

NJIT Supports the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2022 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking - Top 100





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Introduction: Sustainability in Practice at NJIT

In 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that reflect “[the world’s shared plan to end extreme poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the planet by 2030](#).” The SDGs call on governments, industries, and organizations to actively engage in efforts to end poverty and hunger, ensure quality healthcare and education, and protect life below water and on land, among other ambitious altruistic goals.

NJIT is proud to be an active participant in the United Nations’ efforts towards sustainable development. Sustainability is one of NJIT’s core values and one of the guiding themes of the university’s strategic plan, [Building on a Strong Foundation—NJIT 2025](#). Our students, faculty, staff, and administration contribute to addressing the challenges facing our planet and to creating a safer and more sustainable world for all. Our commitment to the SDGs is evident in the research we conduct, the curriculum we deliver, and our engagement with the community.

In recognition of the important role institutions of higher education play in supporting and implementing the SDGs, Times Higher Education, an international ranking agency, has for the past several years published their [THE Impact Rankings](#) that provide a global assessment of universities’ efforts towards the SDGs. To rank these institutions, THE uses indicators in four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach, and

teaching. NJIT is proud of our 2022 ranking in which the university was ranked 96th overall among institutions across the globe. NJIT’s strongest SDG is Life On Land (SDG 15) where we ranked 24th globally. This SDG focuses on land ecosystems and land-sensitive waste disposal.

NJIT also ranked among the top 50 higher education institutions globally on SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation. Here, the university was ranked #45 in recognition for our faculty’s research on water ecosystems and our commitment to water conservation through the installation of low-flow water systems. NJIT also ranked among the top 100 institutions globally on the following SDGs: #56 for Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12); #67 for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16); #78 for Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7); #84 for Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11); #90 for Partnership for the Goals (SDG 17); #93 for Life Below Water (SDG 14); and #99 for Zero Hunger (SDG 2).

This report highlights just some of the efforts NJIT is undertaking in support of sustainability and affirms our dedication to the [U.N. Sustainable Development Goals](#). Through these and other actions, NJIT puts into practice our core value, guiding theme, and institutional learning goal of Sustainability. Together, we can ensure the United Nations’ ambitious goals for a sustainable world by 2030.



NJIT Supports the Sustainable Development Goals

NJIT and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) were adopted by all of the UN Member States in 2015 as part of the 2030 [Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) with a plan to achieve each of the 17 goals in 15 years. Although progress has been made in that time, the UN launched the [A Decade of Action](#) initiative to drive more ambitious actions to achieve the goals by 2030. The initiative calls for all sectors of society to mobilize to achieve the goals across three levels: global action, local action, and people action.

Each SDG is a blueprint for achieving a more sustainable future for everyone by addressing the global challenges we face together and sets targets to be achieved by 2030. You can learn more about each SDG by clicking each of the icons to the left, or by visiting: un.org/sustainabledevelopment/

If the SDGs are to have the greatest impact, according to the UN's [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative](#) (HESI), they must be interwoven into the strategies, plans, and curricula of institutions of higher education. Colleges and universities are hubs for innovation, critical thinking, and preparing the next generation of leaders, scientists, and

educators. When institutions of higher education commit to sustainability and embrace the SDGs, they are laying the foundation for a more sustainable future for all.

NJIT has committed to sustainability by incorporating it into the university's [values](#) and [Institutional Learning Goals](#) (ILGs). NJIT's [2025 strategic plan](#) weaves sustainability as a guiding principle across each priority, providing the framework for measurable progress through key performance indicators. In joining [AASHE](#) and participating in [STARS](#) (see pg. 15), NJIT will be able to measure, celebrate, and empower sustainability efforts across the university and build upon the successes highlighted in this report.

Each of the following pages is dedicated to an SDG and includes a collection of highlights from the last five years sourced from across the institution. In addition, NJIT's scores for each SDG from the [2022 Times Higher Education \(THE\) Impact Rankings](#), in which NJIT was ranked No. 96 among global institutions of higher education, are highlighted along with the progress made since NJIT's 2000 THE rankings.

