

Loyola University Chicago

2017 Illinois Sustainability Award Winner

I ILLINOIS

Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Loyola University Chicago is committed to a sustainable future through academics and research as well as co-curricular activities and campus infrastructure. A key aspect of Loyola's social justice mission is addressing climate change and the associated disruptions to natural and social infrastructure and systems.

Announced as part of a series of events around the release of *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis' Encyclical, Loyola released a climate action plan with a carbon neutrality goal of 2025 called "*A Just Future*". As an urban Catholic Jesuit university, Loyola addresses climate through three main strategies: the campus, the curriculum, and community engagement.



CAMPUS

The Loyola Chicago campus is a highly visible example of climate action. Loyola is now home to 11 LEED certified buildings across three campuses. One of these buildings, the Information Commons (IC), is a great example of using integrated design in campus infrastructure to accomplish climate action goals. The IC uses a sophisticated sensor controlled system to monitor temperature, humidity, and CO₂ levels to ensure optimal comfort while operating efficient heating and cooling systems. Mechanically operated blinds and surface coatings on glass lower heat gain and aid the efficiency of the building. A green roof absorbs rainwater and mitigates storm runoff into Lake Michigan.

Loyola has more green roofs than any other university in the Midwest. They are found on all three of Loyola's campuses. The Quinlan rooftop is modeled on a native Illinois prairie in order to attract native birds and pollinating insects. The green rooftop on the Mundelein Hall building illustrates how Loyola not only builds LEED structures but also renovates using sustainability principles on older, historic structures in their care.

The campus buildings are high-performing and energy efficient with two campuses featuring large-scale geothermal installations. Since 2008, a transformation of Loyola's campus infrastructure has reduced carbon emissions by 38% per square foot of facility. However, to meet the carbon-neutral goals of the Climate Action Plan, Loyola is developing a new energy master plan, making commitments to purchase clean energy, siting photovoltaics on campus rooftops and creating new climate change resources for faculty.

Loyola's initiatives do not stop at energy efficiency. The university has an extensive water conservation program. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, Loyola takes great care to manage its stormwater runoff through the use of pavers, cisterns, green roofs, native plants, and rain gardens, some of which are located between the university and the lake. An interactive website allows the community to learn about these initiatives and why they are important.

Other extensive programs include waste diversion and composting, the shuttle bus use of biodiesel made by a student-run organization, and campus agriculture systems.



KEY STATISTICS

	1,469,000 gallons of water saved annually
	616 tons of material diverted from landfill annually
	683,575 kWh reduced annually from high-performing buildings
	\$130,000 dollars saved annually from natural gas use reduction
	19,288 mtCO ₂ e reduced annually

ABOUT LOYOLA CHICAGO

Established: 1870

Location: Chicago, IL

of employees: 3,049

of students: 16,673

Produces: Education and training, higher education services

NAICS code: 61130

Website: luc.edu

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Since 1987, ISTC has presented Illinois Sustainability Awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to sustaining our environmental and economic health.

Any Illinois public or private organization is eligible to apply.

Find out more at istc.illinois.edu/istcawards or email istc-info@illinois.edu

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

Loyola incorporates several tools to ensure that sustainability issues are front and center to their students, staff, and communities

- Extensive use of gardens to manage storm water run-off and provide native landscapes
- Integration of sustainability issues into undergraduate curriculum providing an environmental foundation for all students
- Building, renovating, and managing campus structures to a high standard of energy efficiency
- Engaging the wider community in sustainability initiatives



ABOUT ISTC

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center is a division of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

ISTC's mission is to encourage and assist citizens, businesses, and government agencies to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and reduce waste to protect human health and the environment of Illinois and beyond.

Find out more at istc.illinois.edu or email istc-info@illinois.edu

CURRICULUM

To ensure all students are exposed to sustainability issues, the undergraduate core curriculum was updated in 2012 to incorporate foundational environmental literacy concepts for all students. In a survey of incoming first-year students, 43% said that Loyola's sustainability commitment was "Important or Very Important" to their decision to attend Loyola. A greenhouse living/learning community combines residence life and learning to improve academic outcomes within and outside of the classroom. Loyola engages their student community through dashboards, signage and a "campus as lab" program that allows students to work on improving the infrastructure all around them.

A school dedicated to educating students on sustainability, the Institute of Environmental Sustainability (IES) integrates academics with the development of solutions to the most pressing environmental issues. New academic programs now offer nine degrees that incorporate sustainability including bachelor degrees, graduate dual-degrees, and minors. IES extended beyond the campus by recently hosting its fourth annual Climate Change Conference, which focused on the economics of climate. Faculty and students from nine different countries as well as 13 of the 28 Jesuit colleges located in the United States attended the conference.

COMMUNITY

The campus community has organized around climate action with Loyola students helping develop a Climate Action Plan for the Edgewater Neighborhood. More recently, Loyola has convened a new Sustainability Committee consisting of high-level administrators to oversee and implement the Climate Action Plan, a student sustainability fund, the Green Initiative Fund, a Community Sustainable Action Scholarship, Compost Network, Storm-water

Stories, food donations and other sustainability programs. By implementing these programs, Loyola lends its sustainability strengths to the surrounding neighborhoods. Loyola's efforts are enhancing and enriching neighboring communities.

To address Loyola's endowment management, Loyola has updated their investment policy with new "Responsible and Sustainable Investing Principles". These are being introduced to Loyola's fund managers in order to remove exposure to fossil fuel investments and create high impact investments into emerging clean energy and socially just companies. This work builds off of Loyola's Shareholder Advocacy Committee which led shareholder action (filings and co-filings) on a number of issues including water privatization and fossil fuel extraction financing.

