

Interdisciplinary Environmental and Sustainability Education: Results from the 2012 Census of U.S. Four Year Colleges and Universities

*A research study conducted by
The Council of Environmental Deans and Directors
of the National Council for Science and the Environment*



Shirley Vincent, Ph.D.

Stevenson Bunn and Sarah Stevens

September 2012

National Council for Science and the Environment

The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) is a not-for-profit organization that improves the scientific basis for environmental decision-making.

NCSE brings together individuals, institutions and communities to advance environmental and sustainability science, education, and their applications in five strategic areas:

- Strengthening Education and Careers;
- Communicating Science to the Public;
- The annual National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment;
- Science Solutions to Specific Environmental Challenges; and
- Advancing Policy that Improves the Connection between Science and Decision-making.

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The Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD) brings together environmental leaders from members of the NCSE University Affiliate Program to improve the quality, stature and effectiveness of academic environmental programs at U.S. universities and colleges. CEDD represents academic environmental programs of all sizes and types. CEDD holds regular meetings that facilitate networking and collaborations. Among its many activities, CEDD supports projects and committees on

- Campus to Careers Study
- Climate Solutions Curricula
- Curriculum Study
- Diversity
- Environment & Human Health
- Interdisciplinary Tenure
- Program Assessment

This report is a product of NCSE's ongoing academic program research and is distributed as a service to members of the NCSE University Affiliate Program.

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Table of Contents

Executive summary	5
How many IE and sustainability programs are there, and where are they located?	7
What types of IE and sustainability degree programs exist?	11
Where are IE and sustainability programs located within colleges and universities?	17
Customized consulting services	32
NCSE University Affiliate members	35
Customized tables of IE and sustainability programs by state and Carnegie class	back pocket

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Executive summary

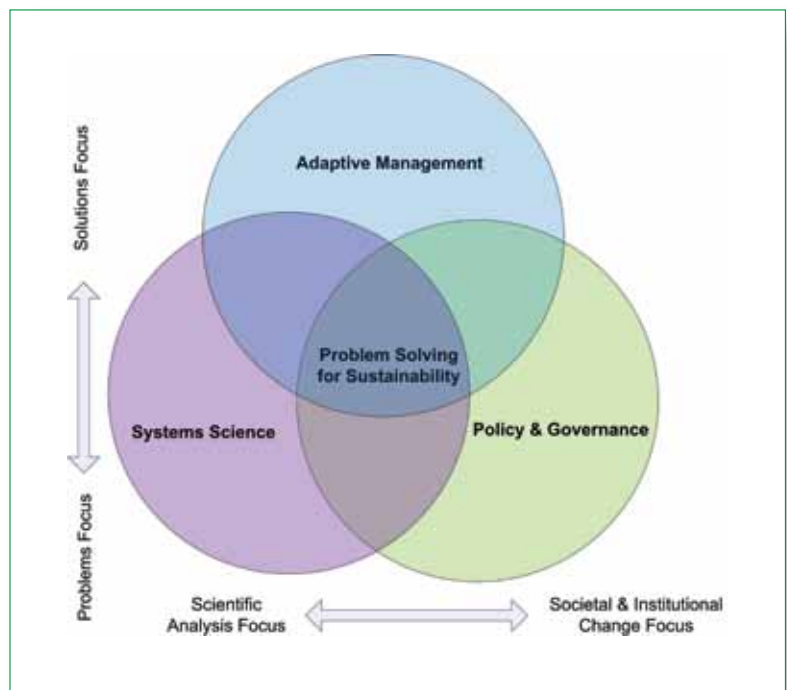
The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) has updated its original 2008 census of interdisciplinary environmental (IE) and sustainability degree-granting programs across the United States. The 2012 census is the first step in extending NCSE's groundbreaking research on the administrative and curricular characteristics of interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability academic programs. Two of the primary goals for the updated study are to clarify the similarities and differences between IE and sustainability programs and to learn how sustainability is being integrated into environmental programs. The next step in the study, a survey of IE and sustainability program leaders, is underway. A series of reports analyzing the findings will be released in 2013.

The first national study revealed a number of important findings including:

- A consensus on the key characteristics that define the IE field;
- Ten core knowledge and skills competencies and three broad educational approaches that together form a framework for describing ideal IE curricula; and,
- Evidence indicating optimal administrative program structures for IE programs.

The 2012 Census

The census was conducted by reviewing the websites and catalogs for all four-year colleges and universities in the United States.¹ A total of 1,562 public and not-for-profit and 76 for-profit schools were reviewed.



¹ Four Carnegie classes were included: Doctorate-granting Universities, Master's Colleges and Universities, Baccalaureate Colleges, and four-year Tribal Colleges. Associate's Colleges, Special Focus Institutions and two-year Tribal Colleges were not included. See <http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/> for more information on the Carnegie Classification system.

² For the purposes of this study interdisciplinary environmental programs are defined as all degree programs named environmental science(s) or environmental studies (or that have those terms in the name), broadly focused programs in natural resources, broadly focused programs in sustainability, and other programs related to the environment that incorporate an interdisciplinary approach that spans natural and social sciences. Examples include programs in environmental systems, environmental policy, environmental management, watershed management, energy and climate, and marine science and policy.

The census identified baccalaureate and graduate academic programs with an explicit interdisciplinary approach as well as academic programs in disciplines and professional fields with formal specializations in environment and sustainability; minors and certificate programs; and centers and institutes focused on the environment and/or sustainability.² This report focuses on interdisciplinary degree-granting programs; future reports will cover other census results and results from the survey of the leaders of IE and sustainability programs.³

The 2012 census found a sharp increase in IE and sustainability programs compared with the 2008 census:

- Schools hosting programs increased 29%.
- Degree-granting units/programs increased 37%.
- Degree programs increased 57%.

In addition to the rapid growth in IE and sustainability programs the census findings reveal four additional trends:

The next step in the study, a survey of IE and sustainability program administrators, is underway with preliminary results expected late in the year.

- The proportion of IE and sustainability degree programs offered through traditional academic departments and schools decreased 6%, offset by a concomitant rise in degree programs offered by IE and sustainability schools, colleges, and degree-granting centers and institutes.
- The last few years have seen an expansion of IE and sustainability schools and colleges and an emergence of degree-granting institutes and centers. IE and sustainability institutes and centers are increasingly popular academic homes for IE and sustainability degree programs at all types of institutions.
- The number of sustainability degree programs has increased rapidly, rising from 13 in 2008 to 141 in 2012.
- New types of IE and sustainability degree programs have emerged, including more systems-oriented programs, programs in climate and energy, programs that combine engineering and environmental science(s), and programs that have an international or global focus. The proportion of programs named environmental science(s) declined, while programs focused on specific themes (such as coastal or watershed systems) increased.

³ The survey instrument was developed with the assistance of numerous experts from the NCSE, the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD), the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS), the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The survey includes questions on curriculum design, faculty, administrative structure, and program resources.