1 NO POVERTY



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
101-200

2022 Score
68.5

Improvement
Made Since 2020
+21.1

2020 Emergency
Grant Recipients
455

2020 Emergency
Grant Distribution
\$210,250

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Mayor's Honors Scholars Program



NJIT joined the City of Newark and Newark Public Schools to announce the [Mayor's Honors Scholars Program](#) in early 2019. The program's mission is to create a pathway for Newark students to NJIT's Albert Dorman Honors College with full scholarships and paid summer internships with the City of Newark. Pictured left are 2019 selectees Samara Augustin, Samantha Augustin, and Kiaja Jones.

NJIT's Rising Scholars Program



NJIT's [Rising Scholars Program](#) was launched in 2019 to assist up to 20 freshmen, primarily from Newark, in navigating the college experience. Participants are also provided with paid employment through the Federal Work-Study program. This initiative is a collaboration between NJIT's Office of Persistence, Financial Aid, and the Dean of Students and includes dedicated time for mentoring activities.

The Highlander Student Emergency Fund



The [Highlander Student Emergency Fund](#), established almost a decade ago, is designed to remove temporary financial barriers that hamper students' progress toward their degrees through small grants of up to \$500. The fund proved critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, distributing [over \\$200,000 in grants](#) to those in need. Pictured left is Tulika Das, a recipient of one of the emergency grants.

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2 ZERO HUNGER



INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The NJIT Food Pantry: Hunger Relief for the NJIT Community

The [NJIT Food Pantry](#), located on the 4th floor of the Campus Center, provides relief to NJIT community members who are struggling to afford or access a healthy diet. Unexpired, unopened, and non-perishable food items, such as those found on [this Amazon Wish List](#), can be donated. Throughout the 2021 fiscal year, 275 NJIT community members were supported.



Students' Class Project Becomes NJIT's New Urban Food Forest

Planting for NJIT's [new urban food forest](#) began in late April, 2022 in front of Laurel Hall. Honors students in Professor Maria Stanko's "Food for a Hot Planet" class proposed a food forest using plants that are native to New Jersey as their project during the Spring 2021 semester. The proposed project soon became a collaboration with the Albert Dorman Honors College that was approved by NJIT's Board of Trustees.



Students for Hunger Relief (SHR) Distributes Hunger Relief

[Students for Hunger Relief](#), a student organization at NJIT, works with charitable organizations to acquire and prepare food that is then distributed to various areas in need in and around Newark. The club's efforts have included monthly food preparation drives in East Orange to service 400-500 community members in need. The club is actively recruiting more students to broaden its impacts.



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
99

2022 Score
66.3

Improvement
Made Since 2020
+39

2021 NJIT Food
Pantry Impact
275 Recipients

Meals Distributed
by SHR
2,500+



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
601-800

2022 Score
49.7

Improvement Made Since 2020
+24.5

Vaccination Center Inoculations
221,450 in 90 days

Peak M2CU Surveillance Tests
400 per Week

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 Vaccination Center Hosted at NJIT



In March of 2021, the [COVID-19 Community Vaccination Center](#), a collaboration between federal, state, and local governments, was hosted by NJIT in the Naimoli Family Athletic and Recreational Facility. Over 220,000 inoculations were administered by its closing in late June. The center's location was selected to ensure it would service vulnerable communities identified by the CDC's [Social Vulnerability Index](#).

NJ Consortium Develops Mobile Medical Unit



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic NJIT, University Hospital in Newark, and the Tuchman Foundation [collaborated to develop](#) a mobile medical care unit called M2CU that could be deployed to areas in need. The prototype became [NJIT's testing hub](#), avoiding unintended exposure across campus. In April of 2021, an [M2CU unit was deployed](#) at the Astoria Houses in Queens, which was experiencing high infection rates.

NJIT Joins Partnership for Translational Research Institute



In 2019, NJIT was [awarded a \\$29 million NIH grant](#) in partnership with Rutgers and Princeton University through the [Clinical and Translational Science Awards Program](#). The goal of translational science is to more quickly apply findings made in clinical research and laboratory settings to patient care and treatment. NJIT's contribution expertise in the areas of informatics, machine learning, and biostatistics to the effort.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

STEM for Success: Promoting Success through STEM

STEM for Success, a program of NJIT's CLEAR collaborative, is the result of an NSF INCLUDES grant to broaden participation in STEM for traditionally underrepresented groups. The program provides resources and support for sustained STEM experiences that allow students to explore multiple paths and follow their personal passions. Initiatives include Hands-On STEM and the Active Learning Academy.



