



Campus Sustainability Task Force  
Status Report  
Sustainability Tracking Assessment  
Rating System (STARS)  
February 19, 2010

## STARS Overview

What is STARS?

- Voluntary
- Framework for understanding sustainability
- Comparisons over time and across institutions
- Incentives
- Information sharing
- Building a stronger sustainability community



## STARS Rating Policy

### 9 CATEGORIES-

- Administration
- Climate Change and Energy
- Food and Recycling
- Green Building
- Student Involvement
- Transportation
- Endowment Transparency
- Investment Priority Share holder Engagement.

### Rating Level:

**STARS Bronze 25**

**STARS Silver 45**

**STARS Gold 65**

**STARS Platinum 85**

**STARS Reporter**



## Co-Curricular Education

- Sustainability learning experiences outside the formal curriculum
- Institution sponsored Co-curricular activities

Environmental student group  
Campus community garden  
Recycle - Mania  
UH- green day  
Commuter fair



## UH Co-Curricular Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
ER Credit 1	Student Sustainability Educators Program	5	5
ER Credit 2	Student Sustainability Outreach Program	5	5
ER Credit 3	Sustainability in New student Orientation	2	2
ER Credit 4	Sustainability Outreach and Publication	4	4
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Co-curriculum education Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Student Group	0.25	.25
2	Organic Garden	0.25	.25
3	Model Dorm Room	0.25	0
4	Emerging Goal - Themed Housing	0.25	
5	Sustainable Enterprise	0.25	0
6	Sustainability Events	0.25	.25
7	Outdoor Programs	0.25	.25
8	Themed Semester of the Year	0.25	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>17.00</b>

STARS Co-Curricular Score = 94.44%



## Curriculum

- Training and educating future leaders about sustainability challenges
- Recognizes institutions with formal education programs and courses that address sustainability



## UH Curriculum Benchmarks

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
ER Credit 5	Emerging Goal - Sustainability Course Identification	3	
ER Credit 6	Emerging Goal - Sustainability-Focused Courses	10	
ER Credit 7	Emerging Goal -Sustainability-Related Courses	10	
ER Credit 8	Sustainability Courses by Department	7	
ER Credit 9	Sustainability Learning Outcomes	10	
ER Credit 10	Undergraduate Program in Sustainability	4	
ER Credit 11	Graduate Program in Sustainability	4	
ER Credit 12	Sustainability Immersive Experience	2	
ER Credit 13	Sustainability Literacy Assessment	2	
ER Credit 14	Incentives for Developing Sustainability Courses	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>55</b>	

STARS Curriculum Score = 0%



## Research

- ❖ Conducting research related to or focused on sustainability.
- ❖ Refining theories and concepts to help the world understand sustainability challenges and develop new technologies, strategies, and approaches to address those challenges.



## UH Research Benchmarks

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
ER Credit 15	Emerging Goal - Sustainability Research Identification	3	
ER Credit 16	Emerging Goal - Faculty Involved in Sustainability Research	10	
ER Credit 17	Departments Involved in Sustainability Research	6	
ER Credit 18	Sustainability Research Incentives	6	
ER Credit 19	Interdisciplinary Research in Tenure and Promotion	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27</b>	

STARS Research Score = 0%



## Buildings

- Recognizes taking steps to improve the sustainability performance of their buildings.
- Maintaining Indoor / Outdoor Air Quality
- Quick Facts:  
Buildings = largest user of energy & largest source of greenhouse gas emissions on campuses.



