

# NJIT Supports the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2024 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking - 101-200



# Sustainability is a Core Mission at NJIT



**Dr. Teik C. Lim**  
President

In 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 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 like ours to actively engage in efforts to ensure the prosperity of our planet and its people by addressing global challenges through international collaborations at both micro and macro scales.

New Jersey Institute of Technology is a proud and active participant in furthering these 17 goals through research, teaching, innovation, and engagement with the larger Newark community. Our 2025 Strategic Plan began by incorporating sustainability into our core pillars and Institutional Learning Goals. Our new [2030 Strategic Plan](#) to become an innovation nexus continues to incorporate this core value by fostering invention and innovation for sustainable development.

Objectives of expanding experiential learning opportunities and promoting post-graduation success featured in the strategic plan seek to increase the quality of education and upward socioeconomic mobility that NJIT provides. In addition, a core pillar of the strategic plan is to foster a more engaged community by promoting civic responsibility and “growing as a nexus for regional and global economic vitality and innovation,” using

partnership to enhance NJIT’s impact on the larger community. These are some of the ways in which our strategic plan aligns well with the UN’s goals.

In 2024, [NJIT received a top 200 overall ranking](#) among institutions across the globe from the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for implementing and incorporating the UN’s SDGs at the university level. NJIT is especially proud of its #81 ranking in Life Below Water (SDG 14), #52 ranking in No Poverty (SDG 1), and most of all, its #24 ranking in Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16).

These are just some of the initiatives that NJIT is undertaking to further the UN SDGs on campus. This report highlights some of the many accomplishments and initiatives NJIT has to offer that are working to further develop and integrate the three pillars of sustainability into campus and the world. Together we can make a difference in shaping the world's future towards that which the United Nations envisioned, one in which sustainable living is accessible and attainable to all.





## 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/](https://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 remains committed to sustainability, continuing to incorporate it into the university's values and Institutional Learning Goals (ILGs). NJIT's 2030 Strategic Plan reflects this commitment, seeking to further and foster collaborative innovation in sustainability as part of its plan to transform the university into an innovation nexus. 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 year, sourced from across the institution. In addition, NJIT's scores for each SDG from the 2024 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, in which NJIT was ranked between 101 and 200 among global institutions of higher education, are highlighted along with the progress made since NJIT's 2020 THE rankings.

1 NO  
POVERTY



## End poverty in all its forms everywhere



### Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
=52

2024 Score  
75.4

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+28.0

EOP Students  
Served in 2024  
> 700

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Students and Professors Help Launch Newark Hope Village II



NJIT HCAD professors Erin Pellegrino and Charlie Firestone and a group of architecture students de-signed and built the welcome center of Newark Hope Village II. Thanks to these highlanders, Hope Village II can fulfill its purpose of serving chronically homeless civilians and offering services to transition them to permanent, affordable housing.

### Supporting Students with the Janet McIntosh Riley Scholarship



NJIT Chemical Engineering Alumnus Darryl P. Riley '83 endowed the Janet McIntosh Riley Scholarship, named after his late mother, who was also an administrator in NJIT's HCAD and, later, MIE. The scholarship will cover the tuition, fees, and room and board of Black and African American students in Chemical Engineering or Architecture, with a preference for participants in NJIT's EOP.

### NJIT Holds Annual Free FAFSA Workshops



Every year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form opens on October 1st for students to fill as a requirement for receiving financial aid at the federal level. NJIT helps students with this process with regular annual and free FAFSA workshops to guide the process of filling out the form. Details on how to register for these workshops can be found [here](#).

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

2 ZERO HUNGER



## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



### NJIT Record-Breaking “Giving Tuesday” Fundraiser Inspires

This “Giving Tuesday,” the NJIT food pantry beat last year’s fundraiser by raising \$24,000 to support students facing food insecurity, [inspiring board of directors founding member Paul Profeta](#) to donate a truckload of fresh produce from his organic farm. Thanks to all the funds raised and Profeta’s generous donation, the food pantry will be able to support up to 1000 students in the coming year.