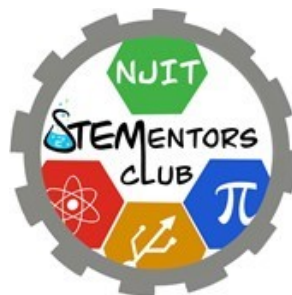
eSTEM Challenge Engages Elementary Students in STEM

On March 14th, the Center for Pre-College Program (CPCP) at NJIT hosted its second annual eSTEM Challenge, an engineering and design challenge for elementary students from 3rd through 5th grade. The theme of this year's challenge was renewable energy, which students used the engineering design process to solve. This year's winning team, featured right, was from Unity Charter School in Morristown.



NJIT STEMentors Club Promotes STEM Education

NJIT's STEMentors club, supported by the Center for Pre-College Programs at NJIT, provides members with opportunities to mentor K-12 students, organize academic competitions, and promote STEM education. For example, STEMentors work with elementary school participants of the eSTEM Challenge to provide guidance and mentorship throughout the challenge experience.



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
401-600

2022 Score
51.9

Improvement
Made Since 2020
+6.5

K-12 Students
Served by CPCP
3000+ Annually

'21 1st Generation
Freshman Students
560, 26% of Class



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
301-400

2022 Score
49.6

Improvement Made
Since 2020
+7.7

Student Groups for
Women
15

Women Designing the
Future Conference
244 Attendees in 2022

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Murray Center for Women in Technology



The [Murray Center for Women in Technology](#) connects women students and faculty to each other and to the resources they need to succeed. In addition to activities and an [annual conference](#), the center drives initiatives including a [peer-to-peer support system](#) for first-year women students, a professional network for women graduate students, and a [nationally-recognized program](#) to advance women faculty.

Community and Support for LGBTQA+ Students at NJIT



NJIT is a welcoming campus for all students, staff, and faculty. Students identifying as LGBTQA+ can join the [SPECTRUM](#) student organization, visit the [Diversity & Inclusion](#) office in the Campus Center, and participate in organized LGBTQA+ [social programs](#), support [groups](#) such as the drop-in support group featured left, and discussions. A [policy](#) is also in place that enables students to specify a preferred name other than their legal name.

Professional Societies for Women in STEM



Women students pursuing careers in computing and engineering can join the NJIT chapters of the organizations such as the Women in Computing Society ([WiCS](#)) and the Society of Women Engineers ([SWE](#)), featured left. These societies support the professional and personal development of women students in engineering and computing-related fields. Learn more about other organizations for women [here!](#)



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Mitigating Lead Corrosion in Newark’s Water System

In 2020, as the City of Newark was racing to mitigate leaching in lead-based pipes, environmental engineers in the John A. Reif, Jr. Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering worked to determine the [effectiveness of new corrosion-control treatments](#) and understand conditions through the system. With this knowledge, treatments could be targeted to specific parts of the system beyond the water treatment plant.



Engineers Without Borders Enhance Water Supply in Ecuador

Since 2016, [NJIT’s chapter](#) of Engineers Without Borders have been [designing and implementing a spring cap](#) to provide more, and clean, water to a small indigenous community in Ecuador’s Cotopaxi Province. The project, a collaboration with [Engineers in Action](#) and [Life Giving Water International](#), protects the village's only source of freshwater and transports it to its roughly 150 inhabitants.



Water & Wastewater Operators Licensing Course at NJIT

NJIT’s John A. Reif, Jr. Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, at the request of local stakeholders, offers a two-part [continuing education course for water and wastewater professionals](#). The course is NJDEP approved and prepares students for the state’s water supply and wastewater treatment operators [licensing exams](#).



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
=45

2022 Score
78.6

Improvement Made Since 2020
+47.3

Lead Service Lines in Newark in 2020
18,000

Funds Raised for Ecuador Project
\$4,000

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
=78

2022 Score
69.7

Improvement
Made Since 2020
+5.6

CO2 Emissions
Avoided by the Use
of Hydropower
31,000 metric tons

EV Chargers
22

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Partnership Sources NJIT's Electricity from Renewable Sources



In late 2021, NJIT [announced that it will purchase renewable energy](#) from hydropower facilities owned by ENGIE North America. NJIT purchased 43,800 megawatt-hours of renewable, clean generation, electricity that is produced by the Smoky Mountain Hydropower portfolio. The agreement increases overall demand for renewable energy and equals almost 100% of NJIT's forecasted electricity consumption.