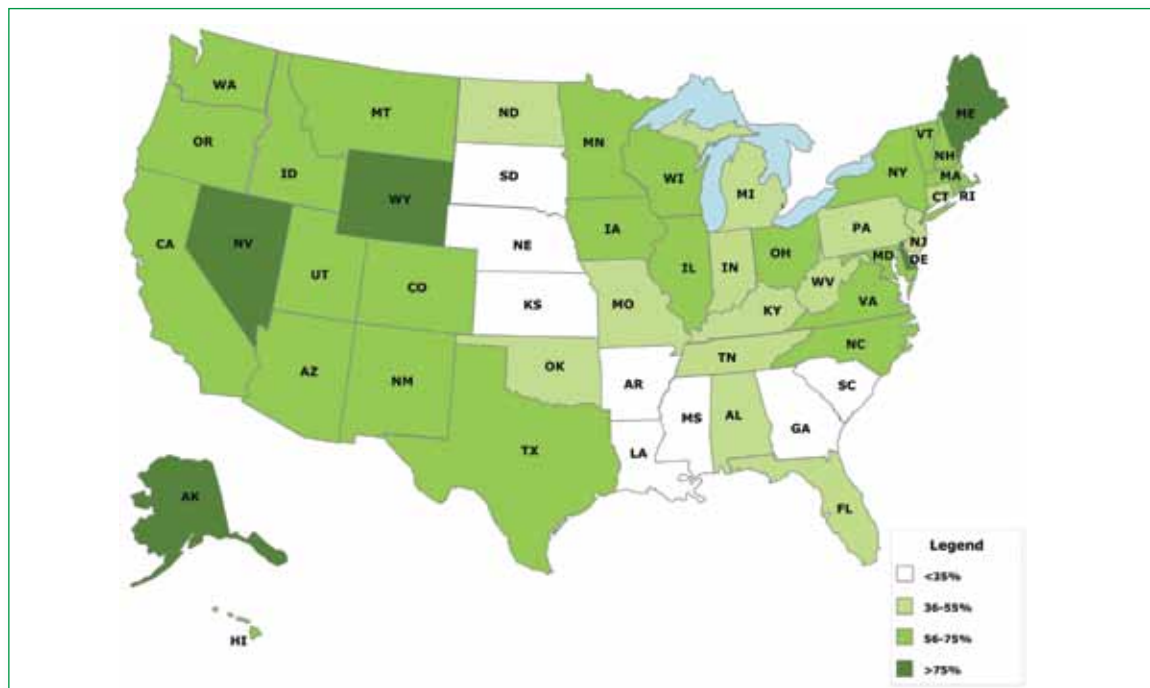
How many IE and sustainability programs are there, and where are they located?

The number of IE and sustainability academic programs has increased dramatically. The 2012 census identified 1,151 academic units/programs offering 1,859 baccalaureate and graduate degrees at 838 colleges and universities; a significant increase over the 840 academic units/programs identified in the original 2008 census. The number of schools offering IE and sustainability academic programs increased by 188 (29%), the number of academic units/programs by 311 (37%), and the number of degree programs by 676 (57%).⁴

The number and proportion of institutions hosting IE and sustainability programs varies by state and region. Overall, states in the western half of the country and in the northeast have higher proportions, while states in the plains and south have lower proportions (Figure 1).

Most states had increases in both the number and proportion of institutions offering IE and sustainability programs. The highest increases in the proportion of schools per state were New Mexico (14% to 70%) and Arizona (24% to 67%; Table 1). Six states added nine or more schools—New York (19), California (19), Massachusetts (14), North Carolina (10), Texas (10), and Pennsylvania (9). Three states had small decreases in both the number and proportion of schools—Arkansas, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Figure 1. Proportion of U.S. four-year institutions offering IE and sustainability degrees



⁴The increase is actually higher since some degree programs counted as IE programs in 2008 were not in 2012. For example, a Master of Public Policy in Environmental Policy was counted as an IE degree in 2008 but not in 2012; instead it was classified as a professional field degree in public policy with a concentration in environmental policy.

About a quarter of states (24%) have more than twenty schools offering IE and/or sustainability programs; approximately a third (35%) have between ten and twenty; the remainder have less than ten (Table 1).

Table 1. U.S. institutions with IE/ sustainability degree-granting programs by state

State	Number of IE degree-granting institutions	Proportion of all 4-year institutions	State	Number of IE degree-granting institutions	Proportion of all 4-year institutions
Alaska	4	100%	Montana	7	70%
Alabama	11	39%	North Carolina	31	61%
Arkansas	5	25%	North Dakota	5	42%
Arizona	6	67%	Nebraska	5	26%
California	60	59%	New Hampshire	10	63%
Colorado	13	68%	New Jersey	15	54%
Connecticut	11	52%	New Mexico	7	70%
District of Columbia	3	38%	Nevada	5	100%
Delaware	4	100%	New York	79	62%
Florida	22	42%	Ohio	36	64%
Georgia	14	30%	Oklahoma	9	38%
Hawaii	4	67%	Oregon	13	68%
Iowa	16	57%	Pennsylvania	62	54%
Idaho	4	50%	Rhode Island	5	56%
Illinois	33	59%	South Carolina	9	29%
Indiana	17	39%	South Dakota	4	33%
Kansas	5	19%	Tennessee	14	37%
Kentucky	10	36%	Texas	44	61%
Louisiana	7	33%	Utah	5	56%
Massachusetts	40	67%	Virginia	23	55%
Maryland	16	59%	Vermont	14	74%
Maine	14	82%	Washington	17	74%
Michigan	21	51%	Wisconsin	23	64%
Minnesota	20	63%	West Virginia	9	47%
Missouri	15	41%	Wyoming	1	100%
Mississippi	5	33%	Total	832	51%

*Excludes for-profit institutions. Six for-profit institutions offer IE degrees online and at multiple campuses.

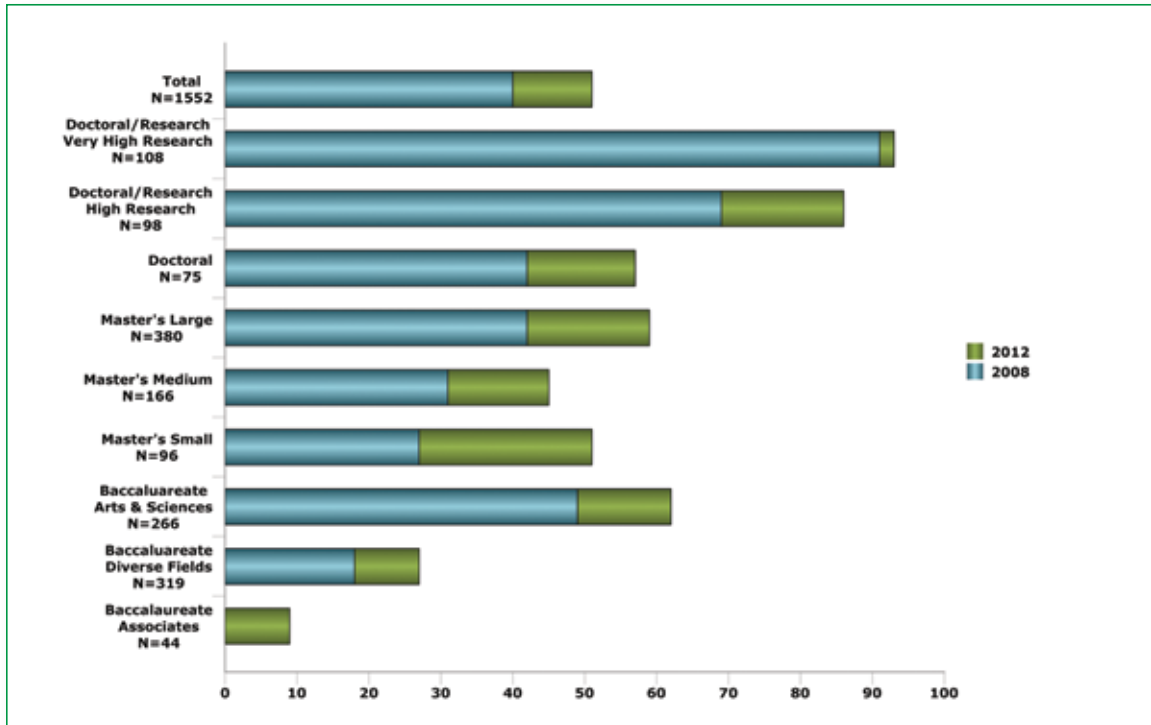
Overall, the proportion of institutions offering IE and sustainability degrees increased 11%—from 40% in 2007 to 51% today (Figure 2).⁵ The increases range from 2% for the largest research universities to 24% for smaller master’s institutions.

Some special categories of four-year institutions have proportions lower than the overall average (Figure 3). These include historically black colleges and universities (HBCU), minority-serving institutions (MSI), tribal colleges, women’s colleges and universities, and institutions that offer an explicit faith-based education.⁶ Hispanic-serving institutions (HSI) and land grant institutions have proportions above the overall average.

