

NerdScholar Favorites: Environmental-Activist Groups



by Gianna Sen-Gupta on 10 Mar 2014 |
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The popular slogan, “reduce, reuse, recycle,” has promoted environmental awareness for decades. But as major climate change rapidly becomes a reality, we need to be reminded of this old-fashioned motto now more than ever.

American universities are taking charge in sustainability efforts, with more than 600 campuses pledging to become carbon neutral as part of the 2007 [American College and University President’s Climate Commitment](#). Many of them now boast entire environmental studies departments that offer an array of environmental majors and minors. Not so surprisingly, student organizations are popping up all across college campuses, showing that young people are determined to make a sustainable impact. To show support for a few of our favorite environmental do-gooders, NerdScholar compiled a list of universities and their student organizations that are already taking the stage in environmental activism.

Syracuse University – Best Programs on the Rise

Student Groups: *Students of Sustainability, SunRaisers, SU Enactus, SU Green Building Council, Students for Tomorrow’s Environmental Policy, SU Habitat for Humanity.*

SU students are spreading their message across campus, and some groups are even taking this message abroad. SunRaisers, started in 2013, comprises a group of students working to bring energy and electricity to under-privileged communities. Since their recent inception, the group has made progress in establishing solar panels in Puerto Rico and is on its way to do the same in Mexico. Students of Sustainability—or SoS—is another Syracuse organization making great gains in 2013, according to Melissa Cadwell, marketing manager of the sustainability division at Syracuse. With active social media and campus presence, the group spreads awareness of environmental issues through film screenings, art installations, and lectures.

Syracuse’s Sustainability in Action Initiative acts as the backbone to its student groups, Cadwell says. Since 2007, the university program has been instrumental in connecting environmental student activists with opportunities across the countries—from internships and scholarship prospects to campaigns for fossil fuel divestment and biodiversity awareness. The university’s Sustainability Initiative is not only encouraging, but is emboldening its students to be the face of environmental advocacy at Syracuse. [Read more.....](#)