

SIERRA



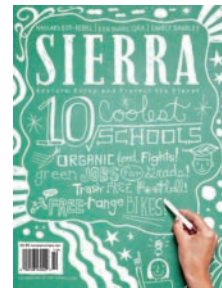
SIERRA MAGAZINE'S 2010 "COOLEST SCHOOLS" QUESTIONNAIRE



2007



2008



2009

- EFFICIENCY
- ENERGY SUPPLY
- FOOD
- ACADEMICS
- PURCHASING
- TRANSPORTATION
- WASTE MANAGEMENT
- ADMINISTRATION
- FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS
- OTHER INITIATIVES

SIERRA

Sierra, the award-winning magazine of the Sierra Club, is compiling information for our fourth annual “Coolest Schools” issue, which will rate American colleges and universities according to their environmental practices, green initiatives, and caliber of sustainability-oriented education.

Schools that score highly in these realms may be contacted for further discussion and will receive recognition in the magazine’s September/October issue. Please fill out this interactive PDF as thoroughly as possible, save it with your responses as “2010_coolschools_ your school’s name” and email it to cool.schools@sierraclub.org no later than **March 20, 2010**.

Note that this questionnaire will become a public document and that we will not be altering your responses before publishing them online. Please answer as thoroughly as possible. Questions left blank will receive no credit, and if a question requests a percentage, you must provide a percentage. The scoring key will be available online once the issue is published.

As the publication of the nation’s oldest and largest environmental nonprofit, *Sierra* has a readership of more than 1 million engaged and educated citizens.

Many thanks for your participation.

School name: Humboldt State University

Contact name and title: Tall Chief Comet

Contact phone: 1-707-826-5920

Contact email: tcc4@humboldt.edu

School’s city and state: Arcata, CA

Number of students: approx. 7,800

HONOR PLEDGE: By completing and submitting this questionnaire, you are certifying that all statements in this document are true to the best of your knowledge.

INITIAL: DP

DATE: 03/19/10

Category 1: Energy Supply

1. Please break down the energy types that your campus uses for electricity by percentage. If the school purchases its electricity from a utility company, this information should be available from that company.

<u>33</u> % Coal	<u>1</u> % Wind	<u><1</u> % Biomass
<u>42</u> % Natural Gas	<u><1</u> % Solar	<u>1</u> % Geothermal
<u>5</u> % Nuclear	<u>18</u> % Hydro	<u> </u> % Other _____

2. What type(s) of energy does your campus use for heating buildings (e.g., natural gas, biomass, coal)?

<u>0</u> % Coal	<u>0</u> % Biomass
<u>100</u> % Natural Gas	<u>0</u> % Geothermal
<u>0</u> % Electricity	<u>0</u> % Fuel Oil

If cogeneration, please explain.

There are two cogeneration units on campus that generate electricity from natural gas. The waste heat that is produced is used to heat domestic water and nearby buildings.

Category 2: Efficiency

1. What percentage of campus buildings completed within the past three years have a LEED certification of at least silver?

33
_____ %

Note whether the certification is higher than silver.

The Behavioral and Social Sciences building has a LEED Gold certification.

The other two, Kinseology & Athletics and the Schatz Energy Research Center lab, have been built to LEED silver specifications, but with no certification.

2. What percentage of water used for campus landscaping is from recovered, reclaimed, or untreated sources?

<1
_____ %

The Campus Center for Appropriate Technology uses rainwater catchment for landscaping and garden watering. Native landscaping on campus helps reduce the need for irrigation.

3. What percentage of campus lighting fixtures are energy-efficient (e.g., compact fluorescent, LED, or equipped with motion sensors, automatic daylight shutoff, or other energy-saving features)?

100
_____ %

Campus bathrooms and many others are equipped with motion-sensors to activate lighting. All campus lights have been upgraded to fluorescent T-8s and T-5s.

4. What percentage of campus appliances are Energy Star-rated?

_____ %

5. Does the institution have underway a program of energy-efficiency retrofitting projects, such as improving building insulation or sealing heating and cooling ducts?

Yes. The Humboldt Energy Independence Fund is currently working to retrofit the HVAC systems in the Science Building D/E complex to save a minimum of 180,000 kWh annually.

Category 3: Food

1. What percentage (in dollars) of food served at cafeterias is grown or raised within 100 miles of the campus?

2 %

6% of total dollars spent on food during the growing season was spent on local food.
80% of produce during the growing season is purchased locally. We work with Community Alliance with Family Farms (CAFF) and purchase as much of the local produce as they will supply.