⁵ The Carnegie class Baccalaureate/Associates institutions and for-profit schools were not included in the 2008 census. When these institutions are excluded the proportion is 55%, an increase of 15%.

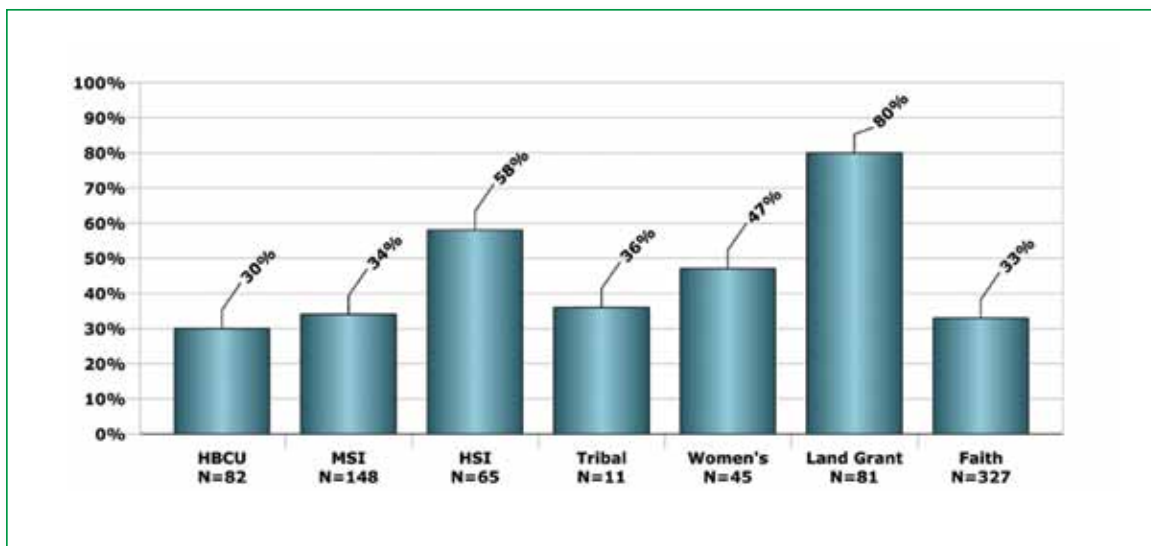
⁶ All special categories are included in the Carnegie classification data with the exception of institutions offering an explicit faith-based education. These institutions were classified based on their website content not their historical or current affiliation with a religious organization. Many, but not all, HBCU and HSI schools are also classified as MSI institutions (federally recognized as Title IV colleges and universities).

Figure 2. Proportion of institutions offering IE and sustainability degrees by Carnegie class type*



*Four-year tribal colleges (40%; N=10) and for-profit colleges (8%; N=76) not included in the graph.

Figure 3. Proportion of special category institutions offering IE and sustainability degrees



IE and Sustainability Degree Programs by Region

The number of IE and sustainability degree programs available varies considerably by census division (Figure 4; Table 2). The Middle and South Atlantic states offer the highest number (>300 degrees per division; 34%), and the East South Central states the lowest (<100 degrees; 3%).

Figure 4. Number of degree programs by census division

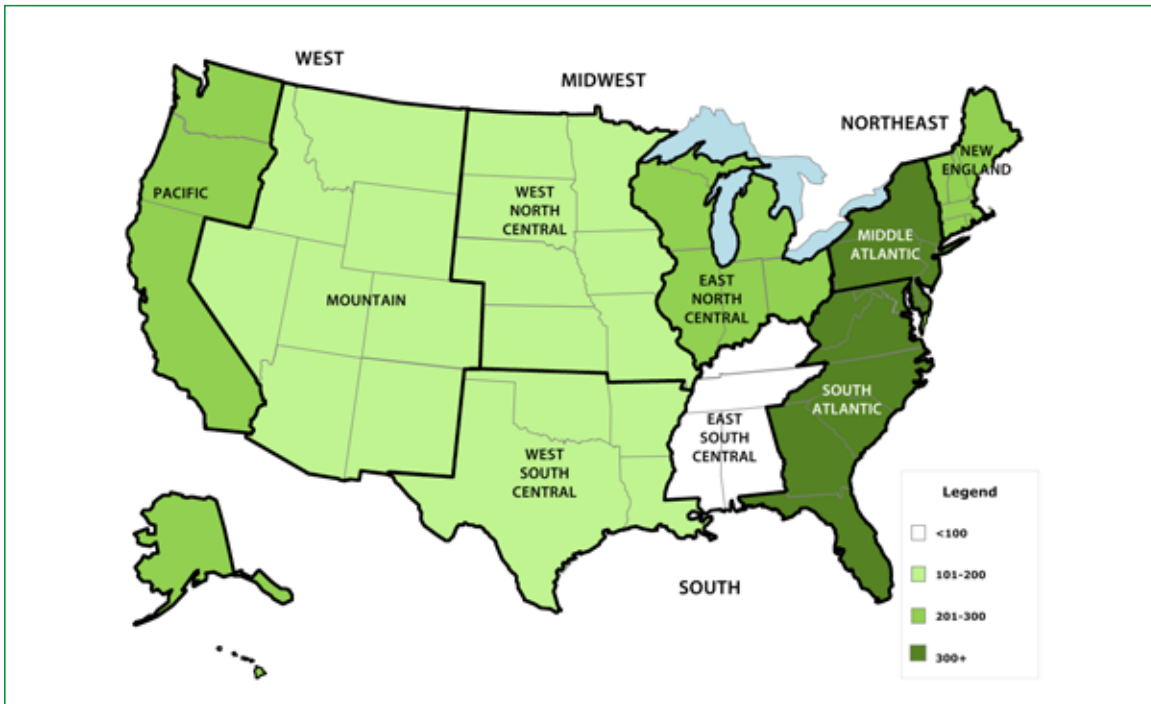


Table 2. Proportion of IE and sustainability degrees offered by census division

Census Division	Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Doctoral Degrees	Total
New England	12%	12%	12%	12%
Middle Atlantic	19%	13%	11%	17%
East North Central	16%	13%	13%	15%
West North Central	8%	6%	7%	7%
South Atlantic	16%	18%	16%	17%
East South Central	4%	3%	3%	3%
West South Central	7%	9%	10%	8%
Mountain	6%	10%	11%	7%
Pacific	12%	16%	17%	14%

What kinds of IE and sustainability degree programs exist?

Approximately two thirds (68%) of all IE and sustainability degrees are bachelor's degrees, 24% are master's degrees and 8% are doctoral degrees. The undergraduate/graduate ratio is unchanged from 2008, but the proportion of master's degrees increased 2%.

- Baccalaureate colleges offer 28% of undergraduate and 3% of master's degrees.
- Master's colleges and universities offer 39% of undergraduate, 27% of master's and 4% of doctoral degrees.
- Doctoral universities offer 33% of undergraduate, 70% of master's and 96% of doctoral degrees.

The census findings include a trend toward more interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability master's programs.

The largest proportion of IE degree programs, 40%, are named environmental science or sciences (Figure 5).⁷

Another 25% are named environmental studies. Degrees in environmental studies are awarded primarily at the baccalaureate level; only 2% of master's degrees and <1% of doctoral degrees are named environmental studies.

Programs with sustainability in the name comprise 8%; these are primarily bachelor's and master's degrees.

