Climate Action Leaders (identification of indicators)

Colleges and Universities are ranked by AASHE. Reviews of the AASHE data show that in 2015, OSU ranked 12th in the nation. OSU has low measures among the top colleges and universities in metric tonnes of carbon equivalent (MTCO2e) per student and per 1000 feet squared. However, the purpose of our review is to find the processes our peer and related colleges and universities use to achieve success. Thus, we have looked to the AASHE reporting and ranking of colleges and universities. Lewis and Clark and Colby College have zero carbon emissions in these categories. These colleges have a much different footprint from OSU and they have a committed student body whose fees purchase offsets. AASHE reporting is a very dynamic with new participants, plans, and data are appearing all the time. Table 1 quickly gets out-of-date. The data in the table pointed us to a number of successful programs or actions within programs.

Table 1. Comparator Colleges and Universities as of December 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Relation | Institution | CAP Date | Climate Neutral @ | Percent | AASHE rank |
|  | Oregon State University | 2009 | 2025 | 100 | gold |
| Peer | Colorado State University – Fort Collins | 2015 | 2050 | 100 | platinum |
| Peer | Oklahoma State University – Stillwater | No plan |  |  | silver |
| Peer | Washington State University – Pullman | 2010 | 2050 | 58 | unranked |
| Aspire | Cornell University | 2009 | 2050 | 100 | gold |
| Aspire | Michigan State University | No plan |  |  | expired |
| Aspire | Ohio State University | 2011 | 2040 | 75 | silver |
| Aspire | Pennsylvania State University | No plan |  |  | gold |
| Aspire | Purdue University | No plan |  |  | silver |
| Aspire | Texas A & M University – College Station | No plan |  |  | silver |
| Aspire | University of Arizona | 2011 | TBD |  | expired |
| Aspire | University of California – Davis | 2010 | 2050 | 100 | gold |
| Aspire | University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign | 2010 | 2050 | 100 | gold |
| Aspire | University of Nebraska – Lincoln | No plan |  |  | bronze |
| Aspire | University of Wisconsin – Madison | No plan |  |  | unranked |
| Other | Arizona State University | 2009 | 2035 | 100 | gold |
| Other | Colby College (carbon only) | 2012 | 2013 | 100 | gold |
| Other | Emory University | No plan | 2050 | 50 | gold |
| Other | Lewis & Clark University (carbon only) | 2009 | 2018 | 30 | unranked |
| Other | Pitzer College | 2012 | 2050 | 100 | gold |
| Other | Portland State University | 2010 | 2040 | 100 | gold |
| Other | University of California – Berkeley | 2009 | 2025 | 100 | unranked |
| Other | University of Oregon | 2010 | 2050 | 100 | reporter |
| Other | Willamette University | 2011 | 2030 | 100 | unranked |

The table shows that OSU is among the most aggressive in achieving net climate neutrality by 2025. OSU’s net MTCO2 equivalent is low for universities its size and who use the Clean-Cool Calculation Method. Data like these led us to insights about things we can learn from our peers and others.