2. What percentage (in dollars) of food served at campus cafeterias is USDA-certified organic?

5 %

5% during the entire academic year.
7% during the local growing season.

3. Do campus cafeterias source seafood that is deemed sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council, the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program, or a similar program?

100% of Tuna purchased is sourced from "Wild Planet" sustainably caught wild seafood.

25% of other seafood products are certified sustainable.

4. What percentage of entrées served in campus dining locations include meat? If the meat is produced sustainably (for example, free-range or grass-fed), explain.

65 %

All of our ground beef is local grass-fed beef. All of our eggs are cage-free.

5. Are nutritionally complete vegetarian and/or vegan options available at every meal?

Yes. Dining Services works with two student groups that assist us in ensuring we serve vegetarian and vegan options. One is the Dining Committee, part of the Residence Housing Association, and the other is a club on campus, "AWARE," (Always Working for Animal Rights & Equality) which helps ensure vegan options are always available.

6. Is bottled water sold or distributed on campus?

Yes. We also have filtered water available at all dining locations for only a cup charge or free if you bring your own container. Also, Haws Hydration Stations are available at our food court and Kinesiology building.

7. Does your school maintain a campus farm or garden? Does it use organic methods? Please describe the garden and methods used.

No, due to space issues. We do have two community gardens that the students are actively involved with. We also have small raised gardens within the Housing community and Dining Service has their own herb garden which supplies about 33% of our fresh herbs.

Category 4: Academics

1. Does your school offer any environmental- and/or sustainability-related majors, such as environmental studies, ecology, or sustainable agriculture? If so, please list them all.

Insufficient space. Please see attached document titled: ACADEMICS

2. Does your school offer classes about clean technologies, including topics such as energy efficiency and solar-wind energy engineering? If so, please list them all.

Socio-Technological Thinking Processes (IT 308), Whole Earth Engineering (ENGR 114), Technology and the Environment (ENGR 308), Appropriate Technology (ENGR 305), Water Quality and Environmental Health (ENGR 351), Energy Technology and Society (ENGR 370), Renewable Energy Power Systems (ENGR 475), Sustainable Campus (ENVS 411), Applied Ecological Restoration (ENVS 450)

3. Does your school provide students with a list of environmental and/or sustainability classes to make such courses easy to identify? Please provide a link, if available.

<http://www.humboldt.edu/green/culture/curriculum.php>

4. Please provide names of standout professors who work on environmental and/or sustainability issues and list their accomplishments, including awards, honors, and publications.

Insufficient space. Please see attached document titled: ACADEMICS

5. Do you have environment- and/or sustainability-related centers, programs, or research institutions associated with your school? If so, please provide their names and a description.

Insufficient space. Please see the attached document titled: ACADEMICS

6. Is an environment-themed class a core curriculum requirement? If yes, please provide the name(s) of the course(s).

There is no required class. However, two required categories of upper division general education units offer environment-themed classes that many students opt to take.

7. What percentage of academic departments offer environment- or sustainability-related classes?

53 %

Category 5: Purchasing

1. Does your school have a sustainable-purchasing policy? If yes, briefly explain.

Humboldt State University has a written policy to purchase and use 100% post-consumer waste, 20 lb. bond paper. We take pride in our leadership position as an institution committed to environmental stewardship and action. This policy is a direct result of that position and we hope a model for other organizations to follow.

Humboldt State University has also made a commitment to purchasing non-toxic, biodegradable cleaners.

2. What percentage of paper used on campus is made from at least 30% postconsumer recycled content?

95-98 %

Does your school purchase paper that is Forest Stewardship Council-certified?

Yes.

3. Does your school have a policy to purchase Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-certified (or similar) electronics? If yes, please describe.

No.

4. Do you have packaging agreements with suppliers that minimize waste? If yes, please describe.

No.

5. Does your school specify in its purchasing contracts that products with energy-saving features be installed or delivered with these features enabled?

No.

Category 6: Transportation

1. Does your school provide a free shuttle service around campus and town? If yes, briefly explain.

Humboldt State University has partnered with Redwood Transit System, Eureka Transit, and Arcata Transit to offer the Jack Pass program. This program allows any student with a valid HSU ID unlimited rides on any route for free on weekdays and with some weekend hours.

