

A photograph of a modern university building with large glass windows and a brick facade, set against a sunset sky. The building is partially obscured by trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. A street lamp with a glowing white light is visible on the left side of the frame. The overall scene is warm and inviting, capturing the beauty of the fall season on a university campus.


EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY


SUSTAINABILITY  
*at Eastern*



*Eastern Connecticut State University has a longstanding commitment to sustainability, reflected in President Elsa Núñez's pledge to become a carbon neutral and resilient campus. Our leadership in the field of sustainability is reflected in high performance and energy efficient buildings; integration of sustainability into the classroom and through the Center for Sustainable Energy Studies; and important work being conducted in Connecticut to advance energy efficiency, sustainability and climate change policy through the University's Institute for Sustainable Energy.*

# Commitments

 Eastern was one of the first 100 institutions in the United States to sign the American College and University President's Climate Commitment in September 2007. Since that time, Eastern submitted a Climate Action Plan in 2009; regularly completes greenhouse gas inventories; and signed the new Climate Leadership Commitment in 2015, which includes carbon reductions and resilience measures.

 Eastern has an active Green Campus Committee that meets once a month. The committee consists of students, faculty and staff who are interested in the campus and involved in sustainability initiatives.

 Eastern co-chairs the Connecticut Alliance for Campus Sustainability with Yale University. The alliance facilitates networking and collaboration among Connecticut's public and private colleges and universities. The alliance holds an annual conference, a summer roundtable event and a statewide Campus Sustainability Week each October.

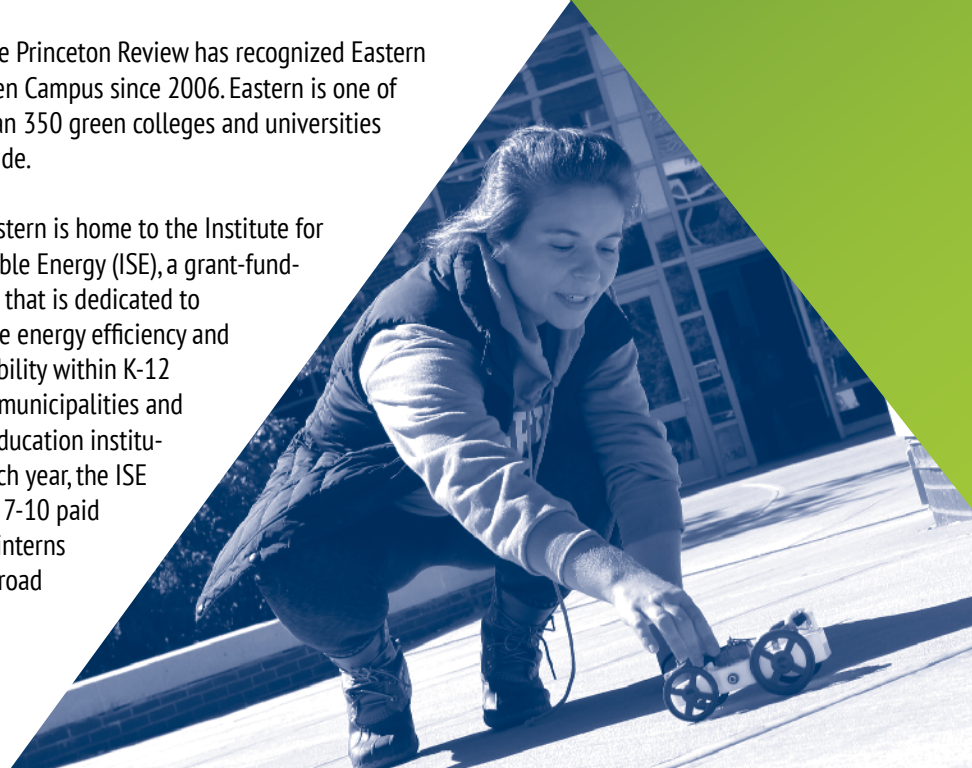




Eastern is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and has submitted a Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Report (STAR) in 2012, ranking Eastern at the silver level; the University maintained its silver ranking in early 2016. AASHE STAR ranks Eastern in the following categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, Planning and Administration, and Innovation.


The Princeton Review has recognized Eastern as a Green Campus since 2006. Eastern is one of more than 350 green colleges and universities nationwide.


Eastern is home to the Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE), a grant-funded office that is dedicated to statewide energy efficiency and sustainability within K-12 schools, municipalities and higher education institutions. Each year, the ISE employs 7-10 paid student interns from a broad range of majors.





## Academics

 Students can major or minor in Sustainable Energy Studies, offered through the Department of Environmental Earth Science.

 Eastern offers more than 12 sustainability courses and more than 40 courses that are sustainability-related. Students can also obtain sustainability-focused internships through the Center for Sustainable Studies and the Institute for Sustainable Energy.

*“I am proud of Eastern’s commitment to sustainability in our buildings, our classrooms and in our community. We will continue to reduce our carbon footprint to meet Eastern’s climate pledge, which will help to achieve strong state, national and international climate goals.”*

**Eastern President Elsa M. Núñez**





# Engagement

Eastern offers Green Themed Housing for students interested in improving sustainability on campus.

A number of student clubs have sustainability themes, including the Environmental Club, People Helping People and the Outdoors Club.

Eastern is host to a Community Education Garden that operates from April to October. The garden is open to all students to assist with planting, watering, garden maintenance and harvesting. The garden is located next to the Institute for Sustainable Energy.



Eastern has a “mixed recycling” program with improved outreach through student-created videos, recycling labels on containers throughout the campus and a website. For more information, visit [www.easternct.edu/sustainability/recycle](http://www.easternct.edu/sustainability/recycle).



## Facilities



- Eastern has five Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings: Constitution, Laurel and Nutmeg Residence Halls; the Science Building; and the new Fine Arts Instructional Center. These buildings use energy and water more efficiently, have natural daylighting, exhibit improved indoor air quality and use local materials.
- A bio-swale outside of the Science Building collects water runoff and is designed to conserve and recycle natural rainwater as well as simulate a natural riverbed.
- Eastern is host to the state's largest geothermal facility, which was installed in the High Rise Apartments in 2001. The system consists of three 800-foot vertical wells that use the natural constant ground temperature to heat and cool the building. Prior to installation, the building had no air conditioning and was heated through an electric baseboard system that cost \$82,000 a year. With the geothermal system, the bill averages \$72,000, which includes heating and cooling!
- Eastern operates trayless dining in Hurley Dining Hall, reducing food and water waste.
- Eastern's grounds include a 19-acre arboretum that acts as an outdoor environmental field laboratory. Students conduct research within the swamp, forest, meadow and marsh habitats of the arboretum, learning lessons in sustainability through the physical landscape and the species that live there.
- In December 2014, Eastern installed a level 2 electric vehicle charging station, available for use by faculty, staff, students and the community.





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To learn more about sustainability at Eastern, visit  
[www.easternct.edu/sustainability](http://www.easternct.edu/sustainability)