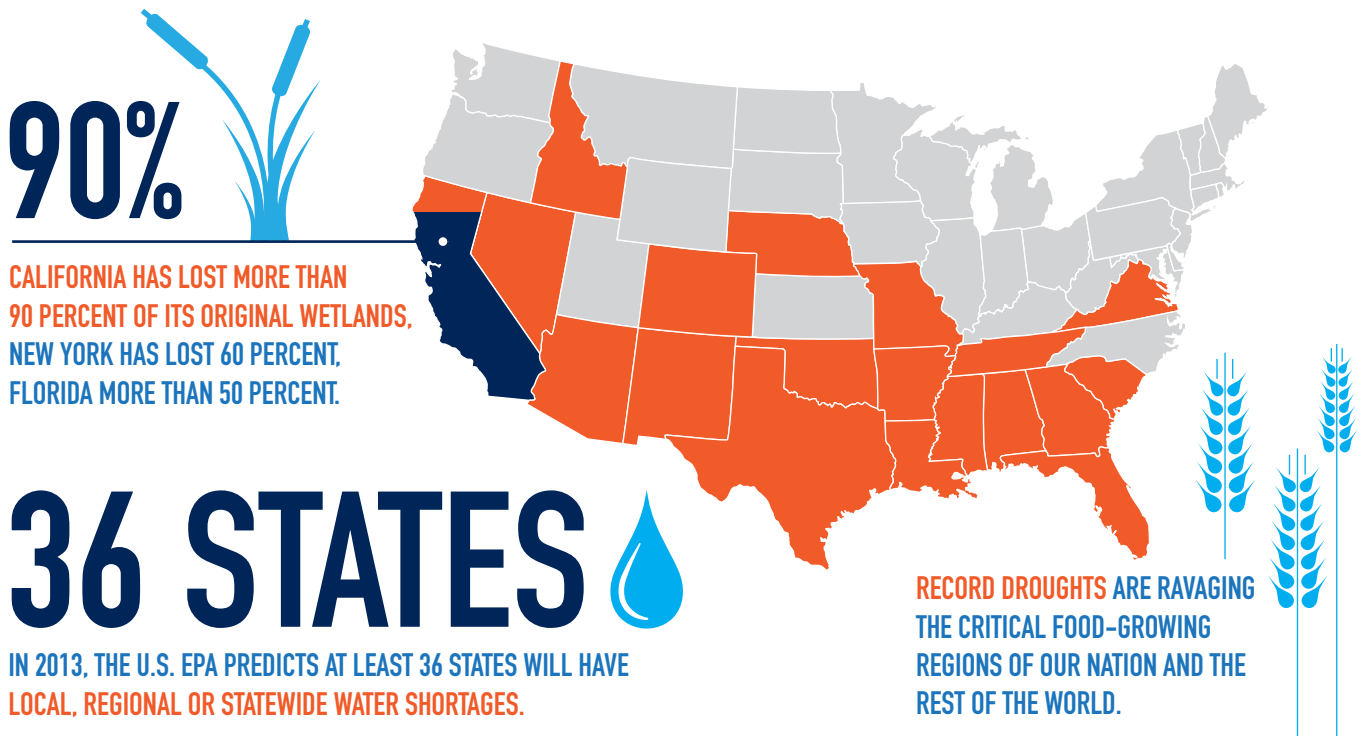



CHAPTER 2




THE ECOLOGICAL BASIS FOR GREENING SPORTS

Nature is the ultimate source of all economic value. No commerce or culture is possible without clean air and water; fertile topsoil; a chemically stable atmosphere; raw materials for food, energy and medicine; or the natural processing of waste by the millions of species inhabiting our soil, water and air. It is the availability of these wells of natural capital that makes sports and other types of human activities possible. The sports industry's increasing demand for ecologically better products can help industrial leaders understand and embrace that goal. The environmental crises we face are as serious for the future of our economy as they are for the survival of thousands of species, human cultures, and natural ecosystems across the globe. For more detail on the ecological basis underpinning the greening of sports, please see chapter two of NRDC's report "Game Changer: How the Sports Industry is Saving the Environment" at www.nrdc.org/game-changer.



