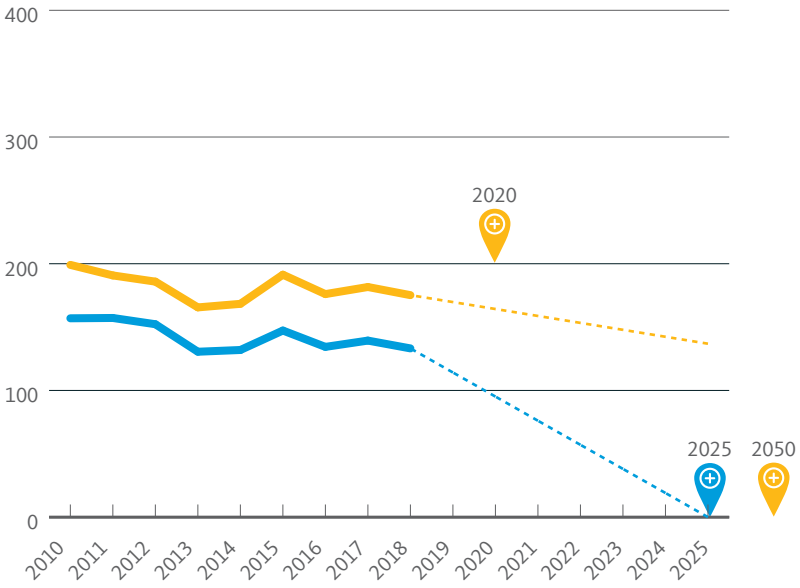
UC Berkeley's newest building, the Connie and Kevin Chou Hall at Haas School of Business, is now one of the greenest academic buildings ever. It has earned a trifecta of green building certifications. The building achieved TRUE Zero Waste certification at the highest possible level, along with LEED Platinum Certification for its architectural design, construction and energy efficiency. Most recently it became the campus's first WELL certified space at the Silver level. With no landfill bins in the building, a team of staff and students is working to phase out single-use, disposable materials in favor of reusable containers and supplies, and the building's on-site food vendor adheres to zero waste practices.

Credit: Elena Zhukova

UC Berkeley, By the Numbers 2018

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

(1,000 metric tons CO_2e)



- Scopes 1 (natural gas, campus fleet, fugitive) + 2 (purchased electricity)
- Scopes 1, 2 + 3 (campus commute, business air travel)

Goals:

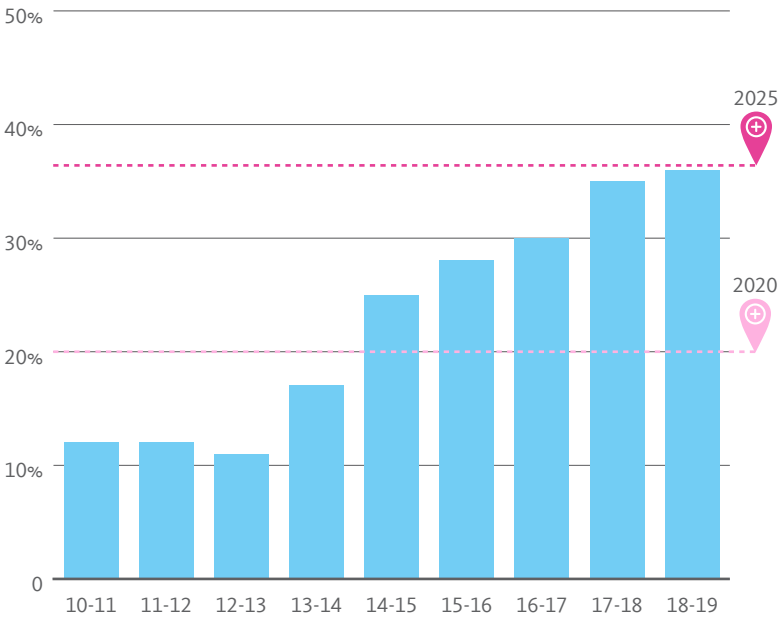
- 1990 levels by 2020 (scopes 1, 2 + 3)
- Carbon neutral by 2025 (scopes 1 + 2)
- Carbon neutral by 2050 (scopes 1, 2 + 3)

Progress:

- 2020 goal met

WATER

(Percent reduction in per capita potable water consumption)



Goal:

- 20% reduction from baseline in per capita potable water use by 2020 and 36% reduction from baseline in per capita potable water use by 2025

Progress:

