2021 Sustainability Report: How CU is making strides in reducing carbon footprint[1]
[2]

A new report takes stock of the University of Colorado's significant achievements in environmental sustainability in recent years, while also stating goals for improvement that align with the systemwide Strategic Plan[3] that's nearing completion.

Requested by CU President Mark Kennedy, the 2021 Sustainability Report states the university's commitment to the long-term goal of carbon neutrality.

"Environmental sustainability is not only a critical piece of the Strategic Plan, but also critical to CU's future," Kennedy said. "This new report highlights the progress made at our campuses and system administration in recent years and details the goals we're working to achieve."

The 29-page document, which will be posted here[2] once published, focuses on sustainability in the built environment.

"The four campuses of the University of Colorado are united in their passion to create opportunities to reduce campus energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions," the report states. "The university recognizes that it has an important part to play in combating climate change."

In 2009, the CU Board of Regents passed a resolution encouraging sustainability efforts across the system. The systemwide strategic planning efforts, including a focus on sustainability, began in 2019 and identified near-term (2026) goals that reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions. CU's goals align with various efforts by the state and local governments to address climate change.

Recognizing the importance of reducing CU's carbon footprint, the four campuses have tracked energy-use intensity, GHG emissions and water consumption since the mid-2000s.

CU Boulder and UCCS also began voluntarily tracking many sustainability measures through the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) in 2010. STARS – a comprehensive self-reporting tool to measure sustainability in higher education – bestows platinum, gold, silver and bronze ratings. CU Boulder in 2010 was the first university in the nation to achieve a STARS gold rating; CU Boulder achieved gold again in 2018, as did UCCS.

Key categories in the report are:
Greenhouse gas emissions. As part of its 2021 strategic plan, CU set a goal of reducing GHG emissions 15% from 2019 emission levels by 2026. **Energy consumption.** Through its 2021 Strategic Plan, CU is setting a goal of reducing its energy use intensity (EUI) in campus buildings by up to 10 percent from 2019 levels by 2026. By improving the energy efficiency of its existing and new buildings, all four campuses have seen a measurable decline in EUI since tracking began in the mid-2000s. **Sustainability planning.** The CU Boulder Energy Master Plan is underway; it focuses, in part, on energy modeling and efficiency optimization and identifying energy conservation measures. CU Denver is participating in the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) Climate Action Plan update; AHEC is currently soliciting public comment on its plan. UCCS is in the process of updating its Sustainability Master Plan and creating an Energy Master Plan, and also is beginning a full facilities condition assessment, which will be used, in part, to identify opportunities for energy conservation measures and energy performance service contracts. CU Denver and CU Anschutz use savings from the Xcel Energy Rebate program to conduct energy studies and full energy audits, which in turn are used to identify energy conservation projects. **Buildings.** Since 2007, the state of Colorado has built or renovated 160 Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED)-certified buildings; more than a third of these were built by CU, including 10 LEED Platinum-certified buildings, the highest of the four certification levels. CU prioritizes renovation and repairs over new construction, and also has realized significant energy efficiencies in the operation of its campus laboratories. **Water.** Campuses limit potable water consumption through conservation measures such as the installation of low-flow toilets and replacing autoclaves and glass washers in labs. The campuses also limit water use for landscaping by planting native plant species and installing irrigation controls and rain sensors. As a result, water consumption has declined both overall and at each campus during the last decade. **Waste diversion.** CU promotes sustainability through waste diversion, thoughtful purchasing decisions and creating an infrastructure that supports reuse, recycling and composting. **Transportation.** CU promotes the use of alternative

modes of transportation and the use of alternative fuel vehicles to reduce GHG emissions from travel to and through its campuses.
“The 2021 Strategic Plan afforded a unique opportunity for the four campuses of the University of Colorado to discuss and collaborate on sustainability goals,” states the report, which was prepared by Kori Donaldson, senior director for capital construction and planning in the Office of the Vice President for Budget and Finance. “The individual campus efforts in the last decade are remarkable and should be celebrated. To continue as leaders in the fight against climate change, more work is needed to define a clear path to carbon neutrality.”

During the lead-up to CU revisiting its sustainability goals in 2026, the university will continue to:
finalize energy master plans, audits, and assessments and identify opportunities for energy performance service contracts; conduct thorough life-cycle cost analyses of potential capital projects to identify first costs, environmental costs and energy savings opportunities, and to reduce operations and maintenance costs; go beyond LEED Gold and look for opportunities to incorporate net-zero energy consumption measures in its building design; maintain a strong emphasis on funding deferred maintenance projects, with particular attention to making improvements that increase efficiency and reduce GHG emissions; and integrate environmental sustainability goals with social and economic sustainability goals.
As noted in the report, CU “recognizes that the path to net-zero energy is one of continuous improvement.”

