

THE GREEN AMBASSADOR



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Breaking News: Notre Dame Ranks 226th Internationally in Sustainability Among Higher Education Institutions



We are excited to announce that Notre Dame's overall [QS Sustainability ranking](#) has improved from our previous 403rd ranking. As of 2024, **we are 226th in the world!** The QS Sustainability ranking recognizes universities that have demonstrated a commitment to sustainability. As a part of their ranking process, they review operational and classroom impact alongside outward-facing work such as alumni solving climate issues and the impact of research being done across the UN's 17 sustainable development goals.

Achieving this improved ranking is only feasible because of the amazing work of our campus stakeholders. Our academic partners are actively preparing students for future climate jobs in the classroom and conducting research in accordance with the UN's sustainability goals. Our operational partners are consistently our boots on the ground, whether supporting long-term strategic initiatives and policies or everyday campus services. No matter your role at the University, your work is important to the shared goal of a more sustainable future. This successful ranking is because of your dedication! Let's work together to be vigilant and committed to our shared mission of caring for our common home.

Term of the Month

In December, many of us will consider gift giving. If you make a choice to buy something new for your loved one, we encourage you to be a conscious consumer and avoid *greenwashing*. Greenwashing is the process of conveying inaccurate or misleading information about a product's environmental impact. Some companies will engage in this deceitful practice with the hopes of selling more products by influencing prospective consumers to believe the product is sustainable.

Learn how to spot greenwashing when you're shopping

External Partnership Sustainability Award



We are now accepting nominations for the 2024 [External Partnership Sustainability Award](#)! University Procurement Services and the Office of Sustainability have collaborated since 2019 to recognize sustainability efforts and partnerships via our collaborative award program. This award honors suppliers and other partners who have made sustainability an integral part of their business practices while partnering with the University of Notre Dame.

The award program is being shifted to more fully recognize the holistic nature of our work. This shift helps to remind us that sustainability is about human vitality—our ability to thrive together— while also caring for our common home.

Sustainability Spotlight: 2023 Green Team



A special thank you is in order for our 2023 Green Team members! This team is comprised of passionate undergraduate and graduate students who are committed to supporting waste diversion efforts. Every football home game, these students rose before the sun to help parking lot attendants welcome tailgaters, and provided waste and recycling education to thousands of campus visitors. These students are vital to the annual operations of the Notre Dame football season, and we are grateful for their dedication to this work.

Front Row: Aria Richards, Allison Fleming, Carolyn Dell, Juliette Ajeneza

Middle Row: Lauren Schnabel, Arrianna Newquist, Ainee Martin

Back Row: Ujaswin Jain, Wisdom Anni, Maria Nakalanda, Annie Lang, Madison Clancy, Julka Syska, Sandesh Prakash Rajput

Not Pictured: Nina Hemm

December Sustainability Tip: Follow the Eco-Labels



Gifts are a thoughtful expression during the holiday season. When writing out your gift list, it's important to consider the life cycle of what you're buying. While the more sustainable option may be to purchase something

second-hand, you can still affect positive change if you choose to purchase something new. Be sure to look for eco-labels like B-Corp, Fair Trade, or bluesign standard. If there is a label you are unfamiliar with and want to cross-reference, check out [Eco-Label Index](#) for a comprehensive list of all eco-labels available for consumer products worldwide.

Looking Ahead: Sustainability Road Show

Exciting work is happening in the realm of sustainability on campus, and we want to share the upcoming news. If you would like the Sustainability Office to present to your hall, team or department, [request a presentation with us](#). Let us know who the audience is, how many people will be in attendance, and the amount of time allotted.



Happy Holidays!

On behalf of everyone in the Sustainability Office, we want to wish our readers a happy holiday season. We hope you are able to take this special time to relax, reflect, and find joy. *The Green Ambassador will return in February 2024.*



Do you know about a sustainability event coming up?
Add it our Google calendar

Nominate someone to be recognized in our
next Sustainability Spotlight!

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