### NJIT Program “Swipes Out” Hunger

The NJIT [Swipe Out Hunger](#) program is offered for application to students facing food insecurity throughout the semester. Students with a meal plan are allowed 10 free guest swipes to bring guests into the campus center dining hall. The program provides free meal swipes donated from leftover student guest swipes each Fall and Spring semester so that no swipes go to waste.



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
201-300

2024 Score  
59.6

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+32.3

NJIT Food Pantry  
“Giving Tuesday”  
\$24,000

# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



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



### Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
801-1000

2024 Score  
50.2

Improvement  
Made Since 2024  
+25.2

NJIT's 2024 NJBIZ  
Healthcare Power  
Leaders  
2 Honorees

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Engineers Molecular Masks for Muffling Pathogens



To combat the rapid mutation of viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, a multi-university team led by NJIT Associate Professor Dr. Vivek Kumar is [developing a hydrogel therapy method](#) to prevent viruses from entering the cells and infecting an individual in the first place. This technology has proven capable of preventing infection and can be applied to a diverse set of pathogens and mutations, making it a good first line of defense.

### Using Data Science to Evaluate the Impacts of COVID on Mental Health



NJIT Associate Professor Dr. Hai Phan worked with four professors from multiple universities to [understand the impact of a pandemic on mental health](#). In [their paper](#), they discuss their findings from statistical analysis of user discourse on the internet, including that should another pandemic occur, there is a 28-day window to connect vulnerable populations with mental health providers to prevent long-term con-

### NJII Leaders Make NJBIZ Healthcare Power Lists



NJBIZ recognized leaders in NJIT's New Jersey Innovation Institute as some of the most impactful healthcare leaders New Jersey has to offer, with board of directors' Debbie Hart and president Michael Johnson [making the list](#). You can learn more about the NJBIZ power 50 and their methodology for creating this list [here](#).

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

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Elementary STEM Challenge Spurs Health and Wellness Innovation

The NJIT Center for Pre-College Programs hosted its [fourth annual elementary STEM challenge](#), themed around technology that enhances health and wellness in students' communities. Over 150 students spread across 28 teams partook in this year's challenge, nearly doubling last year's participation. Participants enjoyed a tour of the Makerspace and guidance from various student organizations.



### NJIT Helps AANAPI Students Transition to College

The Summer of 2024 marks the beginning of NJIT's Improving AANAPI Student Outcomes Through Opportunities for Engagement (ISOTOPE) initiative, offering academic and experiential orientation to 175 first-year AANAPI students. The five-week orientation program seeks to assist with the unique struggles identified across AANAPI students. Details on the goals and approach of this initiative can be found [here](#).



### NJIT and NJII Launch the Learning and Development Initiative

[NJIT and NJII launch the LDI](#) to bring accessible and impactful learning experiences to individuals and organizations, and enable them to succeed in a dynamic marketplace. LDI will offer educational and organizational development and training in the form of advanced workshops and foundational courses, accessible online, at the client's location, or at LDI facilities. The full list of offerings can be found [here](#).



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
401-600

2024 Score  
59.6

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+14.2

eSTEM Challenge  
Participants  
150+

Students Served by  
ISOTOPE  
175



# Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
401-600

2024 Score  
53.1

Improvement Made  
Since 2020  
+7.5

Women on NJIT Police  
Force  
10 officers

Girls Hacks 2023  
Attendees  
≈ 130

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Annual NJIT Girls Hacks Competition Reaches New Heights



The NJIT Women in Computing Society hosted its annual [NJIT GirlsHacks competition](#), which saw approximately 130 students working on about 31 projects based on the event's first-ever competition theme: "Space." The event and its participants saw interest and support from sponsors such as Merck and Prudential, as well as NJIT's Ying Wu College of Computing.

### New NJIT Committee Tackles Gender Imbalance in Faculty



The [new NJIT Women Faculty Advisory Committee](#) will begin holding peer forums to address and examine key issues at NJIT regarding gender imbalance within NJIT's faculty. The first of these forums will be held on December 13th and seeks to make data-driven recommendations for action to address these issues.