The remaining 27% of names and focus areas vary widely. The majority of these are graduate programs. Names include:

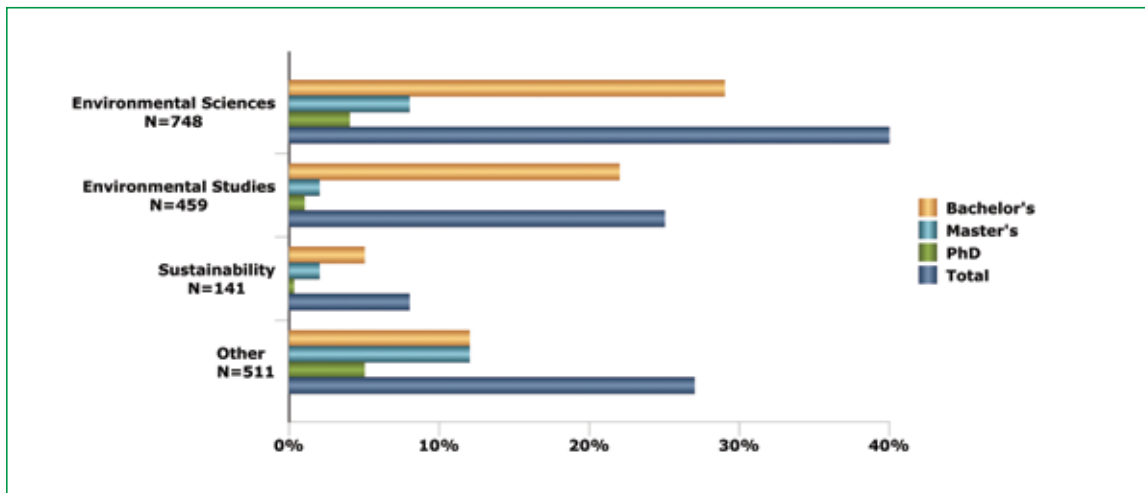
- Climate Science and Policy (Bard College);
- Urban and Environmental Studies (Occidental College)
- Community, Environment and Development (University of Pennsylvania);
- Environmental Thought and Practice (University of Virginia);
- Environmental Design, Policy, and Planning (State University of New York – Stony Brook);
- Natural Resources Science and Management (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities);
- Water Science and Policy (University of Delaware);
- Hazards, Global and Environmental Change (Chapman University).

Trends in Program Growth

The census findings include a trend toward more IE and sustainability master's programs. Master's degrees have the highest rate of growth, 68%, compared with 57% growth for bachelor's degrees and 35% growth in doctoral degrees. A number of master's programs—37—have received a Professional Science Master designation. PSM programs consist of two years of academic training in an emerging

⁷The environmental science(s) and studies categories include all programs with environmental science(s) or environmental studies in the degree name.

Figure 5. Degree program name types and levels



or interdisciplinary area, along with a professional component that may include internships and “cross-training” in workplace skills, such as business, communications, and regulatory affairs.⁸

The census findings also reveal a trend toward more degree programs focused on specific themes. While the numbers of all types of IE degree programs have increased, the proportion named environmental science(s) has declined while other types of programs have increased; especially graduate programs. The overall proportion of programs named environmental studies remained the same, but the proportion of graduate programs in environmental studies declined.

Sustainability programs have increased tremendously, and other types of new programs are emerging that focus on systems, climate and energy, international or global issues, or that combine engineering and environmental science(s) (Table 3).

A third trend is the appearance of new bachelor’s degree designations. Examples include: Bachelor of Professional Studies in Science, Mathematics and Technology: Environmental Studies (SUNY-Empire State), Bachelor of Applied Studies: Environmental Policy Studies (University of Wisconsin-Green Bay), Bachelor of Applied Science: Renewable Energy Technology (Arkansas State University), Bachelor of Professional Studies: Sustainability Studies (Roosevelt College), Bachelor of Applied Studies in Natural Sciences: Environmental Science (Our Lady of the Lake University-San Antonio), and Bachelor of Technology: Environmental and Energy Technologies (SUNY-Cobleskill).

Sustainability Program Types

Sustainability degree programs have increased rapidly since the first program was established at Arizona State University in 2006.⁹ Only 13 programs in sustainability were identified in 2008, today there are 141. Sustainability programs have a variety of names. The most prevalent are programs named sustainability and sustainability studies, programs focused on sustainable development, and programs focused on environmental sustainability (Table 4).

⁸ For more information see sciencemasters.com and NPSMA.org.

⁹ Degree programs in traditional disciplines and professional fields with focuses on sustainability are not included in this report.

Table 3. Degree program name types and levels

Degree Program Name Category	Bachelor's N=1260	Master's N=442	PhD N=157	Proportion* N=1859
Environmental Science(s)	538	142	68	40%
Environmental Studies	412	42	5	25%
Natural Resources	91	70	37	11%
Sustainability	91	45	5	8%
Policy	76	51	19	8%
Marine/Coastal	43	47	18	6%
Management	39	50	6	5%
Earth/Geology/Geoscience & Environmental Science(s)	36	17	14	4%
Planning/Development	35	31	6	4%
Technology/Analysis	27	20	7	3%
Social Sciences/Humanities	35	17	7	3%
Systems/Climate	13	23	9	2%
Water/Watershed Management	10	21	9	2%
Energy	17	10	6	2%
Global/International	14	14	0	2%
Engineering & Environmental Science(s)	3	11	10	1%
Environmental Science(s) & another Natural Science	7	8	5	1%

*Proportions will not add to 100% since some degree programs fall within more than one name classification.

Table 4. Sustainability degree program name types and levels

Sustainability Degree Name Category	Bachelor's N=90	Master's N=46	PhD N=5	Proportion* N=141
Sustainability	19	7	2	20%
Sustainable Development	12	15	1	20%
Environmental Sustainability	18	2	0	14%
Sustainability Studies	13	2	0	11%
Sustainability & Environmental Studies or Sciences	13	0	0	9%
Sustainability Management	4	7	0	8%
Natural Resources Sustainability	2	2	2	4%
Global Sustainability	3	2	0	3%
Sustainability Science	2	2	0	3%
Sustainable Systems	0	3	0	2%
Sustainable Energy	3	0	0	2%
Other	1	4	0	3%

*Proportions will not add to 100% since some degree programs fall within more than one name classification.

Degree Specializations

Many IE and sustainability degree programs offer formal specialization options (tracks, concentrations). Formal specialization options are most common for undergraduate programs—especially BS programs—but a number of graduate programs also offer options that reflect the expertise of their faculty and the mission and geographic location of their institution (Table 5).

Three examples include:

- Macalester College offers a BA in Environmental Studies with 18 specialization options in either a disciplinary area (biology, chemistry, economics, geography, geology, history, physics, anthropology, philosophy, political science) or an interdisciplinary area (climate science and policy, community and global health, environmental economics and policy, environmental justice, environmental science, environmental thought and values, international).
- The Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California-Santa Barbara offers the Master of Environmental Science and Management with specializations in coastal marine resources management, conservation planning, corporate environmental management, economics and politics of the environment, energy and climate, pollution prevention and remediation, and water resources management. Students can combine their specialization with a special focus on eco-entrepreneurship (Eco-E), a joint initiative between the Bren School and the Technology Management Program of the College of Engineering. Eco-E students pursue additional coursework and activities that provide them with skills and support to launch new ventures, products, and technologies that address society's environmental and resource problems.
- The Department of Environmental Sciences at Rutgers University-New Brunswick offers an MS and a PhD in Environmental Sciences with specializations in atmospheric science, environmental toxicology, exposure assessment, fates and effects and pollution control.

Table 5. Number of formal specializations by degree type

Degree Type	Max # of Specializations	Mean # of Specializations	Proportion with Specializations
Bachelor of Arts (N=509)	18	3	26%
Bachelor of Science (N=742)	14	4	49%
Other Bachelor's (N=9)	3	-	<1%
Master of Arts (N=66)	4	3	2%
Master of Science (N=306)	12	4	12%
Other Master's (N=70)	9	6	3%
Doctor of Philosophy (N=157)	6	3	9%

Many programs allow students to design their own specializations to match their specific goals and interests. Examples include the Program in the Environment at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the Environmental Studies Program at Lewis and Clark College, and the environmental study area programs at the College of the Atlantic.