CU Regents name Todd Saliman interim president[4]
[5]

The CU Board of Regents on Tuesday named Todd Saliman the institution’s interim president on a unanimous vote. The appointment is effective July 1.

Saliman is the current senior vice president for strategy, government relations and chief financial officer in system administration at CU, which he joined in 2011.

“Todd is a valued and respected member of the university community who has a sound understanding of the issues it faces,” said Board Chair Glen Gallegos. “He was the unanimous choice of the Board of Regents and we look forward to working with him to continue CU’s momentum and upward trajectory.

“His appointment will provide important continuity in some of our key initiatives, including strategic planning, online education and the fall return to on-campus teaching and learning.”

The board is doing the advance work to prepare for a national search for the permanent president. Saliman has said he will not apply for the permanent position. He replaces Mark Kennedy, who recently reached an agreement with the board to transition out of the presidency by July 1.

“I look forward to continuing to work with the board and my colleagues at CU system administration and on our campuses to ensure that CU continues to advance its mission to serve our students and state,” Saliman said.

Former CU Regent and current U.S. Congressman Joe Neguse congratulated Saliman.

“Congratulations to my good friend and former colleague Todd Saliman on his appointment to serve as the interim president of the University of Colorado,” Neguse said. “As a former CU Regent, I have seen the hard work and expertise it takes to lead this university, and having worked with Todd for many years, I know he has the leadership and experience it takes to guide us through this transition.”

Colorado Senate Minority Leader Chris Holbert praised the Board of Regents’ selection.

“Todd’s commitment to public service in Colorado, his deep understanding of state budget and the importance of investment into higher education will serve the institution well in this role,” Holbert said.

Click here[6] to read reaction from more leaders from across the state.

Before CU, Saliman served as the state of Colorado's budget director in the administration of former Gov. Bill Ritter and was a senior adviser early in the administration of former Gov. John Hickenlooper. Before that, Saliman served eight years (1995–2002) in the Colorado Legislature, during four of which he served on the Joint Budget Committee. He also owned and operated a lobbying firm that represented some of the most prominent organizations and governmental entities in the state, including the University of Colorado.

Saliman was born and raised in Colorado and is an alumnus of CU Boulder.

Colorado leaders react to Saliman appointment[6]

Leaders across the state of Colorado reacted to the appointment Tuesday of Todd Saliman[4] as CU's interim president. Some comments:

Hank Brown, former CU President (2005-08), U.S. senator and congressman: "Todd Saliman is exceptionally well qualified to serve as the University of Colorado's interim president. He has a deep understanding of the university, its constituents, the state and the Legislature. He will provide a steady hand during an important time as CU returns to on-campus teaching and learning in the fall."

Joe Neguse, U.S. Congressman, former CU Regent: "Congratulations to my good friend and former colleague, Todd Saliman, on his appointment to serve as the interim President of the University of Colorado. As a former CU regent, I have seen the hard work and expertise it takes to lead this university, and having worked with Todd for many years, I know he has the leadership and experience it takes to guide us through this transition."

Bruce Benson, former CU President (2008-19): "The University of Colorado is fortunate to have Todd Saliman fill this important position. He has great experience as CU's CFO, as a legislator and as someone who has a deep understanding of the university's operations. He also knows the state. So much of the president's job is dealing with those things, so Todd will do a great job. I will support him in any way I can."

Tony Frank, Colorado State University System Chancellor: "I've worked closely with Todd around budgets, strategy and issues impacting higher education for many years. He's a person of great integrity and common sense, and he cares deeply about this state and about the University of Colorado. He'll do a great job as the interim president, and all of us at the CSU System look forward to the collaboration."

Mark Kennedy, CU President: "Todd Saliman and I have worked together to a great extent and he has been an integral part of CU's success in recent years. Todd has a wide variety of skills and relationships that will help him be successful in the position. I will work closely with him to ensure a smooth transition."

Chris Holbert, Colorado Senate Minority Leader, Parker: “The Board of Regents made an excellent choice in appointing Todd Saliman as interim president. His commitment to public service in Colorado, his deep understanding of state budget and the importance of investment into higher education will serve the institution well in this role.”

Julie McCluskie, Colorado Representative, vice chair of the Joint Budget Committee: “I have had the opportunity to work with Todd Saliman in my role on the Joint Budget Committee and am very excited to learn of the announcement. Todd has been a critical leader for the CU system on higher education funding and policy. He works collaboratively with the diverse members of our higher education ecosystem always with student success in mind. I look forward to continuing my work with Todd and CU.”

Matt Soper, Colorado House of Representatives, Delta: “Todd will be an excellent interim president as he loves CU, wants student success and is about getting work done, not fame or glory.”

Leslie Herod, Colorado Representative and member of the Joint Budget Committee: “As a former CU student leader and now member of the Joint Budget Committee, I’m very pleased to see fellow alumni and friend Todd Saliman stepping into this role. We have worked together on doing great things in the past and I look forward to continuing those efforts with CU.”