Humboldt State University Housing also provides free weekend shuttle service from campus to nearby locations including the mall, the movies, and other shopping locations.

2. What has your school done to promote bicycling as a transportation method?

Humboldt State University offers approximately 1,600 bicycle parking spaces on campus. The campus also houses a bicycle learning center and holds an annual "Car-Free" day each September, encouraging the use of bicycles over motor vehicles.

Humboldt State University has a very active student organization, Green Wheels, focused on promoting bicycling as alternative transportation. This group has also collaborated with campus and local City of Arcata planners on bicycle route and infrastructure planning.

3. Does your school encourage its students and employees to use public transit, carpool, or use some other form of alternative transportation? If yes, what are the incentives?

Humboldt State University offers free public transportation through its Jack Pass and Housing Weekend Shuttle programs. The university also encourages carpooling by offering free daily parking when a driver carools with two or more passengers. The campus offers discounted parking permits for motorcycle and mo-ped vehicles. Finally, the university provides access to AlterNet rides, a free rideshare service.

4. Approximately what percentage of students drive to school in a car?

17 %

5. Approximately what percentage of faculty and staff drive to work in a car?

73 %

Category 7: Waste Management

1. What is your campus's current waste-diversion rate (i.e., percentage of campus waste being diverted from landfills)?

77.8 %

Data as of 2006.

2. Does your campus provide recycling receptacles wherever there are trash cans?

Yes.

3. Are recycling bins readily available at large events such as football games?

Yes.

4. Does your school compost? If yes, are compost receptacles available at all or most on-campus dining locations?

Yes. Approximately three tons of pre-consumer food waste is composted at Humboldt State University each year. Compost bins are not available at all campus dining locations, while there are compost receptacles outside many central locations like the library and classroom buildings. We are not certified to compost post-consumer food waste at our dining facilities.

5. Is your school committed to waste-reduction goals, such as zero waste? Please explain.

Yes. The Campus Recycling Program (CRP) is committed to planning zero-waste events for campus departments, clubs and programs that are interested. The CRP also heads campus recycling, campus composting and the Reusable Office Supply Exchange (R.O.S.E.) program. Humboldt State University also has the Humboldt Energy Independence Fund that is committed to making the university energy independent, the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology that is committed to exploring appropriate and sustainable technologies on campus, and a campus branch of Take Back the Tap that is dedicated to reducing waste related to the production and sale of plastic water bottles.

6. Does your campus administer a donation program for clothing and other used goods when students are moving out of student housing? If so, are bins located in every dormitory?

Yes. The Campus Recycling Program hosts an event called Donation Dash at the end of each semester for students moving off campus to donate clothing and other household goods. Drop-off centers for the Donation Dash are at central campus locations, though not at every dormitory. About 18,000 lbs. of materials are collected each year.

Also, the Reusable Office Supply Exchange (ROSE) program accepts donations of reusable office supplies throughout the school year. Some semesters have had up to \$12,000 in supplies reused.

Category 8: Administration

1. Is environmental sustainability part of your institution's mission statement, guiding principles, or similar document? If so, please provide the text or link.

Given our location in one of the world's most beautiful places, it's only natural that Humboldt State has a long-standing commitment to understanding and preserving our environment. This is more than a mission statement or slogan; it's a core principle that pervades much of that we do. Sustainability is incorporated throughout our curriculum, interwoven into our approach to campus operations and spread by our graduates who carry knowledge and skills related to sustainability with them when they graduate. Many graduates, in fact, choose to sign the Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility, which HSU students created and has spread to universities around the world. The shared campus and community dedication to environmentally conscious living means that sustainability is a key part of the Humboldt State experience. For many students, attending our university and becoming immersed in the local culture is an eye-opening experience, one that introduces them to environmental responsibility on both intellectual and practical levels.
<http://www.humboldt.edu/green/commitment/>

2. Does your school employ at least one person dedicated to overseeing campus environmental initiatives, such as a sustainability coordinator, or have a sustainability task force or committee? Is the coordinator position a part-time or full-time position?

Tall Chief Comet is the Sustainability Coordinator on campus. This is a full-time position devoted to sustainability issues on campus. There is also a President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability, which is composed of faculty members and advisors.

3. Has your school made an official commitment to reducing its impact on climate change by setting goals of emission reductions by a certain date? If yes, does your school have a plan for achieving these reductions? If so, briefly explain the plan.