Secondary Majors

A few IE and sustainability degrees (17; <1%) require a second major in another discipline or professional field. Examples include:

- BA/BS in Sustainability from Miami University-Oxford
- BA in Environmental Policy from Carnegie Mellon University
- BA/BS in Environmental Studies from Western Michigan University
- BA/BS/MA/MS in Environment and Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming
- MS in Environment and Resources from Stanford University (secondary major only with JD, MBA or MD; the PhD does not require another degree)

Formal specialization options are most common for undergraduate programs...but a number of graduate programs also offer options that reflect the expertise of their faculty and the mission and geographic location of their institution.

Online Programs

A few IE and sustainability degrees can be earned entirely online (17; <1%). Examples include:

- BA in Energy and Sustainability Policy from Pennsylvania State University
- BS/MS in Sustainability Management from the University of Wisconsin Distance Learning Center (a consortium program shared by UW-Extension, UW-Stout, UW-River Falls, UW-Superior, UW-Parkside, UW-Oshkosh)
- BS in Environmental Resource Management from California State University-Bakersfield
- MA in Environmental Studies from University of Illinois-Springfield
- MS in Environmental Management from Webster University
- Master of Natural Resources from Utah State University

International Partnerships

A few institutions have formal partnerships with universities or organizations in other countries where students earn a portion of their credits at the foreign institution. These include:

- MS in Nature, Policy and the Environment jointly offered by Carnegie Mellon University and University of Oxford
- Professional Science Master in Environmental Management and Sustainability jointly offered by Saint Edward's University and Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, France
- MS in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Conservation Leadership Through Learning program offered by a partnership of Colorado State University and El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR) in Mexico

Five Year Accelerated Dual Bachelor/Master's Programs

A small number of programs (3%) offer accelerated five-year bachelor's/master's programs or formal dual bachelor's or master's programs. The Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University has a number of partnerships with smaller institutions where students earn a bachelor's degree from their home institution and a Master of Environmental Management from Duke. Other examples include:

- BS in Environmental and Urban Studies/MS in Climate Science and Policy from Bard College
- BA in Environmental Studies from Middlebury College/MA in International Environmental Policy from Monterey Institute of International Studies
- BS in Environmental Science from University of Wisconsin-Green Bay/BS in Environmental Engineering from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Where are IE and sustainability programs located within colleges and universities?

IE and sustainability academic degrees are offered in a variety of administrative locations ranging from a degree program within a traditional disciplinary department, to IE and sustainability schools and colleges, to degree programs operated by a consortium of institutions.

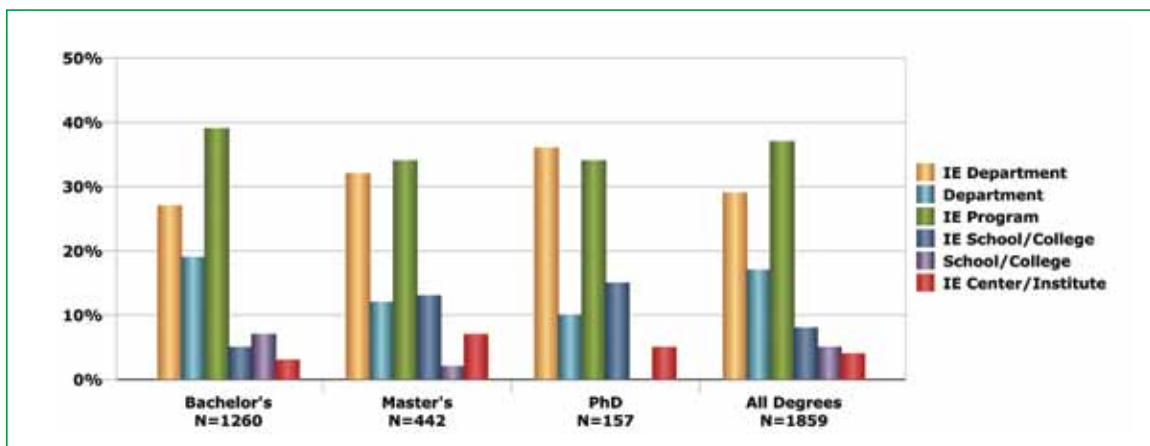
IE and Sustainability Degrees

The majority of IE and sustainability degree programs are offered through interdisciplinary academic units or programs. Altogether, 41% of all IE and sustainability degree programs are offered by interdisciplinary academic units—a department, school, college, center or institute. Another 37% are offered by interdisciplinary programs that span academic units. Only 22% are offered through traditional academic departments or schools (Figure 6).

Altogether, 41% of all IE and sustainability degree programs are offered by interdisciplinary academic units—a department, school, college, center or institute.

Most IE and sustainability degrees are offered via programs that span all or part of an institution; however, at larger institutions equivalent proportions are offered by interdisciplinary departments. It is worth noting that programs at smaller institutions are often equivalent to departments in terms of resources; this is not the case at larger institutions.

Figure 6. Administrative location of IE and sustainability degree programs



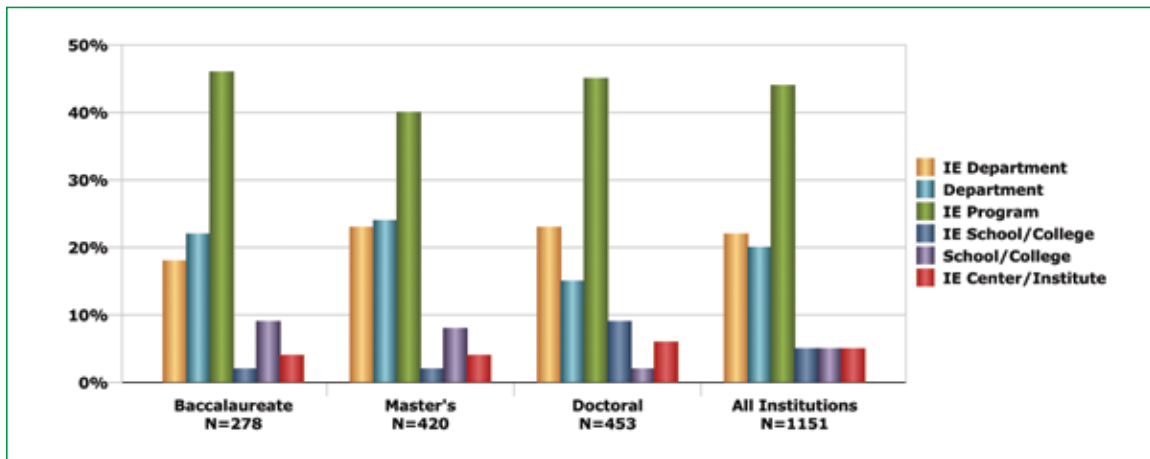
IE and Sustainability Academic Units

Only about a third (32%) of IE and sustainability administrative programs are autonomous academic units—a department, school, college or degree-granting institute or center (Figure 7).

The largest proportion of these, 22%, is comprised of interdisciplinary departments. Examples include:

- Department of Environment and Sustainability at Bowling Green State University

Figure 7. IE and sustainability degree-granting units



- Department of Environmental Science and Policy at the University of California-Davis
- Department of Environmental Science and Studies at Juniata College

A few, 5%, are an IE or sustainability school or college. Examples include:

- Huxley College of the Environment at Washington State University
- Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences at Duke University
- School of Sustainability at Arizona State University

Two schools span state systems:

- School of Marine Sciences of the University of Massachusetts system
- Bren School for Environmental Science and Management of the University of California system

Another 5% of IE and sustainability academic units are degree-granting institutes or centers. Examples include:

- Center for Environmental Policy at Bard College
- Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Institute for the Environment and Sustainability at Miami University-Oxford
- Center for Environmental Studies of the University of Maryland system

The majority of IE and sustainability academic units, 43%, are programs than span all or part of an institution. Programs at baccalaureate colleges are often similar or equivalent to departments. At larger institutions they typically span one or more colleges, the Office of University Studies, the Office of the Provost, or other similar institutional locations.