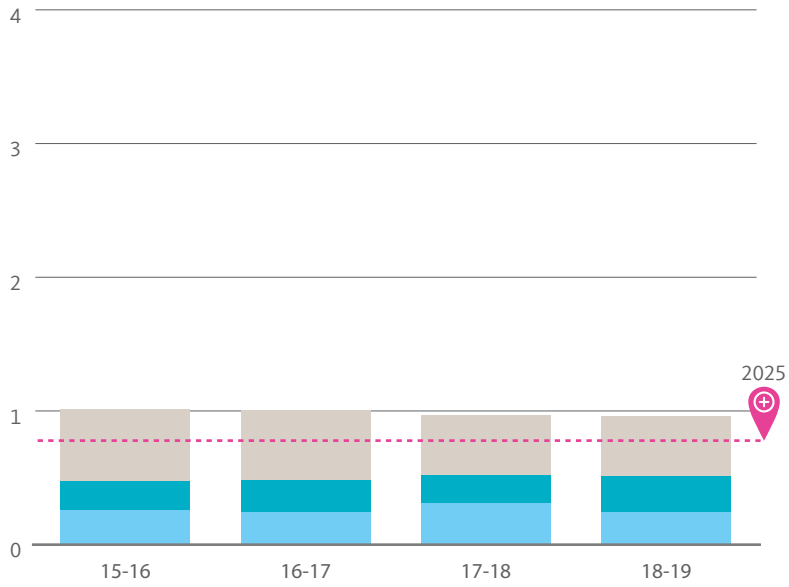
- 2020 goal met
- 2025 goal met

2018-19 gallons per capita: 13,185

UC Berkeley, By the Numbers 2018

WASTE

(Daily per capita waste generation in pounds)

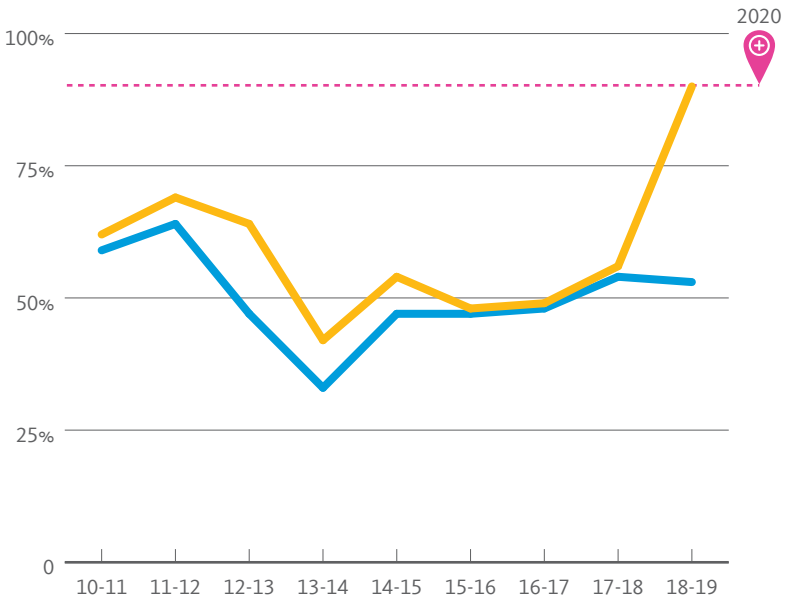


- Recycle
- Organics
- Landfill

Goals:

- Reduce waste generation per capita to FY 2015-16 levels by 2020, 25 percent below FY 2015-16 levels by 2025, and 50 percent below FY 2015-16 levels by 2030
- Zero waste by 2020

(Diversion rate)



- Diversion Rate (C&D + MSW)
- Diversion Rate (MSW)

UC Berkeley, By the Numbers 2018

FOOD

Goal:

- 20% of food service spend to be from sustainable products by 2020

Progress:
Residential: 28%
Retail: 14%

UC Berkeley has met the 2020 goal for residential sustainable food service spend.

PROCUREMENT

Goal:

- 25% green spend as a total percentage of spend per product category

Progress:
Cleaning supplies: 85%

UC Berkeley has met the green spend goal for cleaning supplies.

TRANSPORTATION

Goals:

- 50% of all new light-duty fleet vehicles purchased at each campus will be zero-emission or hybrid by 2025
- Reduce SOV commute rate to no more than 40% of employees and no more than 30% of all employees and students by 2050. (In other words, 60% of employees and 70% of employees and students will use alternative commute modes to get to campus)

Progress:
Percent of all new light-duty fleet vehicles zero-emission or hybrid: 25%

Alternative commute rate:

Employee: 62%
Overall: 83%

UC Berkeley has met the employee and overall alternate commute goal.

GREEN BUILDING

Goals:

- LEED Silver minimum for all new construction
- Certify at least one LEED EBOM project on each campus

Progress:
UC Berkeley added one new LEED Silver building in 2019 to total:

Platinum: 2
Gold: 12
Silver: 7
Certified: 1

This list includes the Connie and Kevin Chou Hall (LEED Platinum in 2018) and the David Blackwell Residence Hall (LEED Gold in 2018).

Number of LEED EBOM projects: 0

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING OPERATIONS AND LABS

Goal:

- Assess three research labs

Progress:
Number of assessed research labs: 18

UC Berkeley has met the sustainable research lab assessment.