### Women Represent Nearly a Quarter of NJIT Public Safety



Since taking the [30x30 pledge initiative in 2022](#), which seeks to "reach 30% of women in police recruit classes by 2030," the [number of women in NJIT's public safety department has grown](#) from 2 to 10, representing nearly a quarter of the total staff. This accomplishment marks significant progress towards the 30x30 pledge's goal, and furthers NJIT's larger initiative of increasing gender equity among faculty.



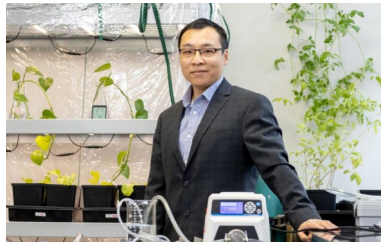


# Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Extracting and Reusing Phosphorus from Waste Water

Ph.D student Lai Wei's research in extracting excess phosphorus from wastewater seeks to use special materials and oxygenated nanobubbles to both diminish phosphorus in water that is harmful to plants and animals, and extract it for use by farmers as it is a resource that is high in demand in agriculture. This research is [one of two NJIT research projects that received funding from the EPA](#) as part of its P3 Program.



### NJIT Engineers Without Borders Brings Clean Water Across the Globe

Student members of the [NJIT chapter of Engineers without Borders](#) are hard at work to create sustainable and scalable projects across the globe while forming lifelong connections with the communities they serve. Previously, they have created bio-sand filters and sustainable sanitation in Haiti. In their current project, they are working to provide clean water for the community of Maca Grande in Ecuador.



### NJIT Research Professor Innovates Algae Control

NJIT Professor Wen Zhang is developing an electrochemical oxidation reactor designed as an alternative, chemical-free process of fighting against toxic algae blooms circulating in nutrient water used by farmers. In developing this device alongside his group, Dr. Zhang hopes it will reduce terminate the use of chemical algaecide and increase water disinfection, among other benefits. Read more about his research [here](#).



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
101-200

2024 Score  
68.2

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+36.9

EPA P3 Program  
Funding for  
Environmental and  
Public Health  
Research  
\$1.2 Million

# 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



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



## Progress Data

**2024 Ranking**  
301-400

**2024 Score**  
58.7

**Improvement  
Made Since 2020**  
-5.4

**Offshore Wind  
Workforce Training  
Scholarships  
Offered**  
48 Scholarships  
\$168,000 Total

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Hosts Offshore Wind Development Conference



Leaders from the wind power industry will gather at NJIT for a two-day conference as part of an inaugural NJ Wind Week. The conference will feature a boot camp for professionals interested in the wind industry, research sessions, individual speakers, and networking opportunities, highlighting new developments in tech related to the wind industry. More on this conference can be found [here](#).

### NJIT and NJEDA Partner to Offer Certificates in Offshore Wind Work

[NJIT and the NJEDA signed a memorandum of understanding](#) on a \$399,000 project to create two offshore wind graduate certificates to train a world-class workforce for the New Jersey offshore wind industry. Courses will be offered online and in-person for students to take and complete certifications remotely. Some of the funding will also be allocated to 24 scholarships and 24 assistantships primarily for students from minority and underrepresented communities.



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

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

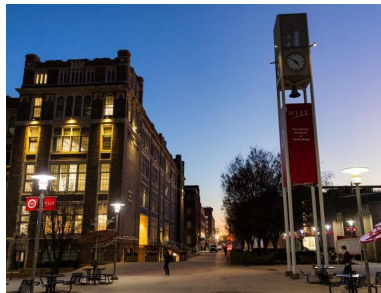
### NJIT Top Rated for “Best Colleges in America” based on ROI

NJIT is one of just 745 schools in the United States to make *Money's* 2024 list of Best Colleges in America, and **one of just 54 who earned five stars**. *Money* noted NJIT's 82% six-year graduation rate and student-reported \$84,500 early-career earnings. Full details about NJIT's rating can be found [here](#), and more on *Money's* methodology for identifying the Best Colleges in America can be found [here](#).



