

Executive Summary

Overview

The *College Sustainability Report Card* is the only independent evaluation of campus and endowment sustainability activities at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. In contrast to the *academic* focus on sustainability in research and teaching, the *Report Card* examines colleges and universities, as institutions, through the lens of sustainability.

Sustainability signifies meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Are these considerations guiding how resources are managed in campus operations and endowment practices? The *Report Card* is designed to identify colleges and universities that are leading by example on sustainability. The aim is to provide accessible information for schools to learn from each other's experiences and establish more effective sustainability policies.

Just as the grading system serves as an incentive in the classroom, the *Report Card's* grading system seeks to encourage sustainability as a priority in college operations and endowment investment practices by offering independent yearly assessments of progress. The focus is on policies and practices in nine main categories:

- Administration
- Climate Change & Energy
- Food & Recycling
- Green Building
- Student Involvement
- Transportation
- Endowment Transparency
- Investment Priorities
- Shareholder Engagement

Now in its fourth year, the *College Sustainability Report Card* covers the colleges and universities with the 300 largest endowments in the United States and Canada, as well as 32 additional schools that applied for inclusion. The profiled schools have combined holdings representing more than \$325 billion in endowment assets, or more than 95 percent of all university endowments.