 **90 MILLION TONS**

EACH DAY WE ARE ADDING ABOUT 90 MILLION TONS OF GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION TO OUR AIR. THESE EMISSIONS ARE ALREADY AFFECTING COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES— AND ACROSS THE GLOBE.

<1%   

PRESERVING THE RAINFOREST ECOSYSTEM AND THE PLANTS THAT RELY ON IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR FUTURE MEDICAL DISCOVERIES AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS. LESS THAN 1% OF THE WORLD'S TROPICAL FOREST PLANTS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PROPERTIES, YET AT LEAST 25% OF ALL MODERN DRUGS ORIGINALLY COME FROM RAINFORESTS.

633


MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION HAS IMPACTED AT LEAST 663 DIFFERENT SPECIES, INCLUDING ALL SEA TURTLE SPECIES, 1/2 OF MARINE MAMMAL SPECIES, AND 1/5 OF SEABIRD SPECIES.

SINCE 2006, THE OVERALL NUMBER OF CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES GLOBALLY HAS GROWN NEARLY 15 PERCENT, REACHING 3,427 SPECIES IN 2010.

3,427 

1/2

IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, ALMOST 3 BILLION PEOPLE, OR ABOUT HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, ALREADY LIVE IN AREAS OF SEVERE WATER STRESS, AND AN ADDITIONAL 1 BILLION PEOPLE ARE APPROACHING THAT SITUATION.

74% 

BY 2025 74 PERCENT OF THE WORLD POPULATION WILL BE LIVING IN AREAS WITH WATER STRESS.

3 BILLION PEOPLE

MOST OF HUMANITY IS NOT FINANCIALLY OR ADMINISTRATIVELY EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE DISRUPTION, INCLUDING THE LOSS OF THEIR HOMES AND HOMELAND.

ONE-THIRD OF THE PLANET
LIVES ON A DOLLAR A DAY.



HALF OF THE PLANET
LIVES ON LESS THAN TWO DOLLARS PER DAY.



GREEN INITIATIVES IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

The sports greening movement is helping to bring important environmental messages to mainstream America through conserving energy and water, recycling, and buying environmentally preferable products. Collegiate athletics and recreation departments are working with campus facilities and sustainability staff to make their operations more environmentally efficient, and more financially viable. They are also telling their many suppliers and fans about their commitment to environmental stewardship. In doing so, college sport is helping to broaden awareness about challenges facing the future of our energy, food, and medical systems, among other important environmental issues. The following statistics are based on a 2013 survey by the University of Arizona designed to help demonstrate the reach of collegiate sports greening. This information was submitted by staff from 148 institutions, representing approximately 285 sports departments*. (Please see appendix for the full results and survey methodology.)

216

At least 216 collegiate sports departments (97 athletics and 119 recreation) have installed recycling infrastructure throughout their sports facilities.



88

At least 88 collegiate sports departments (41 athletics and 47 recreation) have pursued LEED green building design certifications for new facilities, major renovations, and/or existing facilities, with at least 24 certified sports venues to date.



162

At least 162 collegiate sports departments (68 athletics and 94 recreation) have installed bike racks and other infrastructure to promote bicycle commuting at their sports venues.



146

At least 146 collegiate sports departments (60 athletics and 86 recreation) have invested in more energy-efficient practices by upgrading their lighting and controls.



122

At least 122 collegiate sports departments (50 athletics and 72 recreation) procure greener cleaning products.



116

At least 116 collegiate sports departments (50 athletics and 66 recreation) have upgraded to water-efficient fixtures.



83

At least 83 collegiate sports departments (30 athletics and 53 recreation) have implemented an environmentally preferable paper purchasing policy that includes prioritizing paper with recycled content.



23

23 collegiate sports departments (8 athletics and 15 recreation) have installed onsite solar energy production systems.