CKB Renovation Achieves LEED Gold Certification



The upper floors of the Central King Building (CKB), a 105-year-old former trade school, were renovated to give students a high tech teaching environment. The renovation modernized the building's plumbing, heating, and cooling systems through low wattage lighting, daylight and occupancy dimming controls, and low flow plumbing fixtures. The renovation received a [LEED Gold](#) certification.

Free EV Chargers in NJIT Parking Decks



Since 2016, NJIT has been [installing electric vehicle \(EV\) chargers](#) for use by faculty, staff, students, and visitors with plug-in electric cars. The chargers were donated by PSE&G and Tesla and are [free to use](#) for those with access to the parking decks. Chargers are available on the first floors of the Summit Street, Wilsey Street, and Fenster Hall parking decks, promoting environmentally-friendly transportation.

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

NJIT's Economic Impact in New Jersey

A [recent economic impact report](#) found that NJIT generates \$2.81 billion in economic impact annually within New Jersey. \$1.58 billion is generated in traditional categories (annual operations, capital investments, ancillary student and visit spending, and wage premium enjoyed by alumni) and \$1.23 billion is generated based on NJIT's unique emphasis on industry, regional partnerships, and incubators.



NJIT Ranks Highly for College Return on Investment (ROI)

NJIT is ranked highly by various publications for students' return on their college investment, which rates institutions on metrics such as cost of attendance, student debt, and post-graduation salaries. [Payscale.com](#) ranked NJIT as #41 for college ROI and #65 for college salary. [Forbes](#) ranked NJIT as #1 in NJ and #14 nationally for early-career salaries. [Money](#) ranked NJIT as #14 nationally for quality and affordability.



Best Places to Work Initiative Enhances Employee's Experience

In the spring of 2021, NJIT asked employees to participate in the [Best Places to Work survey](#) to measure the state of the faculty and staff experience. The purpose of the survey was to inform NJIT's facilitation of high employee satisfaction, positive well being, and professional growth in alignment with the [NJIT 2025 Strategic Plan](#). Resulting initiatives currently include LinkedIn Learning and Remote Work arrangements.



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
101-200

2022 Score
69

Improvement Made
Since 2020
+20.3

Annual Economic
Impact on NJ
\$2.81 billion

Average Base Salary
via Payscale.com
\$83k/year



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
401-600

2022 Score
43

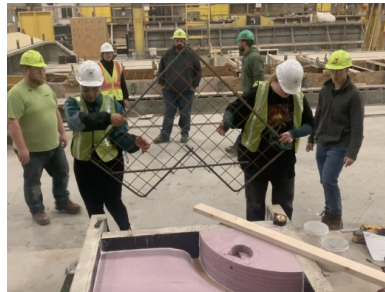
Improvement Made
Since 2020
-5.2

2021 Research
Expenditures
\$165 Million

Carnegie Classification
Very High Research
Activity (R1)

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Students are Innovating Precast Concrete for Affordable Housing



The [Precast Concrete Institute \(PCI\) Research Studio](#) was established as part of a grant from the PCI Foundation to create a new precast concrete experiential learning curriculum, which focuses on the use of precast concrete to design affordable prefabricated housing micro-units. More sustainable concrete production will also be explored in collaboration with NCE's Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program.

NJIT Joins Regional Universities to Launch I-Corps Hub

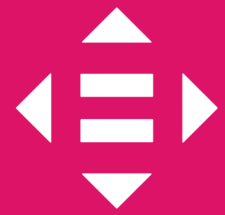


NJIT joined eight of the region's top universities in launching the Innovation Corps ([I-Corps](#)) Northeast Hub, which provides a 4-week course where science and technology researchers learn entrepreneurial skills. Mentoring and other resources are also provided through the hub, which is [led by Princeton University](#), to help participants convert sponsored research into successful businesses with breakthrough products.

Lecturer Helps Zambian Government Build IT Infrastructure



University Lecturer Keith Williams is working to [digitize the Zambian government's systems](#) to improve service delivery and encourage economic activity. Williams is employing the Agile approach to account for rapid changes and a shortage in local digital talent. The experiences gained in Africa are also informing NJIT's informatics curriculum and enhancing it with real-world case studies. The initiative began while Williams was teaching at ZCAS University on a Fulbright Fellowship.



