

THE ULTIMATE COLLEGE GUIDE FOR

High School Students Who Care About the Environment

WHAT TO
LOOK FOR IN
A COLLEGE,
CAREER PATHS
TO CONSIDER,
AND MORE.



SAINT MICHAEL'S
COLLEGE FOUNDED
1904

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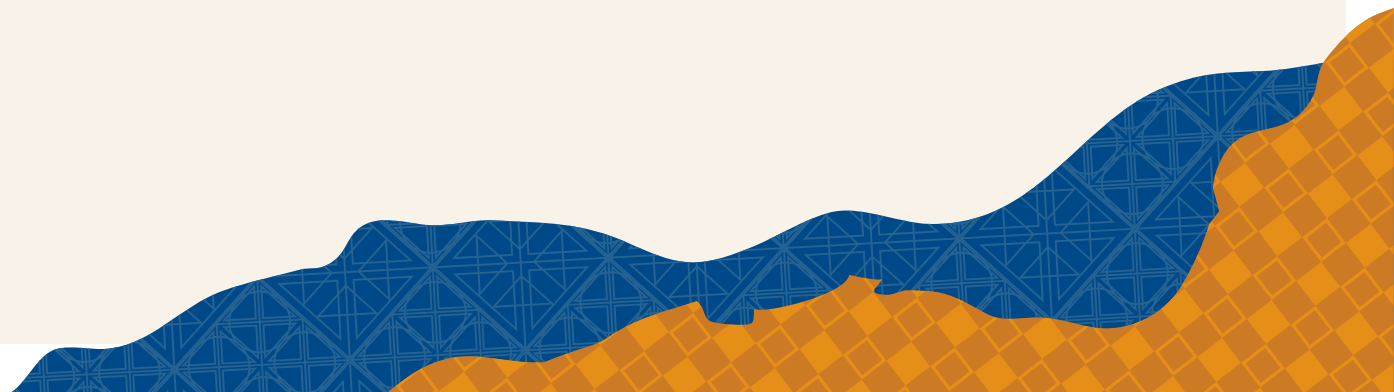
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You might be the president of your high school's Environmental Club or a weekend gardener. Maybe you're passionate about climate change, or perhaps you realize that some eco-friendly knowledge could give you a competitive edge as an accountant or entrepreneur.

Whatever your reason for caring deeply about the environment, that's a characteristic that should absolutely be top of mind as you research colleges and even career choices—and here's why.

For starters, employers are focusing on the triple bottom line—people, profit, and the planet—more than ever. Proving your knowledge in the latter part of that trifecta could give you a major edge in job interviews.

Plus, by factoring your environmental interests into your college search, you're more likely to meet like-minded friends, make incredible memories, and have actual impact before you even graduate.

So, where to begin? Right here. Put together by the environmental experts at Saint Michael's College in Vermont, this guide was designed to help students like you embrace your passion for the planet as you research and ultimately choose the right college for you.



What to look for in a college

To make sure the colleges on your list are truly places that'll kindle your eco interests, go beyond the ubiquitous "we're a green campus" statements. Do your research and ask about these things.



Relevant programs

Does their list of majors and minors include Environmental Science or Environmental Studies?



Location

Is the college in a town, city, or state where environmentalism is part of the culture?



Environmental Center

Do their academic centers include one that's dedicated to the environment?



On-Campus Farm

Is there a farm and/or natural areas on or near the campus where students and faculty study, research, and nurture?



Outdoor Classrooms

How many acres of land are there nearby for students to explore stewardship, research, and outreach in outdoor classrooms?



Student Advocacy Groups

Can you join groups in the areas of sustainability, energy conservation, farming, and the like?



Alumni Network

Is there a strong alumni network that can give career advice and connect you to opportunities?

Career considerations

Here's the great thing about majoring, minoring, or somehow engaging in the environment during your time at college: You could do so to get an edge in *whatever* career path you choose—be it biochemist, CEO, journalist, political scientist, and so on—or you could do so with the intent that your career will be completely focused on the planet. Either way, you'll have a special skill set on your résumé that the world needs more of.

To show you the range of what could lie ahead, check out some titles of Saint Michael's College grads who either studied the environment at St. Mike's or took part in related clubs:

- *Account Manager* at **Signpost**
- *Associate Attorney, Energy & Climate* at **Foley Hoag LLP**
- *Behavioral Interventionist* at **Howard Center**
- *Conservation Planner* at **American Farmland Trust**
- *Consumer Technical Insights Scientist* at **Seventh Generation**
- *Data Analyst II* at **IXIS**
- *Director of Brand & Marketing* at **1% for the Planet**
- *Global Head of Health, Safety, Environment and Security* at **Rio Tinto**
- *Lead Environmental Group Manager* at **Barclay Water Management, Inc.**
- *Lead Sourcing Specialist* at **GE**
- *Environmental Scientist* at **Stewart's Shops Corp**
- *Fluvial Geomorphologist* at **Stroud Water Research Center**
- *Patient Experience Representative* at **Boston Children's Hospital**
- *Policy Innovation Associate* at **Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance (REBA)**
- *Producer* at **Periphery Road Films, LLC**
- *Wetland Associate* at **Norse Environmental Svc**



Where to look for inspiration and talking points

In your essay, during your interview—if there’s any point during the college application process where you can stress your interest in the environment, go for it! Here are some resources and stats that could inspire you.