Three programs are jointly operated by multiple-institution consortiums:

- BS/MS in Sustainable Management is offered by the University of Wisconsin Consortium (UW-Extension, UW-Stout, UW-River Falls, UW-Superior, UW-Parkside, UW-Green Bay)
- BA degrees in Environmental Analysis and in Environment, Economics, and Politics are offered by the Claremont University Consortium in southern California (Claremont Graduate University, Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College, Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences, Pitzer College, Pomona College, Scripps College)
- BS in Environmental Science is offered by the Colleges of the Fenway Consortium located in Boston (Emmanuel College, Simmons College)

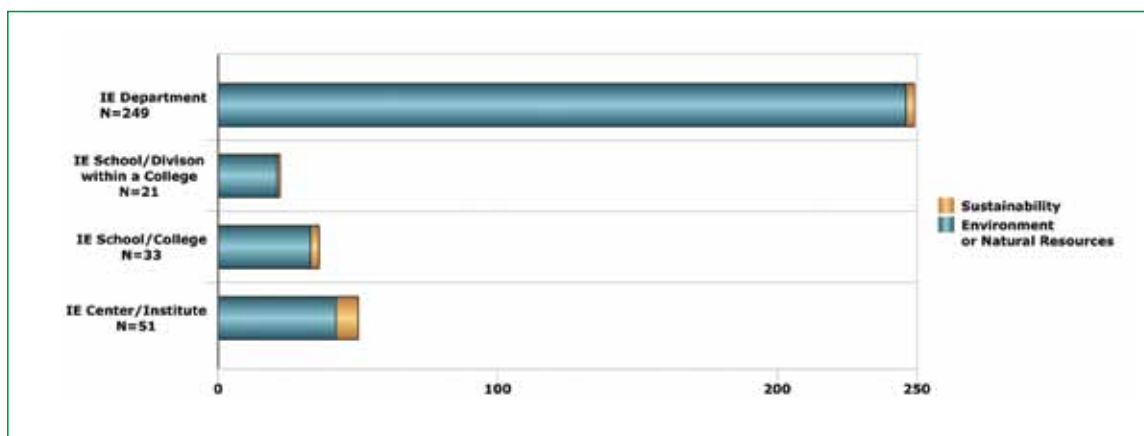
The remaining academic units are traditional departments (20%) or traditional schools/colleges (5%) that offer IE or sustainability degrees in addition to traditional degree programs.

The original census did not record the administrative units awarding degrees but the follow-up survey included a question identifying the academic unit type.¹⁰ Compared with the representative sample of programs that participated in the original survey the following differences in academic unit proportions were noted:

- 6% increase in IE/sustainability schools, colleges, centers and institutes (10% from 4%)
- 6% decrease in traditional departments and schools (25% from 31%)
- No change in programs that span all or part of an institution (43% from 42%)
- No change in IE/sustainability departments (22% from 23%)

Figure 8 illustrates the number of IE and sustainability academic units offering IE and sustainability degrees identified in the 2012 census.¹¹

Figure 8. IE and Sustainability Academic Units



¹⁰ The 2008 survey sample was of sufficient size and representativeness to generalize the findings to the population.

¹¹ For the purposes of this study IE and sustainability academic units are those that include environment/al, sustainable/sustainability, or natural resources in the name and those aligned with an environmental problem domain such as watershed sciences or ecosystem science and management.

A small number of units include sustainability in their name: three departments, one school within a college, three schools and colleges, and nine institutes and centers. Tables 6, 7, 8 and 9 list the interdisciplinary academic units by institution type.

Interdisciplinary academic units focused on the environment or sustainability exhibit a wide variety of names (Tables 6, 7, 8 and 9). Departments named environmental studies are more prevalent at large master's institutions and baccalaureate arts and sciences colleges. Department names combining environmental science and one or more other areas—often geosciences, geography or biological sciences—are common at all types of institutions. Natural resources departments are prevalent at larger institutions.

IE and sustainability divisions, schools and colleges are more prevalent at larger institutions, although there are a few at smaller schools, such as the College of the Environment at Wesleyan University (Tables 7 and 8).

IE and sustainability degree-granting IE centers and institutes are an increasingly popular academic home for IE and sustainability degrees at all types of institutions (Table 9).

Table 6. IE and sustainability departments by institution type. N=249

Research/Doctoral Universities-Very High Research (N=49)
Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (SUNY-Albany)
Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies (Michigan State University)
Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences (University of Arkansas)
Earth and Environmental Sciences (Columbia University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, Vanderbilt University)
Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources (Rutgers University-New Brunswick)
Ecosystem Science and Management (Texas A & M University)
Ecosystem Science and Sustainability (Colorado State University)
Environmental Conservation (University of Massachusetts-Amherst)
Environmental Sciences (Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, University of California-Riverside, University of Virginia)
Environmental Science and Policy (University of California-Davis)
Environmental Science, Policy and Management (University of California-Berkeley)
Environmental Science and Technology (University of Maryland-College Park)
Environmental Studies (Emory University, University of California-Santa Cruz)
Forest Ecosystems and Society (Oregon State University)
Forestry and Environmental Resources (North Carolina State University at Raleigh)
Forestry and Natural Resources (Purdue University)
Geography and Environment (Boston University)
Geography, Environment, and Planning (University of South Florida)
Geography and Environmental Sustainability (University of Oklahoma)
Geological and Environmental Sciences (Stanford University)
Human Ecology (Rutgers University-New Brunswick)
Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (Colorado State University)
Land, Air and Water Resources (University of California-Davis)
Land Resources and Environmental Sciences (Montana State University)
Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (North Carolina State University at Raleigh)
Marine Sciences (University of Georgia, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
Marine and Coastal Sciences (Rutgers University-New Brunswick)
Natural Resources (Cornell University)
Natural Resource Sciences (Washington State University)
Natural Resources and the Environment (University of Connecticut)
Natural Resources and Environmental Management (University of Hawaii-Manoa)

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Table 6. IE and sustainability departments by institution type. N=249 (Continued)

Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign)
Oceanography and Coastal Sciences (Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College)
Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences (University of Missouri-Columbia)
Soil, Water and Environmental Science (University of Arizona)
Renewable Resources (University of Louisiana-Lafayette)
Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (Tufts University)
Visual and Environmental Studies (Harvard University)
Research/Doctoral Universities – High Research (N=40)
Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences (Cleveland State University)
Chemistry and Environmental Science (New Jersey Institute of Technology)
Coastal Sciences (University of Southern Mississippi)
Earth and Environment (Florida International University)
Earth and Environmental Sciences (Lehigh University, Northeastern University, Rutgers University-Newark, University of New Orleans, Wright State University)
Earth Systems Science and Policy (University of North Dakota)
Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences (University of Massachusetts-Boston, University of Massachusetts-Lowell)
Environmental and Earth Sciences (University of Texas-Arlington)
Environmental Science (Baylor University, Loyola University Chicago, University of Toledo)
Environmental Science and Management (Portland State University)
Environmental Science and Policy (George Mason University)
Environment and Society (Utah State University)
Environment and Sustainability (Bowling Green State University)
Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies (SUNY-Binghamton)
Geology and Environmental Science (University of Akron)
Geography and Environmental Resources (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale)
Geography and Environmental Sciences (University of Colorado-Denver)
Geography and Environmental Systems (University of Maryland-Baltimore County)
Global Development (Boston College)
Marine Affairs (University of Rhode Island)
Marine and Environmental Systems (Florida Institute of Technology)
Marine Science(s) (University of South Alabama, University of Southern Mississippi)
Natural Resource Ecology and Management (Oklahoma State University)
Natural Resources and the Environment (University of New Hampshire)
Natural Resources and Environmental Management (Ball State University)

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Table 6. IE and sustainability departments by institution type. N=249 (Continued)