Reduce inequality within and among countries

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

54 Years of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

NJIT's [Educational Opportunity Program \(EOP\)](#) was established in 1968 as part of a state-funded program for New Jersey's educationally and economically challenged students who are underrepresented in STEM. EOP provides academic support, as well as career and personal counseling, to first-time full-time freshman and transfer students in order to support its students and improve their educational outcomes.



Math Success Initiative Sparks Interest in Math and College

The [Math Success Initiative \(MSI\)](#), a partnership between NJIT, the City of Newark, and Newark Public Schools, was launched in 2019 to significantly increase the number of Newark residents enrolled in NJIT undergraduate programs. The program is designed to [strengthen participants' math skills](#) to prepare them for NJIT's freshman math courses through instruction, support, and mentoring. Professional development is also provided to their teachers who participate in the program.



TRiO Programs Foster College Interest and Opportunities

[NJIT's TRiO programs](#), which are federally funded and operated by the Center for Pre-College Programs (CPCP), are designed to help low-income, first-generation, and disabled Americans enter college. [Educational Talent Search](#) encourages the development of interest in pursuing academic, career, and personal goals while [Upward Bound](#) provides support and opportunities to succeed in pre-college courses.



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
100-200

2022 Score
72.3

Improvement Made Since 2020
+32.2

MSI Participants Now at NJIT
33 in first 2 years

EOP Established
1968, 54 Years Ago



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
=84

2022 Score
80.3

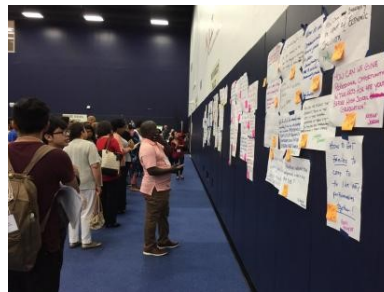
Improvement
Made Since 2020
+29.2

Brownfield Sites in
NJ, Estimated
10,000

Theater & Music
Events Attendees
~4,000 Annually

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Creative Placemaking Hub Facilitates Community Collaboration



The [NJIT Hub for Creative Placemaking](#) was established to facilitate collaboration between NJIT faculty and students with local artists, planners, civic leaders, and citizens in order to revitalize public spaces and improve the social and economic well-being of local communities. [The hub provides](#) workshops, technical assistance, field research, and courses that lead toward a professional [Certificate in Creative Placemaking](#).

NJIT Center Provides Tools to Reclaim NJ's Brownfields



The [NJ Brownfields Assistance Center](#) at NJIT provides the tools and resources needed to reclaim and redevelop brownfield sites, vacant or underutilized commercial or industrial sites that are suspected to be contaminated. The center provides [free assistance](#) to New Jersey governments and nonprofits. Their holistic team consists of planners, environmental scientists, engineers, and social scientists.

NJIT Galleries and Events are Open to the Public



As a public institution, NJIT hosts a variety of events that are open to the public. These include [music and theater programs](#) produced by NJIT students, [gallery events](#) hosted by the Hillier College of Architecture and Design in Weston Hall, and the [Weston Museum](#) which features artifacts from Edward Weston's Newark laboratory. Weston was a rival to Thomas Edison and the namesake of Weston Hall.

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

New Residence Hall Features Sustainable Construction

The construction of [Maple Hall, NJIT's newest residence hall](#), emphasized sustainable construction methods and design while providing unique amenities. The building sits on the former site of Warren Street High School, which was built in 1892 but destroyed by a fire in 2019. While honoring elements of the school's architecture, the new building incorporates sustainable design elements such as precast concrete, low-flow water systems, and local materials.



NJIT Green is Working to Reduce Waste on Campus

[NJIT Green](#) is a student organization that was formed in 2018 to make the university a leader in sustainability through education, advocacy, and collaboration. A major [focus of the organization](#) is the reduction of waste on campus through reducing cafeteria waste, increasing recycling compliance, and measuring NJIT's energy use, carbon footprint, and total waste. NJIT Green is on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).