### NJIT Cited Best Investment of New Jersey Public Colleges

Analysis by [Bloomberg News](#) determined NJIT to be the **best return-on-investment of all public colleges** in New Jersey, citing a 10-year ROI of \$223,000. Moreover, Bloomberg placed NJIT second among all NJ colleges, behind only Princeton. This high ranking is one of many that NJIT has received, including #2 public university in the US and #19 overall according to the *Wall Street Journal*.



### NJIT Climbs Rankings on Social Mobility

New Jersey Institute of Technology ranked No. 88 among National universities based on overall value, service and social mobility by the non-profit [Washington Monthly magazine](#), rising in rank by 13 spots from last year. This high ranking was attained thanks to the university's affordability and commitment to underrepresented minority success. More on this can be found [here](#).



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
301-400

2024 Score  
64.8

Improvement Made  
Since 2020  
+16.1

NJIT 10-Year ROI  
\$223,000

NJIT Money's List  
Best Colleges in  
America Score  
5 Stars



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



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
401-600

2024 Score  
42.4

Improvement Made  
Since 2020  
-5.8

MakeNJIT Student  
Innovators  
250

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Enhances Campus and City Infrastructure with Strategic Relocation



NJIT has announced its plan to [relocate non-student-facing administrative offices to 494 Broad Street](#), where Newark's Downtown Arts and Innovation District can be found, as part of its 2030 strategic plan to become an innovation nexus. NJIT will stand alongside Rutgers Business School and Audible as one of several anchor tenants attracting partners who can enhance the infrastructure of the city of Newark.

### NJIT IEEE Hosts "MakeNJIT" Focused on Smart Infrastructure

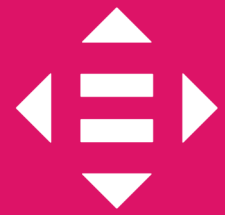


NJIT's IEEE chapter hosted its second annual MakeNJIT competition, focusing on hardware for smart infrastructure. The event saw a total of 250 college and high school students working in the NJIT Makerspace to construct their "hardware hacks" for themes set by various organizations on and off campus. Read more about the event and the innovation that occurred [here](#).

### NJIT Helps Engineers Plan for Car Chargers and Wind Farms



NJIT professors Marcos Netto and Philip Pong received a \$500,000 NSF grant to [build a power grid simulator](#) to anticipate the potential effects electric car usage and offshore wind farms will have on the nation's power distribution. Their research will help develop new mathematical models for utility companies and suppliers in preparation for the deployment of EV chargers to minimize impact on the power grid.



# Reduce inequality within and among countries

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Joins Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities

NJIT has [joined the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities](#) (HSRU), being welcomed as its 22nd official member at the [second annual HSRU summit](#). Since Fall 2022 NJIT has increased its Hispanic student population from 20% to 25% of its 13,000 total enrollment. The HSRU alliance aims to support NJIT's efforts in increasing Hispanic representation in STEM fields and research.



### NJIT Recognized as an Emerging Influencer in Diversity and Equity

The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey [recognized NJIT](#) as an "Emerging Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Influencer" in their annual Trailblazer Awards program. Many of the university's top administrative roles are held by people of color, and underrepresented minorities represent roughly half the class, demonstrating NJIT's commitment to diversity.



### NJIT's HLLC and HISPA Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

NJIT's Hispanic and Latinx Leadership Council (HLLC) and the Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement (HISPA) organization celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with HISPA's "Role Model Program" kick-off event, as well as the awarding of HLLC scholarships to two students. The event celebrated many initiatives towards equal opportunity for the Hispanic youth, which can be read about [here](#).



## Progress Data

**2024 Ranking**  
101-200

**2024 Score**  
73.9

**Improvement Made Since 2020**  
+33.8

**Proportion of Hispanic Students at NJIT**  
25%



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



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
101-200

2024 Score  
77.3

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+26.2

Counties Assisted  
by NJ and NY TAC  
11 counties total

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Students Transform Federal Building to be Green and Clean



NJIT Professor Georreen Theodore and members of the GSA [developed a studio for students to work directly with the GSA](#) and propose changes to the area around the Peter W. Rodino Federal Office Building to turn it into a green area. Proposals included networks of paths and greenery to reduce the heat island effect in Newark and promote carbon reduction, and infrastructure to reduce the impact of stormwater.