Natural Resources and Environmental Science (University of Nevada-Reno)
Natural Resource(s) Management (South Dakota State University, Texas Tech University)
Natural Resources Science (University of Rhode Island)
Plant and Environmental Sciences (New Mexico State University)
Resources Management (University of Alaska-Fairbanks)
Watershed Sciences (Utah State University)
Doctoral Universities (N=16)
Environmental Studies (University of West Florida; SUNY-Syracuse College of Environmental Science and Forestry)
Environmental Science (American University, University of San Francisco, Widener University)
Environmental Science and Studies (DePaul University)
Environmental Science and Technology (Texas Southern University)
Urban Planning and Environmental Policy (Texas Southern University)
Energy and Environmental Systems (North Carolina A & T State University)
Earth and Environmental Sciences (University of the Pacific)
Earth and Environmental Systems (Indiana State University)
Biological and Environmental Sciences (Texas A & M University-Commerce)
Marine Science and Environmental Studies (University of San Diego)
Physical and Environmental Sciences (Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi)
Forest and Natural Resource Management (SUNY-Syracuse College of Environmental Science and Forestry)
Natural Resources and Environmental Design (North Carolina A & T State University)
Master's College and Universities – Large (N=66)
Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (Abilene Christian University)
Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Studies (Molloy College)
Biology and Environmental Science (University of New Haven)
Biological and Environmental Science(s) (California University of Pennsylvania, Georgia College and State University, Troy University, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga)
Chemistry, Geosciences and Environmental Sciences (Tarleton State University)
Civil Engineering and Environmental Science (Loyola Marymount University)
Civil Engineering Technology, Environmental Management and Safety (Rochester Institute of Technology)
Earth and Environmental Science(s) (California State University-East Bay, California State University-Fresno, California State University-San Bernardino, CUNY Brooklyn College, Long Island University-C. W. Post, , University of Mary Washington)
Earth and Environmental Studies (Montclair State University)
Earth and Marine Sciences (Dowling College)
Energy Management (New York Institute of Technology-Old Westbury)

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Table 6. IE and sustainability departments by institution type. N=249 (Continued)

Environmental and Agricultural Management (Tarleton State University)
Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Sciences (North Carolina Central University)
Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences (CUNY Lehman College)
Environmental Science (Seattle University, University of Portland, University of Southern Maine, Western Washington University, William Paterson University of New Jersey)
Environmental Science and Biology (SUNY-Brockport)
Environmental Science and Policy (Marist College, Plymouth State University)
Environmental Science(s) and Studies (Ithaca College, Santa Clara University, University of Saint Thomas- Texas)
Environmental Studies (Antioch New England Graduate School, Bellarmine University, California State University-Sacramento, Pacific University, Rollins College, San Jose State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Illinois-Springfield, University of New England, University of North Carolina-Wilmington)
Environmental Studies and Planning (Sonoma State University)
Environmental and Technology Studies (Saint Cloud State University)
Geography and Environmental Science (Stetson University)
Geography and Environmental Studies (University of California-East Bay, University of California-San Bernardino, Northeastern Illinois University)
Geography and (the) Environment (Rowan University, Villanova University)
Geography, Geology and the Environment (Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania)
Geology and Environmental Science (Norwich University)
Geology, Environmental Science, and Physics (La Salle University)
Geological and Environmental Sciences (California State University-Chico, Youngstown State University)
Geological, Environmental, and Marine Sciences (Rider University)
Geosciences and Natural Resources (Western Carolina University)
Interdisciplinary Studies (Marylhurst University, Suffolk University)
Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences (West Texas A & M University)
Marine Sciences (University of New England)
Marine and Ecological Sciences (Florida Gulf Coast University)
Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (Alabama A & M University)
Natural Resources Management (California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo, New Mexico Highlands University)
Master's College and Universities – Medium (N=16)
Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources (University of Tennessee-Martin)
Agriculture and Natural Resources (Delaware State University)
Biological and Environmental Science (Capital University, Western Connecticut State University, Samford University)
Chemistry and Environmental Science (University of Texas-Brownsville)
Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (Northern Michigan University)
Earth and Environmental Science (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology)

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Table 6. IE and sustainability departments by institution type. N=249 (Continued)

Environmental Resources Engineering (Humboldt State University)
Environmental Science (Queens University of Charlotte, Saint Joseph's College-Maine, Westfield State University)
Environmental Science and Management (Humboldt State University)
Environmental Science, Policy, and Geography (University of South Florida-St. Petersburg)
Geology and Environmental Sciences (Hardin-Simmons University)
Sociology, Political Science, Native American Studies and Environmental Studies (Montana State University-Billings)
Master's College and Universities – Small (N=13)
Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (Lincoln University-Missouri)
Agriculture and Natural Resources (Langston University)
Biology and Environmental Sciences (Heidelberg College)
Environmental and Health Sciences (Johnson State College)
Environmental Science(s) (Alaska Pacific University, Lynchburg College, University of the District of Columbia, Widener University-Delaware)
Environmental Studies (Elon University, Kings College)
Marine and Environmental Science (Hampton University)
Marine Science (Coastal Carolina University)
Public and Environmental Affairs (University of Wisconsin-Green Bay)
Baccalaureate Colleges – Arts and Sciences (N=34)
Biology and Environmental Studies (Principia College, Westminster College-Missouri)
Earth and Environment (Franklin and Marshall College)
Earth and Environmental Sciences (Furman University, Susquehanna University, Virginia Wesleyan College, Wesleyan University, Willamette University)
Environmental Science (Barnard College)
Environmental Studies (College of Saint Benedict, Davidson College, Dickinson College, Gettysburg College; Hobart William Smith College, Lake Forest College, Macalester College, Mount Holyoke College, Randolph College, Saint John's University, Saint Lawrence University, Saint Olaf College, Siena College, Sweet Briar College, University of North Carolina-Asheville)
Environmental Science and Studies (Allegheny College, Juniata College)
Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies (Calvin College)
Geology and Environmental Sciences (Hartwick College)
Geography and the Environment (University of Richmond)
Geography and Environmental Sciences (University of Hawaii-Hilo)
Interdisciplinary Studies (Bethany College)
Natural Resources (Northland College)
Physical and Environmental Sciences (Colorado Mesa University)
Urban and Environmental Policy (Occidental College)

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Table 6. IE and sustainability departments by institution type. N=249 (Continued)

Baccalaureate Colleges – Diverse Fields (N=13)
Agriculture and Natural Resources (University of Minnesota-Crookston)
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (Tuskegee University)
Biology and Environmental Science (Davis and Elkins College, West Virginia Wesleyan College)
Chemistry and Environmental Sciences (Lake Superior State University)
Earth and Environmental Science (Taylor University)
Environmental Studies (Colby-Sawyer College)
Environmental Science (University of Montana-Western)
Integrated Environmental Science (Bethune Cookman University)
Land Resources (Glenville State College)
Marine Sciences (Texas A & M University-Galveston)
Natural Resources and Biosystems Management (Delaware Valley College)
Science, Technology, Environmental Studies, and Mathematics (Mitchell College)
Baccalaureate/Associates Colleges (N=1)
Physical, Environmental and Computer Sciences (CUNY Medgar Evers College)
Tribal Colleges (N=1)
Natural Resources (Salish Kootenai College)

