

ECSU garners 'Green Campus' rating

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University was recently recognized by The Princeton Review as a top “Green Campus” nationally.

Based on a review of nearly 700 colleges, the Princeton Review selected 413 schools for their sustainability efforts.

This is Eastern’s 10th year in a row on the list.

Under ECSU President Elsa Núñez, the university has filed its zero-carbon action plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 with the American College and University Presidents’

Climate Commitment.

Eastern’s Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) is an important element of campus sustainability efforts.

The ISE is spearheading the statewide Sustainable CT program, which provides a roadmap to sustainable practices to make towns more eco-friendly and is endorsed by more than 50 percent of Connecticut municipalities.

The ISE also conducts educational programs with public schools and performs sustainability analyses and research for towns, state agencies and other entities.

On campus, the dining hall provides recyclable to-go containers; the Student Center has reduced its use of plastic; and leftover food is donated to the local Covenant Soup Kitchen.

According to The Princeton Review, 10 percent of Eastern’s energy consumption is derived from renewable resources including geothermal, solar power, biofuel and purchased electricity.

Eastern focuses on reducing water use and recycling and has a silver rating by the Association for the Advancement of

Sustainability in Higher Education.

There are four Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified buildings, including the Science Building, which utilizes a gray-water and daylight-harvesting systems and houses native plants in its greenhouse. The building has recycled flooring and a biofilter system to treat water runoff.

To read more about Eastern’s sustainability efforts, visit www.easternct.edu/sustainenergy. To read Eastern’s review, visit <https://bit.ly/2NORO4v>.