### NJIT Architecture Students Transform Public Space in Austria



Professors Gernot Riether and Andrzej Zarzycki led a group of 16 NJIT students in a study abroad trip to Austria where they worked on the redesign of a public space in the town of Krems in Austria. They developed and proposed plans to redevelop a street into a more pedestrian and tourist friendly outdoor park to both locals and politicians alike. Further details on the transformation can be found [here](#).

### NJIT CCS Helps NJ and NY be Energy Efficient



NJIT's Center for Community Systems (CCS) is partnering with the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico on a multistate and territory effort to [help communities become energy efficient](#). The CCS will use \$1.5 million out of a US EPA grant to create an NJ and NY hub of a Technical Assistance Center to help community leaders and nonprofit groups in four NJ counties and seven NY counties secure grants from the

# Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

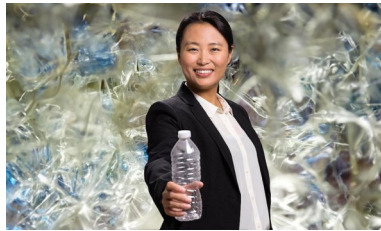
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

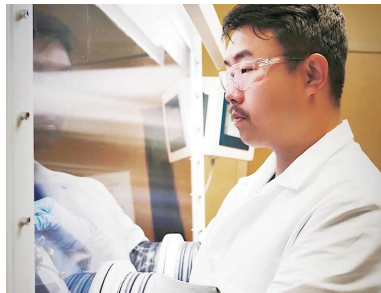
### NJIT Funds Research in the Economics of Recycling Plastic

NJIT professors and students are researching new ways to incentivize and utilize recycled plastics with funding from the university. Professor Jasmine Chang and her colleagues researched ways to increase the plastic recycling rate while student entrepreneurs are investigating ways to use waste plastic in 3D printers to create new products. More on these initiatives can be found [here](#).



### NJIT Alum Develops Tech to Recycle Lithium-Ion Batteries

NJIT alum Chao Yan is the founder and CEO of Princeton NuEnergy, [a company developing advanced technologies for recycling lithium-ion batteries](#). Yan notes these batteries are notoriously difficult to dispose of sustainably. The company hopes its technology will reduce CO2 emissions by up to 80%, water use by 70%, and overall cost by 50% compared to current industrial processes of recycling lithium-ion



### NJIT Hosts Symposium on Using Vernacular Construction Materials

NJIT HCAD professors Charlie Firestone and Carrie Bobo Gibbs hosted a symposium on using vernacular construction materials, or materials sourced from the local environment (ex. using mud or stone instead of wood where wood is scarce). The symposium sought to spark conversation on using these techniques for more sustainable and carbon-negative architecture. More on the event can be found [here](#).



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
101-200

2024 Score  
75.7

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+46.7

Lithium Ion Battery  
Recycling Cost  
Reduction by  
Princeton  
NuEnergy  
20%



# Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
101-200

2024 Score  
62.3

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+45.7

Trees Funded by  
State on NJIT  
Campus  
41

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Highlanders Recognized for Environmental Leadership



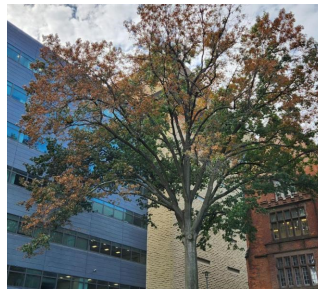
ROI-NJ has recognized three members of NJIT's board of trustees in their inaugural list of influencers on the environment. Dennis Toft topped the list as one of the "top environmental lawyers for decades." ROI-NJ also recognized Gary Dahms for his leadership in an engineering and environmental consulting firm, and Colette Santasieri for her work with the New Jersey Brownfields Assistance Center.

### NJIT Researchers Launch Project for Climate Justice in New Jersey



NJIT Researchers are working on a community outreach project to help New Jersey homeowners utilize the state's clean energy programs. The project involves a year-long study led by Yao Sun of attitudes and behaviors of under-resourced and low-income neighborhoods in Newark towards adopting renewable energy, while also encouraging residents to engage in NJ's Community Solar Program.