27

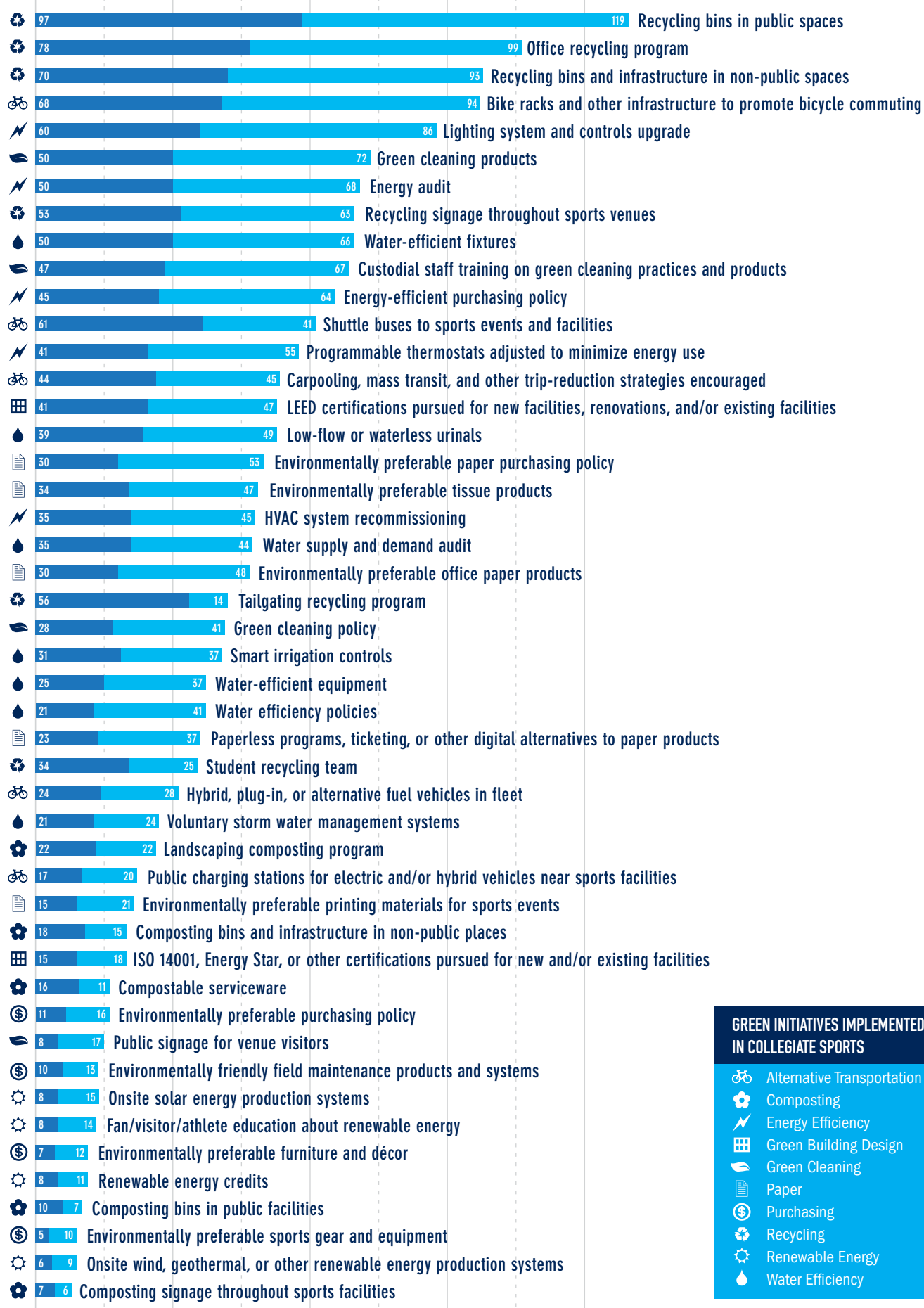
At least 27 collegiate sports departments (11 athletics and 16 recreation) have implemented an environmentally preferable purchasing policy.



* "Sports department" is defined here as an athletics department, recreation department, or combined athletics and recreation department at an institution of higher education. These aggregated statistics are based on data collected about green initiatives at 148 institutions, representing approximately 285 sports departments.

NUMBER OF COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENTS **NUMBER OF COLLEGIATE RECREATION DEPARTMENTS**

0 25 50 75 100 125 150 175 200



GREEN INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED IN COLLEGIATE SPORTS

- Alternative Transportation
- Composting
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Building Design
- Green Cleaning
- Paper
- Purchasing
- Recycling
- Renewable Energy
- Water Efficiency