

Skiing Green

Snow is a critical factor for skiing and snowboarding, so if your favorite ski resort hasn't made the connection between climate change and their resort, they clearly don't get it. Your resort should be placing a strong focus on protecting their land, water resources, energy use, waste and a lot more.

Rated by the Ski Area Citizen's Coalition, the grades are based on 35 environmental criteria in four main categories: habitat protection, watershed protection, addressing climate change, and environmental policies and practices.

An "A" grade means the resort has a strong program focused on protecting their environment. A "B" grade or below means the resort needs to ramp up their policies. Below is the 2013 list of the 6 resorts rated greenest in the US— all in the West!

Park City Mountain Resort

Park City Mountain Resort lands the top grade for sustainability with 93%. With a strong focus on habitat and watershed protection, PCMR knows their ecosystem is super important. In 2011, the resort installed a solar array and vertical wind turbine, which produce around 30,000 kWh's annually.

Stevens Pass Ski Resort

Coming in second is Stevens Pass Ski Resort in eastern Washington with a grade of 92.3%. The resort has a strong commitment to protecting and restoring the natural resources and has a long list of sustainability campaigns to reduce their impact and educate their guests.

China Peak Mtn. Resort, CA

Located up from Fresno, China Peak Mountain Resort lands 3rd place with a score of 91.7%. The western Sierra resort is dedicated to the concepts of reduce, re-use and recycle to minimize their footprint. The resort is ultra committed to protecting the forest and the land and works with Cal Poly and local nurseries to ensure the vegetation is healthy.

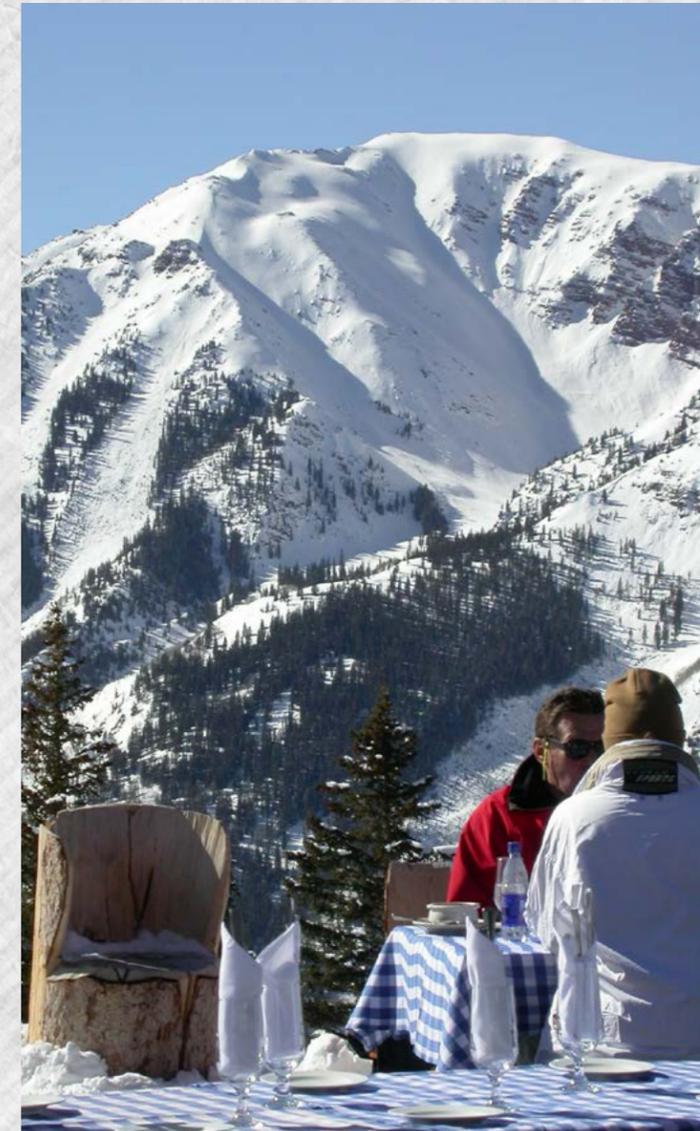


Sugar Bowl, CA

Right off I-80 near Donner Lake is Sugar Bowl the 4th greenest resort in the US with a grade of 90%. The resort is powered by 100% green energy and offers visitors the chance to offset their carbon emissions. They are also dedicated to green building with the help of energy efficiency and community education.

Deer Valley Resort, UT

Rated as the #1 Resort in the US by Ski Magazine, Deer Valley Resort in Park City is the #5 resort in terms of sustainability with a score of 89.6%. As stewards of the land, the resort has an overall sustainability plan that they work from. While they're still a bit behind when it comes to addressing climate change, the resort is on their way.



Aspen Highlands, CO

Aspen Highlands, which is part of Aspen/Snowmass in Colorado has the 6th best score with 88.3% (Aspen Mountain Ski Resort is #7). Aspen Skiing Company has a number of LEED certified buildings and has their own environmental foundation. The environmental protection program is stellar and hopefully they'll be ramping up their climate change programs soon.