### NJIT Receives State Funding for New Trees on Campus



NJIT researchers and students are working to nurture existing trees and plant new trees on campus to help reduce carbon dioxide in the area and increase the number of native species on campus and in the larger Newark area. Using a \$188,000 grant from the NJDEP, Dr. Prabhakar Shrestha has worked with campus planners to excavate older trees and invasive species, and plant 41 new native species. More on these efforts can be read about [here](#).



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



## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Honor Student Diagnoses Maladies in Pequannock River

NJIT Dorman Scholar Taylor VanGrouw received funding from the Honors College and a Moonshot Prize to investigate the lethargy of fish in the Pequannock River. He found the culprit to be increased temperature around a decommissioned dam and made recommendations to remedy this. More on his research and its impact can be read about [here](#).



### Goldwater Scholar Explores Marine Life Locomotion

Undergraduate Danna Valentina Sanchez Hernandez '25 engaged in research at NJIT on the locomotion of marine life, leading to a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship. She hopes to pursue a Ph.D. studying animal biomechanics to apply it to veterinary medicine. More on her journey can be found [here](#).



### NJIT Researcher Develops Methods for Extracting Toxic Algae from Water

Dr. Wen Zhang and his team are funded by the EPA to work with the Meadowlands Research and Restoration Institute on using [microbubbles of air to lift toxic algae from as deep as 4 feet into the water](#) for ease of harvesting. The team has developed and refined a prototype custom-designed boat for clearing algae and possibly monitoring other water quality parameters.



## Progress Data

**2024 Ranking**  
=81

**2024 Score**  
73.3

**Improvement Made  
Since 2020**  
+44.2

**Increase in Oxygen  
Levels due to Toxic  
Algae Removal**  
>300%



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



### Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
101-200

2024 Score  
74.7

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+33.8

Native Pollinators  
Supported by  
ADHC Proposal  
>141

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Receives Funding to Assist in Brownfield Clean Up



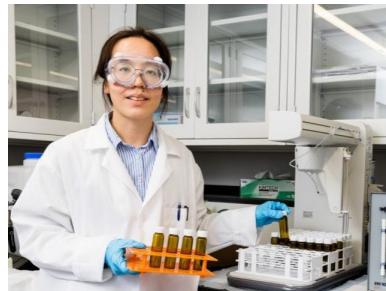
NJIT was awarded \$10 million by the EPA to fund its [Technical Assistance to Brownfields](#) (TAB) program, focused on assisting with cleaning up and reusing brownfield sites. Recently the TAB worked closely with Clifton to revitalize a former news headquarters and wood mill and transform it into a residential building which generates \$76,000 in tax revenue for the city annually. Learn more about this initiative [here](#).

### ADHC “Green Brick City” Brings Biodiversity to Kupfrian Hall



This year, the proposal of the team [“Green Brick City”](#) won among other ADHC First-Year Seminar proposals for bringing biodiversity to the plot in front of Kupfrian Hall. The proposal was chosen as it sought to solve both the issues of biodiversity and pollution in Newark with its choices of native plants that both reduce the concentration of soil and air contaminants and support various pollinator species.

### NJIT Professor Investigates the Rise of a Climate Triggered Neurotoxin



NJIT Assistant Professor of Chemistry Lijie Zhang is conducting lab experiments to understand the biogeochemical drivers leading to the formation of the neurotoxin methylmercury in the Arctic tundra. She notes that the best solution is likely to reduce the release of mercury from sources around the world that are turned into methylmercury by microorganisms in the tundra. Learn more about her research [here](#).

**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

### NJIT Forensics Helps Exonerate Two Wrongfully Imprisoned Men

An NJIT team consisting of Forensic Science Director David Fischer and four of his students performed a reconstruction of a shooting from 1984, exonerating two murder convicts falsely coerced into admitting guilt. The reconstruction found inconsistencies with the original investigation's false narrative. More about the project and its results can be found [here](#).