CU names Michael Sandler vice president for communication[7]
[8]

The University of Colorado on Friday named Michael Sandler as vice president for communication for its four-campus system.

Sandler is now associate vice president for communications at George Mason University, a position he has held since 2014. Additionally, he served as the institution’s interim vice president for communications and marketing from September 2019 to June 2020. Pending approval by the CU Board of Regents, he will begin his CU duties July 1.

“The University of Colorado’s four campuses offer something for every type of learner and the system is a tremendous asset to Colorado and beyond,” Sandler said. “I look forward to helping it tell its great stories and I’m excited to join the president’s executive team and look forward to working with my colleagues there and the accomplished communications professionals on CU’s campuses.”

Sandler will be responsible for communications, marketing and branding for CU system administration. Communications for CU’s president and Board of Regents will be among his primary responsibilities. He also works closely with the communication teams on CU’s campuses. He succeeds Ken McConnellogue, who is retiring after 15 years at the university.

“Michael Sandler is an experienced communication leader with considerable expertise,” said CU President Mark Kennedy. “He will be a welcome addition to the team and an important asset to the university in this critical position.”

Before his work at George Mason, Sandler had an extensive career in journalism working as a reporter and editor at The Washington Post, Associated Press, Congressional Quarterly, the Hill, the Tampa Bay Times and the Philadelphia Inquirer. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia.

Sandler earned a bachelor's degree in applied economics from Cornell University and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

Free Coursera courses expanded for CU faculty, staff, students[9]
[10]

The catalog of online courses offered free to CU faculty, staff and students expanded this spring thanks to participation in a consortium of university partners around the world.

Since 2018, CU has offered no-cost access to hundreds of non-credit online courses, taught by CU faculty from across the system, via the CU on Coursera learning program. Popular course offerings include CU Boulder's "The Science of Exercise" and "Everyday Excel," CU Anschutz's "Become an EMT," CU Denver's "Inclusive Leadership" and UCCS's "Computational Thinking."

This spring, CU expanded premium access to even more online courses by securing participation in the Coursera Partner Consortium, a learning program that offers CU faculty, staff and degree-seeking students free access to not just CU's Coursera courses, but to thousands of additional non-credit, online courses offered by Coursera's global network of university partners.

Popular Consortium courses include "The Science of Well Being" from Yale University, "Python for Everybody" from the University of Michigan and "How to Change the World" from Wesleyan University.

"We are delighted to offer the CU community no-cost access to Coursera content from university partners around the globe," said Quentin McAndrew, assistant vice provost and executive director for strategic transformation and academic and learning innovation. "The Coursera Partner Consortium furthers CU's mission of providing access to high-quality, online learning experiences that enrich the lives of our students, faculty and staff."

Courses are online and self-paced. Students can learn anywhere, anytime to develop a new skill set, explore a new subject and augment their CU learning journey.

Faculty, staff and degree-seeking students at CU Boulder, UCCS, CU Denver, the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and CU system administration may access the Coursera Partner Consortium by logging into their campus portal, navigating to the "Training" area in CU Resources, and clicking on the "Coursera Consortium" tile.

The Coursera Partner Consortium is available to the university via a collaboration between CU Boulder's Office of Academic and Learning Innovation[11] and the University of Colorado Office of Academic Affairs[12].

100 years later: Colorado Law professor reflects on Tulsa Race Massacre[13]

Shining a light on medical tourism's past, present and future [14]

Leading University Communications into a new era[15]

Are the COVID-19 vaccines good news for cancer care?[16]

Rabaka on why African and African American studies matter[17]

Boylan, Masters receive John Templeton Foundation grant to study religion, spirituality, health[18]

Meeks brings disability, access and inclusion expertise to the campus community[19]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/2021-sustainability-report-how-cu-making-strides-reducing-carbon-footprint[2] https://www.cu.edu/2021-sustainability[3] https://www.cu.edu/strategic-planning[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-regents-name-todd-saliman-interim-president[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/salliman_01.jpg[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-leaders-react-saliman-appointment[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-names-michael-sandler-vice-president-communication[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/vpcomm_sandler_01.jpg[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/free-coursera-courses-expanded-cu-faculty-staff-students[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/coursera-p.png[11] https://www.colorado.edu/ali/[12] https://www.cu.edu/oaa[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/100-years-later-colorado-law-professor-reflects-tulsa-race-massacre[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/shining-light-medical-tourism-s-past-present-and-future[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/leading-university-communications-new-era[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/are-covid-19-vaccines-good-news-cancer-care[17] https://connections.cu.edu/people/rabaka-why-african-and-african-american-studies-matter[18] https://connections.cu.edu/people/boylan-masters-receive-john-templeton-foundation-grant-study-religion-spirituality-health[19] https://connections.cu.edu/people/meeks-brings-disability-access-and-inclusion-expertise-campus-community