



Chatham University in Pennsylvania is one of many colleges adopting renewable energy for campus buildings.

# America's Top Colleges for Renewable Energy 2020

## Who Is Leading the Transition to 100% Renewable Energy on Campus?

*Colleges and universities around the country – from small liberal arts institutions to community colleges to big research universities – are leading the way to 100% renewable energy. Top campuses are already getting 100% or more of their power from clean sources, using energy more efficiently, and employing clean electric vehicles.*

### America's colleges and universities are clean energy leaders

The nation's leading campuses for clean energy – from Georgetown University to the University of Idaho – are setting a strong example for others to follow. More than 40 colleges and universities now obtain 100 percent or more of their electricity from renewable energy sources, while many schools now use renewable energy to heat and cool campus buildings or have adopted clean electric vehicles.

### College campuses are ideal places for renewable energy

College campuses are large energy users and are uniquely able to use systems like micro-grids and district energy to expand the ways renewable energy can be used to power campus buildings. College students are also eager to join the clean energy revolution: A 2020 Princeton Review survey found that two-thirds of students factor schools' environmental commitments into their college attendance decisions.

### Leading colleges get 100% or more of their power from renewable energy

*Top five schools for percentage of electricity from renewables*

School	Percent of electricity from renewable sources
Georgetown University, DC	130%
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, NY	125%
Emerson College, MA	123%
Whitman College, WA	119%
Unity College, ME	115%

Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., leads for the percentage of electricity it receives from renewable energy among schools reporting to the EPA's Green Power Partnership. Butte College in California leads for the percentage of the school's electricity it produces from renewable facilities it owns – generating 79 percent of the electricity it uses from its own renewable sources.

## Colleges have made impressive clean energy commitments

More solar and wind power will be coming to college campuses in the years ahead, thanks to strong commitments by leading institutions:

- **Vanderbilt University** has committed to power its campus with renewable energy and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. A new solar farm will offset about 70 percent of Vanderbilt's annual indirect carbon emissions from purchased electricity.
- The **University of Arizona** will share power produced by a new solar-plus-storage facility in Arizona and a new wind farm in New Mexico, part of the state's largest-ever deal between a university and a utility.
- The **University of California** system made a landmark commitment to 100% clean electricity and carbon neutrality by 2025. New buildings and those undergoing major renovations will no longer be designed to burn fossil fuels for space heating or hot water.

## The path to 100% renewable energy

Every college campus can follow the example of leading institutions by embracing clean, renewable energy. To begin, campuses should:

- Reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency and conservation efforts.
- Obtain 100% of their electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar power.
- Transition other building systems – such as heating, cooling and hot water – to electricity or other sources of renewable energy such as solar hot water or ground-source heat pumps.
- Swap all fossil fuel-powered vehicles for electric vehicles.

For more information, see the reports *Renewable Energy 100: The Course to a Carbon-Free Campus* and *Renewable Energy 101: Tools for Moving Your Campus to 100% Clean Energy* and visit [www.Go100RenewableCampus.org](http://www.Go100RenewableCampus.org).

## Top schools are cleaning up heating, cooling and other energy needs

Leading campuses aren't just switching to renewable electricity – they're also using solar thermal panels, geothermal heat pumps and other renewable technologies to meet heating, cooling and hot water needs in buildings.

### Top 5 schools for non-electric renewable energy use per student

School	Non-electric renewable energy per FTE student (MMBtu)
Colby College, MA	55.3
Chatham University, PA	40.2
University of Idaho, ID	36.2
Colgate University, NY	33.5
University of Iowa, IA	22.3

## Leading schools are switching to EVs

Campuses are also cleaning up transportation. Each of the top 10 schools for electric vehicles (EVs) has switched more than 60 percent of its campus vehicles to EVs.

School	Percent of campus-owned vehicles that are EVs
Ringling College of Art and Design, FL	85%
University of the Pacific, CA	81%
Rice University, TX	76%
Harvey Mudd College, CA	73%
Loyola Marymount University, CA	72%



Find more information and the full report online:

[www.EnvironmentAmericaCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentAmericaCenter.org)

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