Table 7. IE and sustainability divisions and schools within a college. N=21

Research/Doctoral Universities – Very High Research (N=10)
Division of Marine Affairs and Policy; School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (University of Miami)
School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science; College of Engineering (University of Oklahoma)
School of Environmental and Forest Sciences; College of the Environment (University of Washington-Seattle)
School of Environment and Natural Resources; College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (Ohio State University)
School of Human Evolution and Social Change; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Arizona State University)
School of Marine and Environmental Affairs; College of the Environment (University of Washington-Seattle)
School of Marine Science and Policy; College of Earth, Ocean and Environment (University of Delaware)
School of Natural Resources and the Environment; College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (University of Arizona)
School of Natural Resources and the Environment; College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (University of Florida)
School of Natural Resource Sciences; College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources (North Dakota State University)
Research/Doctoral Universities – High Research (N=5)
School of Agricultural, Forest, and Environmental Science; College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences (Clemson University)
School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Sustainability; College of Engineering, Forestry and Natural Science (Northern Arizona University)
School of Environmental and Public Affairs; College of Urban Affairs (University of Nevada-Las Vegas)
School of Marine Sciences; College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture (University of Maine)
Division of Resource Management; College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design (West Virginia University)
Doctoral Universities (N=1)
School of Geology, Energy and the Environment; College of Science & Engineering (Texas Christian University)
Master's Colleges and Universities – Large (N=4)
Division of Environmental Studies and Geology; College of Arts and Sciences (Alfred University)
Division of Environmental Science; College of Forestry and Agriculture (Stephen F. Austin State University)
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences; College of Science and Technology (Chapman University)
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences; Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (CUNY Queens College)
Master's Colleges and Universities – Small (N=1)
Division of Environmental Studies and Geology; College of Arts and Sciences (California State University-Monterey Bay)

Table 8. IE and sustainability primary level divisions, schools and colleges. N=33

Research/Doctoral Universities – Very High Research (N=16)
Bren School of Environmental Science and Management (University of California-Santa Barbara)
College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences (Oregon State University)
College of Earth, Ocean and Environment (University of Delaware)
College of the Environment (University of Washington-Seattle)
New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (Arizona State University-West Campus)
Nicholas School of the Environment (Duke University)
School of Earth, Society and the Environment (University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign)
School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (Yale University)
School of Forestry and Natural Resources (University of Georgia)
School of Global Sustainability (University of South Florida)
School of Natural Resources and Environment (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor)
School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SUNY-Stony Brook)
School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (University of Miami)
School of Public and Environmental Affairs (Indiana University-Bloomington)
School of Public Policy and Management (Carnegie Mellon University)
School of Sustainability (Arizona State University)
Research/Doctoral Universities – High Research (N=6)
School of Energy Resources (University of Wyoming)
School of Environment and Natural Resources (University of Wyoming)
School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science (Michigan Technological University)
School of Fresh Water Sciences (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
School of Marine Science (College of William and Mary)
Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (University of Vermont)
Doctoral Universities (N=2)
Division of Environmental Science (SUNY-Syracuse College of Environmental Science and Forestry)
School of the Environment (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University)
Master's Colleges and Universities – Large (N=2)
Huxley College of the Environment (Western Washington University)
School of Sustainability and the Environment (Chatham University)

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Table 8. IE and sustainability primary level divisions, schools and colleges. N=33 (Continued)

Master's Colleges and Universities – Medium (N=3)
Division of Environmental, Technological and Natural Sciences (Anna Maria College)
School for Integral Studies in Conflict and Leadership (Antioch University Midwest)
School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (University of Washington-Bothell)
Baccalaureate Colleges – Arts and Sciences (N=2)
Division of Environmental and Biological Sciences (University of Maine-Machias)
College of the Environment (Wesleyan University)
Baccalaureate Colleges – Diverse Fields (N=2)
School of Maritime Policy and Management (California Maritime Academy)
School of Ocean Studies (Maine Maritime Academy)

Table 9. IE and sustainability degree-granting institutes and centers. N=51

Research/Doctoral Universities – Very High Research (N=18)
Bioeconomy Institute (Iowa State University)
Center for Advanced Bioenergy Research (University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign)
Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy (University of Miami)
Center for Energy and Environmental Policy (University of Delaware)
Center for Environmental Applications in Remote Sensing (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)
Center for Environmental Studies (Brown University)
Center for Environmental Studies (University of Cincinnati)
Center for Environmental Studies (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Center for Health and the Global Environment (Harvard University)
Center for International Environment and Resource Policy (Tufts University)
Center for the Study of Environment and Society (Rice University)
Environment and Natural Resources Institute (Pennsylvania State University)
Environmental Science Institute (University of Texas-Austin)
Institute for Environmental Studies (University of Pennsylvania)
Institute of the Environment (University of Arizona)
Institute of the Environment and Sustainability Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction (University of California-Los Angeles)
Marine Science Institute (University of Texas-Austin)
Scripps Institution of Oceanography (University of California-San Diego)
Research/Doctoral Universities – High Research (N=6)
Center for Environmental Research & Education (Duquesne University)
Center for International Education (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
Center for Sustainability (Saint Louis University)
Clarkson Institute for a Sustainable Environment (Clarkson University)
Institute for the Environment and Sustainability (Miami University-Oxford)
Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability, and Energy (Northern Illinois University)
Doctoral Universities (N=2)
Environment and Design Center (New School)
Oceanographic Center (Nova Southeastern University)
Master's Colleges and Universities – Large (N=11)
Center for Appalachian Studies (Appalachian State University)

CONTINUED ►

Table 9. IE and sustainability degree-granting institutes and centers. N=51 (Continued)

Center for Earth and Environmental Science (SUNY-Plattsburgh)
Center for Geological and Environmental Sciences (Touro College)
Center for Integrated Science (California Lutheran University)
Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (Webster University)
Center for Marine Studies (University of North Carolina-Wilmington)
Center for Regenerative Studies (California State Polytechnic University-Pomona)
Center for Sustainability Studies (Kean University)
Institute of Environmental Sciences (Creighton University)
Institute for Sustainable Practice (Lipscomb University)
Golisano Institute for Sustainability (Rochester Institute of Technology)
Master's Colleges and Universities – Medium (N=2)
Center for Creative Change (Antioch University-Seattle)
Water Resources Center (University of Minnesota-Duluth)
Master's Colleges and Universities – Small (N=2)
Center for Environmental, Earth and Space Studies, Economics, and Sociology (Bemidji State University)
Institute of Environmental and Physical Sciences (Shepard University)
Baccalaureate Colleges – Arts and Sciences (N=9)
Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities (Unity College)
Center for Environmental Policy (Bard College)
Center for Environmental Studies (Austin College)
Center for Environmental Studies (Williams College)
Center for Sustainability and the Environment (Albion College)
Center for Sustainability and Global Change (Unity College)
Environmental Center (Middlebury College)
Institute of Environmental Science (Marlboro College)
International Center for Water Resources Management (Central State University)
Baccalaureate/Associates Colleges (N=1)
Center for Environmental Science and Technology (SUNY-Cobleskill)

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City University of New York	Northern Arizona University	University of Montana, Missoula
Clark University	Northern Illinois University	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Clarkson University	Northwestern University	University of Nevada, Reno
Clemson University	Ohio State University, The	University of North Florida
Colby College	Old Dominion University	University of North Texas
Colgate University	Oregon State University	University of Pennsylvania
College of Charleston	Pace University	University of Redlands
College of Menominee Nation	Pennsylvania State University	University of Rhode Island
College of Saint Benedict/St. John's University	Ponoma College	University of Rochester
College of Wooster	Portland State University	University of South Carolina
Colleges of the Fenway	Purdue University	University of South Florida
Colorado College	Reed College	University of Southern California
Colorado State University	Rice University	University of Tennessee
Columbia University	Robert Morris University	University of Texas at Austin
Cornell University	Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey	University of Toledo
Dartmouth College	Salisbury University	University of Tulsa
Dickinson College	Salish Kootenai College	University of Vermont
Doane College	Sewanee, The University of the South	University of Utah
Drexel University	Siena College	University of Wisconsin-Extension
Duquesne University	Skidmore College	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Evergreen State College, The	Smith College	University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Fairfield University	South Dakota State University	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Flagler College	Southern New Hampshire University	University of Wyoming
Florida A&M University	SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry	Vassar College
Florida Atlantic University	Swarthmore College	Vermont Law School
Franklin & Marshall College	Temple University	Villanova University
Frostburg State University	Texas A&M University	Washington State University
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George Washington University	Tufts University	Wheeling Jesuit University
Guilford College	Unity College	Willamette University
Hartwick College	University of Alabama	Winona State University
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