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Morris Recognized as Top Performer in 2016 Sustainable Campus Index

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[Morris Recognized as Top Performer in 2016 Sustainable Campus Index](#)

MORRIS, Minnesota (October 24, 2016) – The University of Minnesota, Morris has been recognized as a top performer in the 2016 Sustainable Campus Index, ranking third in the area of Buildings and overall among baccalaureate institutions. The 2016 Index, a publication of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), highlights top-performing colleges and universities in 17 areas and overall by institution type, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).

"We have demonstrated our commitment to building green," says Bryan Herrmann, vice chancellor for finance and facilities. "Our Welcome Center is a historical building — on the National Register of Historic Places — and has earned LEED Gold. We are glad that our new Green Prairie Community residence hall is also LEED Gold and has been earning recognition across the state and country for its environmental design."

Morris achieved top-performer status by earning high scores overall and in the [Building](#) subcategory in STARS. The campus has a [holistic approach to sustainability](#), with sustainable commitments, investments, and policies in areas ranging from [building and renovation](#) to renewable energy, academics and research, and student leadership and participation. It prides itself on the ways in which "sustainability is woven into the fabric of [its] work."

"The University of Minnesota, Morris's strong performance demonstrates significant leadership and commitment to advancing sustainability," said AASHE's Executive Director Meghan Fay Zahniser. "We are pleased to recognize Morris for working to secure a thriving, equitable, and ecologically healthy world by incorporating sustainability into its operations, administration, engagement, and academics."

This recognition by AASHE is only Morris's most recent. The campus registered as a charter participant in the STARS program in 2010 and achieved initial STARS gold certification in 2012. In 2013 Morris students received the AASHE Student Sustainability Leadership Award. Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson served as AASHE board chair for 2014, and the campus received [STARS Gold 2.0 Rating](#) in 2015. Learn more at stars.aashe.org.

About STARS

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS was developed by AASHE with broad participation from the higher education community. The credits included in STARS span the breadth of higher education sustainability and are organized into four categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration. All reports are publicly accessible on the STARS website. For more information, visit stars.aashe.org.

About the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

AASHE empowers higher education faculty, staff and students to be effective change agents and drivers of sustainability innovation. AASHE enables members to translate information into action by offering essential resources and professional development to a diverse, engaged community of sustainability leaders. It works with and for higher education to ensure that the world's future leaders are motivated and equipped to solve sustainability challenges. For more information, visit aashe.org.

About Morris

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.

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