Faculty Member Estimates the Size of a Sustainable Home

Maurie Cohen, now chair of the Department of Humanities, published a paper [in the journal Housing, Theory & Society](#) that made the case for transitioning away from large single-family homes by estimating the [optimal dimensions for sustainable households](#). The average home in the U.S. is 1,901 square feet, while Cohen estimated a sustainable home for a family of four shouldn't be larger than about 860 square feet.



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
56

2022 Score
81.3

Improvement
Made Since 2020
+52.3

Estimated Size of a
Sustainable Home
860 Square Feet

Average Size of an
American Home
1,901 Square Feet



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
201-300

2022 Score
52.4

Improvement
Made Since 2020
+35.8

2019 Resilience
Task Force
400+ NJ/NY Leaders

AASHE Members
900+

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

NJIT Signs Carbon Neutrality Commitment



In April of 2022, [NJIT signed the Second Nature Carbon Commitment](#), pledging to become a carbon-neutral campus and reduce greenhouse emissions. Second Nature provides signatories with resources, networking, and national engagement opportunities, as well as an outlined process for achieving carbon neutrality. Signatories are committed to taking direct action on climate change.

NJIT Joins AASHE as Part of 2025 Strategic Plan



The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education®

As called for by [NJIT's 2025 strategic plan](#), the university [recently became a member](#) of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education ([AASHE](#)), a nonprofit whose mission is to “inspire and catalyze higher education to lead the global sustainability transformation” by equipping higher education stakeholders with the tools, resources, and services needed to tackle sustainability challenges.

NJIT to Measure Sustainability Performance through STARS



As a new member of [AASHE](#) (see above highlight), NJIT will participate in their Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System ([STARS](#)) to help the institution benchmark its sustainability efforts, as called for by [NJIT's 2025 strategic plan](#). The results of NJIT's initial participation will provide a baseline to plan, budget, and assess continuous improvement in the university's efforts to progress towards sustainability. NJIT joins over 1,000 other participant institutions.

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

NJIT Center Informs Sustainable Resource Utilization

NJIT's [Center for Natural Resources \(CNR\)](#) fosters sensible approaches for environmental and energy resource utilization through the development of minimally-intrusive technology that can be adopted to solve environmental and energy challenges. The center specializes in assessing and remediating pollution and is known for studies on oil spills such as [Deepwater Horizon](#) and [modeling of COVID-19's spread](#).



NJIT Hosts AWWA Student Filter Competition

The 2022 American Water Works Association (AWWA) [Student Filter Competition](#) was hosted on March 12th in the NJIT MakerSpace. The competition challenges students, including [NJIT's AWWA student chapter](#), to build a gravity water filter from scratch. The NJIT team used naturally sourced materials to build their filter as part of the organization's emphasis on taking care of the environment. The chapter's members also volunteer at local parks and streams.



Harnessing Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Tuvalu

Wen Zhang, faculty member in the John A. Reif, Jr. Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, [collaborated with the Foundation for Youth Development \(FYD\)](#) on projects that address climate change's impact on the [small island developing states](#) of Nauru, Tuvalu, and Tonga. The projects focused particularly on transferring traditional ecological knowledge to help address issues such as sea level rise.



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
93

2022 Score
68.5

Improvement Made
Since 2020
+39.4

Total Population of
Small Island
Developing States
65 Million People



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Honors Students are Building Biodiversity on Campus



Honors students are engaged in [various initiatives to increase biodiversity](#) on and near NJIT’s campus, including the Newark Rooftop Therapy Garden, clearing debris from Branch Brook Park, and landscaping campus to increase its native biodiversity. As part of their service requirement, each year honors students complete [biodiversity cultivation projects](#) such as the planned Laurel Hall urban edible forest.

Urban Ecology Lab Trains Community Sustainability Leaders



The mission of NJIT’s [Urban Ecology Lab](#) is “to train the next generation of leaders in conservation biology, sustainability, and environmental justice” who reflect the communities they serve by providing opportunities for undergraduates to perform funded research. The lab conducts projects such as [surveying NJIT’s biodiversity](#) through annual [BioBlitz events](#) and increasing the number of pollinator gardens across campus.

Saving New Jersey’s Old Growth Forests



Dr. Zeyuan Qui, a faculty member of the Department of Chemistry & Environmental Science, was joined by two of his students in volunteering with the Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC) to estimate the economic value of two old-growth forests in Princeton, NJ. Their efforts [helped save 153 acres of forest](#) by securing enough donations to preserve them from a proposed housing development.