### NJIT Professor Trains College Counselors to Fight Antisemitism

NJIT Distinguished Professor of Informatics Julie Ancis seeks to initiate focus groups with counselors, psychological professionals, and Jewish students to [develop and refine training models for experts to better understand and address antisemitism](#). The hope of this initiative is partly to address the lack of existing literature to train counseling professionals to work with Jewish students.



### Campus Center Installation Draws Attention to the "Red Zone"

NJIT Prevention Specialist Brittany Gaviria Sanchez gathered anonymous feedback and stories regarding the ["Red Zone,"](#) a period during the semester in which half of all sexual assaults on campus occur. She featured the stories on an installation in the NJIT Campus Center, which has drawn attention to issues of sexual violence and issues on campus that the Office of Prevention and Advocacy seeks to solve.



## Progress Data

**2024 Ranking**  
=24

**2024 Score**  
85.9

**Improvement Made Since 2020**  
+27.1

**AEN Funding for Counselor Training on Antisemitism**  
\$75,000



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



## Progress Data

2024 Ranking  
101-200

2024 Score  
89.7

Improvement  
Made Since 2020  
+33

NJIT Princeton  
Review Green  
College Score  
93

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NJIT Improves Globally and Domestically in the Impact Rankings



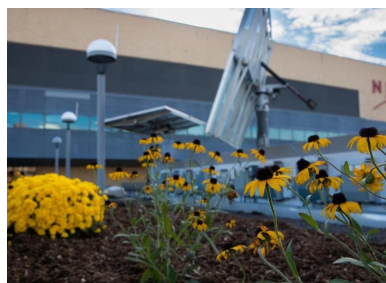
NJIT has ranked within the top 25% of 1900 universities under the [THE Impact Rankings](#), increasing its placement from 114 in the previous year to 87. NJIT's strongest performance continues to be in its international outlook where it ranks 69 globally thanks to its diverse population of students and staff with a large percentage of individuals with international roots and research with professors in other countries.

### NJIT Helps Cities and Regions Measure Resilience to Disaster



NJIT director of the Center of Natural Resources Michel Boufadel worked with collaborators at Rutgers and Princeton to develop a [Community Intrinsic Resilience index](#). The index is used to evaluate disaster-relevant factors in cities and regions to help reduce the potential negative impacts on transportation, energy, health care, and regional socio-economics.

### NJIT Earns Princeton Review Green College Distinction



NJIT is one of only 522 colleges and universities to be featured in the [Princeton Review's 2024 edition of the guide to green colleges](#). Furthermore, on a scale of 60 to 99 NJIT's rating was an astounding 93, a rating derived from surveys regarding programs and policies based around campus sustainability. More about this designation [here](#).

# Building a Sustainable Future: NJIT's Commitment to Innovation and Environmental Stewardship

At NJIT, sustainability is more than a goal—it's a commitment deeply woven into the fabric of our community. As we strive to become an innovation nexus by 2030, sustainability is at the core of everything, guiding our research, student-led initiatives, and groundbreaking innovations.

Anchored by our 2030 strategic plan, we are dedicated to operating and innovating in ways that ensure the stewardship of resources for both present and future generations. This commitment was underscored in 2022 when NJIT signed the pledge for carbon neutrality. Since our first submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) in 2023, our students and faculty have been actively engaged in turning the assessment results into actionable progress. As we prepare for our next STARS report in 2025, our focus remains on expanding these efforts and fostering environmental consciousness not just within NJIT, but throughout the greater Newark community and beyond.

The 2024 Sustainability Progress Report reflects the passion and determination that drive NJIT to lead in creating a more sustainable world. By embracing the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's view that "sustainability is the nexus of environmental, economic, and social responsibility," NJIT is poised to be a hub of sustainable innovation and impactful change. The progress we've made so far is just the beginning—NJIT is on a path to making even greater contributions to a sustainable future. NJIT MAKES a better planet!



**Andrew P. Christ, PE**  
Senior Vice President,  
Real Estate Development  
and Capital Operations





**NJIT**  
New Jersey Institute  
of Technology

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**NJIT Supports the Sustainable Development Goals**

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New Jersey Institute  
of Technology

**Editors**

Jeremy P. Reich

Prabhakar Shrestha

Office of Strategic Communications

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