No. Humboldt State University has no specific climate-action policies, but by law we adhere to California Assembly Bill 32, which says that CSU campuses must reduce emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

4. Has your school conducted a complete greenhouse-gas-emissions audit of its campus?

Yes. The audit was performed in 2006, but this did not include transportation.

5. Has your school achieved a reduction in total annual carbon emissions? If yes, please explain and provide the benchmark year and percentage.

We cannot make an assertion, due to a lack of current data.

Category 9: Financial Investments

1. Is all information about your endowment fund publicly available? Briefly explain.

Yes. The university Advancement Foundation provides information on its Board of Directors, its policies, its financial reports and its investment performance analyses to the public on its website: <http://www.humboldt.edu/hsuaf/index.php>

2. Does your institution have an investment-responsibility committee that considers and acts on environmental issues?

No.

3. Does your school make environmentally responsible investments? If so, briefly explain what they are and whether they're made on an ongoing basis.

No.

Category 10: Other Initiatives

1. Have any of your school's students effected positive environmental change on a campus, state, or national level? If so, please describe. (To nominate a specific student for greater attention in our coverage, please email cool.schools@sierraclub.org with his or her name, accomplishments, and contact information.)

Student action and initiative for positive environmental change is vast, and probably the most valuable source for environmental responsibility on campus. Student-led programs include:

Campus Center for Appropriate Technology
Humboldt Energy Independence Fund
Humboldt State University Take Back The Tap
Green Wheels
Campus Recycling Program

2. Have students participated in environmental challenges or events such as the Solar Decathlon, environmental design contests, or environmental debates? If so, which events and how did they do?

Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming: HSU was recognized for its Jack Pass unlimited-ride bus pass. It was one of eight winning colleges chosen from a national pool of entries. CCAT was recognized for Best Practices during the fourth annual awards competition hosted by the Univ. of California, Calif. State University, and Investor-Owned Utility Energy Efficiency Partnership. International Math Modeling Competition: Three HSU Environmental Resources Engineering majors developed a model to determine the effects on the Florida coast from the melting of the north polar ice cap due to the increase in global temperatures. This team received an Honorable Mention, with only 15% of teams receiving a higher score.

3. Has your school set aside part of its campus as natural habitat, stipulated limited campus development, or enacted programs preserving its land? If so, please explain.

No.

4. Does your school adhere to an indoor air-quality policy (e.g., the mandated use of nontoxic cleaning supplies)? If yes, describe the policy.

Our policy is to provide the safest, healthiest work environment we can. We adhere to Cal OSHA standards. The HSU janitorial staff uses Green Seal Certified and environmentally preferable non-toxic, biodegradable cleaners.

5. Does your school offer outdoor- or nature-based programs, classes, or extracurricular activities to students and/or faculty? If yes, please list and describe.

Field-based learning is valued at Humboldt State University. Outdoor- and nature-based classes come from all over the curriculum, including Nature Writing in the English Department, undergraduate research in Marine Biology on our research vessel the Coral Sea, mushroom identification training in Botany, and field camp activities in Geology.

Humboldt State University is also home to Center Activities which offers extracurricular courses in outdoor- and nature-based activities such as rock climbing, skiing and kayaking.

Category 10: Other Initiatives, continued

6. What specific actions has your school taken to improve its environmental sustainability since spring 2009? Please list all improvements.

Since spring 2009, Humboldt State University, in conjunction with the Humboldt Energy Independence Fund, has installed new stadium lighting in the Redwood Bowl football stadium, two hydration-station touchless, filtered water bottle refill stations, a photovoltaic system on top of the Old Music Building and Solar Hot Water units at the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology.

With the new stadium lighting, 60 new lights have replaced 96 old ones. The benefits are reduced light pollution in Arcata on game nights, energy and cost savings (estimate of 61,000 kWh and up to \$8,000 per year) and more aesthetically pleasing poles and fixtures.

The touchless, filtered water bottle refill stations in the Depot and the Kinesiology building are intended to reduce the consumption of plastic water bottles on campus. These are part of the HSU Takes Back the Tan Campaign.

7. Please use this space to address any other unique or interesting sustainability initiatives that have not been previously mentioned:

In the fall of 2009 the campus established the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) which will forward recommendations to the President regarding implementation of sustainability concepts for the campus, including nine focus areas: the built environment, landscape, education (curriculum), energy, food services, procurement, transportation, waste, and water.