Websites to explore:



The World Counts
Earth
Treehugger
The Energy News Network
Grist
Living on Earth
Earth Day
Saint Michael’s College
Center for the Environment

Instagram accounts to follow:



@futureearth



@gretathunberg



@savethereef



@earthrise.studio



@impact



@greenpeace



@nrdc_org



@earthalliance



@lonelywhale



@greenmatters



@intersectionalenvironmentalist

Stats to think about:



83% OF GEN Z
YOUTH
WORRY ABOUT THE
PLANET'S HEALTH.

2021 NextGen Climate Survey



45% OF GEN Z
ADULTS
interact with
**ENVIRONMENTALLY-
FOCUSED PLATFORMS.**
(OUT OF ALL SOCIAL MEDIA USERS IN THE U.S.)

Pew Research Center Report



**THE ARCTIC IS
HEATING 2X
AS QUICKLY AS
THE REST OF THE WORLD.**

World Meteorological Organization



WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 1998,
19 of the **WARMEST YEARS**
HAVE OCCURRED SINCE 2000.

NASA



ROUGHLY 1/3 OF FOOD
INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
[ABOUT 1.3 BILLION TONS] **IS WASTED.**
THAT'S ENOUGH TO FEED 3 BILLION PEOPLE.

Earth.org

25 ways to be a steward of the Earth while in college

Chances are you already know a lot of ways to show your appreciation for the planet, but here are some new college-focused ideas to keep you motivated.

1. Invest in a good refillable water bottle.



2. Take digital notes.
3. Walk, ride your bike, or take mass transit.
4. Use less heat and air conditioning when you can.
5. Write to your congressional representatives.

6. Join or form a campus environmental group.



7. Check out the Climate Reality Project.
8. Include environmental courses in your liberal studies curriculum.
9. Go thrifting at second-hand shops with your roommates.

10. Bring a reusable tote for grocery shopping.



11. Attend the local farmers market.
12. Ask around to locate your nearest campus compost bin.
13. Save meal leftovers to avoid food waste.
14. Ask your campus coffee shop barista to fill your morning coffee up in a refillable tumbler.

15. Compile laundry loads with your friends to limit water use.



16. Try to ride share if driving is a must.
17. Wash your clothes in cold water.

18. Instead of buying something new, repurpose an item you already have.



19. Store food without plastic. Glass jars, tea towels, wooden bins, and other reusable containers do the trick!
20. Buy essentials to cut down on trips to the store.
21. Turn your computer off overnight.
22. Opt for electronic receipts, statements, and bills.
23. Plug your devices into a power strip to easily switch off the power for chargers you're not using.
24. Buy or borrow used textbooks for class.
25. Use energy-efficient light bulbs for your desk lamps while studying.

Thank you so much for checking out our guide. We hope you find it useful as you search for the right college for you. Want to learn more about Saint Michael's? Keep reading.

About Saint Michael's College

Located minutes from the quintessential college town of Burlington, Vermont, Saint Michael's College is a small, private, liberal arts college that encourages students to change the way they see and care for the world.

We're big on fostering a welcoming community, the flexibility to mix and match majors and minors, and preparing you for a career that allows you to do well and do good.

Where we are



You can be on the slopes in 30 minutes, in Montreal in less than two hours, and Boston in just over three (plus, the Burlington airport is minutes from campus).



40+

majors

4

we guarantee on-campus housing all four years

11:1

student-faculty ratio

19

average class size

480

acres of indoor-outdoor learning and recreation

21

varsity athletic teams competing in NCAA Division II

And Our Love for the Environment

While we offer a huge selection of programs and centers—from business to theatre to adventure sports—our appreciation for the environment runs through them all. Within our Center for the Environment, you'll find outdoor classrooms, a student-run farm, and plenty of student-run projects and internships.

Get to know that side of us—and why it's important to study the environment—through our students' own words...

"I think it's important to engage with our environment because we are at a point in history in which we need to heal our relationship with nature. St. Mike's provides ample opportunities to study and directly participate in making our environment more resilient.

Through disciplines like art, science, writing, farming, and volunteering, I have personally approached the study and experience of nature from several perspectives and have been developing a profound sense of respect for nature as part of our community."

– ANNA BEACH '22

"It's important to me to learn from the environment to better understand the local and international impacts of our actions and to make choices to mitigate our footprint and include all parties in the decision-making process. Saint Mike's provides an opportunity to be surrounded by the environment and much of the staff here is extremely dedicated to incorporating others into sustainable efforts."

– SAMUEL BELANGER '23

"Connecting with the environment is so important to me as a student because it reminds me of why we even put the effort into learning and growing. Getting to study the environment at Saint Michael's College is a unique experience because of the use of outdoor classrooms to improve engagement and create lessons that last long after the class or semester is over."

– GINA ATKINSON '22

"The natural world is an entity that provides a way to connect to and with others and St. Mike's has utilized the environment as a means of connection. Studying Environmental Science at St. Mike's has taught me that education reaches deeper than the surface and that understanding our surroundings will only enrich one's life experiences."

– EMILY KRUMM '22

"There are countless opportunities to be engaged with and explore the environment at Saint Mike's. Whether it's volunteering on the farm, hiking with the Adventure Sports Center, or majoring in Environmental Studies, Saint Michael's students are learning more about the field while growing as people. Engaging with the environment gives meaning to our lives because it is the place we wake up to every day."

– LAUREN BEST '24



SAINT MICHAEL'S
COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1904

What's Next?

If you have any questions about the college application process, studying the environment at college, or Saint Michael's, we're all ears.



**Contact Our
Admission Counselors**

smcvt.edu/contact-us



**Explore our Center
for the Environment**

smcvt.edu/environment



Plan a Visit

smcvt.edu/visit



Apply Now

smcvt.edu/apply