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
24

2022 Score
89.1

Improvement
Made Since 2020
+48.2

2021 BioBlitz
Species Observed
in Newark
477 by 327
Identifiers and 340
Observers

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fellowship Awarded to Study Environmental Justice in Newark

NJIT's Neil Maher, a master teacher and professor of environmental and political history in the Federated Department of History, [has been named a fellow](#) by The New York Public Library's Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. During his fellowship, Maher will work on his new project, *Wasted: An Environmental Justice History of Newark, New Jersey*, which will analyze connections between racial and environmental discrimination in Newark since World War II.



'Rock the Vote' Event Hosted at NJIT

On April 13th, [NJIT hosted a "Rock the Vote" event](#) in the Wellness and Events Center to promote voter registration ahead of the registration deadline on April 19th for nonpartisan municipal elections that were held on May 10th. Newark city officials and community leaders were joined by candidates, artists, and educational leaders including Newark Mayor Ras Baraka to [engage young voters in the election process](#).



NJIT Partners with DataSourceNJ to Democratize Local Data

The Ying Wu College of Computing [has partnered with DataSourceNJ](#), a nonpartisan non-profit, in an effort to democratize local public data in order to provide small news organizations and the public access to information that is otherwise limited to organizations with greater resources. NJIT will provide technical expertise in the areas of data access, organization, analysis, and visualization to the project.



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
=67

2022 Score
81.3

Improvement Made Since 2020
+22.5

NJ Youth (18-29) Voter Turnout in 2020 Election
67%



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Progress Data

2022 Ranking
=90

2022 Score
91.3

Improvement
Made Since 2020
+34.6

ESS Minors in Fall
2021 Semester
37

Views of Virtual
Open Forum
1,400+

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty Co-Hosts Forum on Post-COVID Sustainability



NJIT faculty member Maurie Cohen, now chair of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, helped inspire and co-host a [virtual open forum](#) in late March of 2020 to discuss the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic on global sustainability trends. Frequently highlighted was the [need for sustainability to take prominence in post-pandemic recovery plans](#) and accelerate the transition to more sustainable lifestyles.

The Minor in Environmental Studies and Sustainability (ESS)



The College of Science and Liberal Arts offers the opportunity to declare a [Minor in Environmental Studies and Sustainability](#), providing students with interdisciplinary training that prepares them to tackle the social, ecological and technological challenges of the 21st century. Focused tracks are available for students majoring in Architecture, Interior Design, and Chemical Engineering.

Embedding Sustainability as an Institutional Learning Goal

Sustainability

Students evidence a cross-disciplinary understanding of the concepts of sustainability and their applications locally and globally.

NJIT prioritizes sustainability as a core value as well as one of six [institutional learning goals](#) (ILGs) to prepare students to [graduate as global citizens](#) that understand the concepts of sustainability and their applications. Through an [upcoming initiative](#), academic programs will be mapping their student learning outcomes to the ILGs to facilitate their implementation across all undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs.

NJIT's Sustainability Story is Still to be Written

Driven by [NJIT's 2025 Strategic Plan](#), where sustainability is set as one of the four pillars on which NJIT is built, the community is taking on many initiatives that meet our goals head on. The plan states that, "we will promote a resilient future for the university, the nation, and the environment, making sustainability our institution's learning goal and ensuring our students graduate as global citizens." This report provides a summary of our continuous commitment to this cause and our efforts to meet the different targets that UN SDGs put forward.

The [UN SDGs](#) provide us with a framework for making sustainability an institution-wide commitment. NJIT, which recently signed a Carbon Commitment at the President level (see pg. 15), is focused on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality as soon as

possible. Our work has just begun. We look forward to transforming our commitments into practical pathways that will produce tangible outcomes through internal discussions and partnerships.

The 2022 Sustainability Progress Report provides the NJIT community with a springboard for actions to come in the near future. We look forward to establishing different policies, programs and partnerships that showcase our community's culture and commitment for the cause of sustainability. We intend to be one of the leading institutions in practicing sustainability in its true sense. We welcome our community's continued efforts and look forward to working with the many NJIT community members who believe in this critical cause and are excited by the opportunities that the future holds.



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NJIT

New Jersey Institute
of Technology

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

NJIT Supports the Sustainable Development Goals