## UH Buildings Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 1	Emerging Goal - Building Operations and Maintenance	7	0.205
OP Credit 2	Emerging Goal - Building Design and Construction	4	0.12
OP Credit 3	Indoor Air Quality	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>2.205</b>

STARS Building Score = 17.88%



## Climate

- Recognizes measurements and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Global warming includes increased frequency and potency =
  1. sea level rise
  2. species extinction
  3. water shortages
  4. declining agricultural production
  5. spread of diseases
  6. extreme weather events



## UH Climate Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 5	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory	2	2
OP Credit 6	Emerging Goal - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction	14	
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Climate Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Emerging Goal - Air Travel Emissions	0.25	
2	Local Offsets Program	0.25	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16.50</b>	<b>2</b>

STARS Climate Score =12.12 %



## Dining Services

- Recognizes building a sustainable food system
- Definition of Sustainable food: The produce is bought within 250 miles of the University.
- Quick Facts:  
Long-distance transportation of food = greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution
- Dining Services=important role in conserving energy and water, reducing waste, and purchasing environmentally preferable materials
- STARS measures these impacts across the institution; capturing benefits in the Energy, Water, Waste and Purchasing subcategories



## UH Dining Services Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 6	Food Purchasing	6	0.24
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Dining Services Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Trayless Dining	0.25	.25
2	Vegetarian and Vegan Dining	0.25	.25
3	Trans-Fats	0.25	.25
4	Guidelines for Franchisees	0.25	.25
5	Pre-Consumer Food Waste Composting	0.25	.25
6	Post-Consumer Food Waste Composting	0.25	.25
7	Food Donation	0.25	0
8	Recycled Content Napkins	0.25	.25
9	Reusable Mug Discounts	0.25	.25
10	Reusable To-Go Containers	0.25	.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8.50</b>	<b>2.49</b>

STARS Dining Services Score = 29.29%



## Energy

- Reduce energy consumption
- Cleaner and renewable sources of energy  
i.e. solar, wind, geothermal, and low-impact hydropower
- Quick Facts:
  - Energy consumption is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, which cause global warming
  - Energy consumption for 2008-2009 was 194MKWh/yr = Energy for 19,000 homes/yr
  - Cost: \$15million/yr
  - Switching off all the computers and laptops can possibly save up to \$250,000/yr



## UH Energy Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 7	Building Energy Consumption	8	8
OP Credit 8	Clean and Renewable Energy	7	0.0003
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Energy Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Timers for Temperature Control	0.25	.25
2	Lighting Sensors	0.25	.25
3	LED Lighting	0.25	.25
4	Emerging Goal - Vending Machine Sensors	0.25	
5	Energy Management System	0.25	.25
6	Energy Metering	0.25	.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16.50</b>	<b>8.2503</b>

STARS Energy Score = 56.06%



## Grounds

- Recognizes institutions that plan and maintain their grounds with sustainability in mind.
- Minimizing the use of:
  - toxic chemicals
  - protecting wildlife habitat
  - conserving water and resources



## UH Ground Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 9	Integrated Pest Management	2	0
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Grounds Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Native Plants	0.25	.25
2	Wildlife Habitat	0.25	.25
3	Tree Campus USA	0.25	0
4	Snow and Ice Removal	0.25	0
5	Compost	0.25	.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3.25</b>	<b>0.75</b>

STARS Ground Score =23.07 %



## Purchasing

- Recognizes institutions that are using their purchasing power to help build a sustainable economy.
- Purchasing decision = opportunity for institutions to choose environmentally and socially preferable products, services and support companies with strong commitments to sustainability.



## UH Purchasing Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 10	Computer Purchasing	2	0
OP Credit 11	Cleaning Products Purchasing	2	0
OP Credit 12	Office Paper Purchasing – Emerging Goal	2	
OP Credit 13	Vendor Code of Conduct	1	0
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Purchasing Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Historically Underutilized Businesses	0.25	.25
2	Local Businesses	0.25	.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7.50</b>	<b>.5</b>

STARS Purchasing Score =6.67 %



## Transportation

- Recognize institutions that are moving towards sustainable transport systems
- Transportation = major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants
- Institutions may realize cost savings and help support local economies by reducing their dependency on petroleum based fuels for transportation.
- Quick Fact:  
1 gallon of fuel burned by a vehicle releases 19 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere



## UH Transportation Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 14	Campus Fleet	2	0.35
OP Credit 15	Student Commute Modal Split	4	0.612
OP Credit 16	Employee Commute Modal Split	3	0.41
Tier Two	<i>Transportation Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Bicycle Sharing	0.25	0
2	Facilities for Bicyclists	0.25	0
3	Bicycle Plan	0.25	0
4	Mass Transit	0.25	.25
5	Condensed Work Week	0.25	0
6	Telecommuting	0.25	0
7	Emerging Goal - Carpool Matching	0.25	
8	Cash-out of Parking	0.25	0
9	Carpool Discount	0.25	.25
10	Local Housing	0.25	0
11	Emerging Goal - Prohibiting Idling	0.25	
12	Emerging Goal - Car Sharing	0.25	.
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>1.872</b>

STARS Transportation Score =15.60 %



## Waste Reduction

➤ Recognizes institutions that are moving toward zero waste by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting.

➤ Quick Fact:

- Cost of disposing the garbage in the landfill = \$50,000/yr
- 2008-2009 waste diversion was 26%
- Recycle Mania 2009 waste diversion was 33%



## UH Waste Reduction Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 17	Waste Reduction	5	0
OP Credit 18	Waste Diversion	3	0.715
OP Credit 19	Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion	1	0.211
OP Credit 20	Electronic Waste Recycling Program	1	0.5
OP Credit 21	Hazardous Waste Management	1	1
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Waste Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Materials Exchange	0.25	.25
2	Limiting Printing	0.25	.25
3	Materials Online	0.25	.25
4	Chemical Reuse Inventory	0.25	.25
5	Move-In Waste Reduction- Emerging goal	0.25	
6	Move-Out Waste Reduction- Emerging goal	0.25	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12.50</b>	<b>3.426</b>

STARS Waste Score = 27.41%



## UH Water Definition

- Recognizes institutions conserving water and protecting water quality
- Reduce energy consumption and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy generation by conserving water.
- Quick Fact:  
Water consumption in 2008-2009 was 358Mgallons which is 17% less than 2004-2005



## UH Water Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
OP Credit 22	Water Consumption	7	4.76
OP Credit 23	Storm water Management	2	2
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Water Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Waterless Urinals	0.25	.25
2	Building Water Metering	0.25	.25
3	Non-Potable Water Usage	0.25	.25
4	Xeriscaping	0.25	0
5	Weather-Informed Irrigation	0.25	.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10.25</b>	<b>7.76</b>

STARS Water Score = 75.7%



## Co-ordination and Planning

- Dedicate resources to sustainability coordination, incorporating sustainability into their primary campus plans, and developing plans to move towards sustainability.
- Staff and other resources help an institution organize, implement, and publicize sustainability initiatives.
- These resources provide the infrastructure that fosters sustainability within an institution.
- These important documents establish an institution's priorities and influence budgeting and decision making.
- Sustainability plans and climate plans provide a road map for how to achieve sustainability goals.



## UH Co-ordination and Planning Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
PAE Credit 1	Sustainability Coordination	3	3
PAE Credit 2	Strategic Plan	6	6
PAE Credit 3	Physical Campus Plan	4	4
PAE Credit 4	Sustainability Plan	3	3
PAE Credit 5	Emerging Goal - Climate Plan	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>

STARS Score = 88.89 %



## Diversity and Affordability

- Recognize institutions that are working to advance diversity and affordability on campus.
- People of color and low-income communities tend to suffer disproportionate exposure to environmental problems.
- Higher education opens doors to opportunities that can help create a more equitable world.
- In addition, a diverse student body, faculty, and staff provide rich resources for learning and collaboration.



## UH Diversity and Affordability Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
PAE Credit 6	Diversity and Equity Coordination	2	2
PAE Credit 7	Measuring Campus Diversity Culture	2	2
PAE Credit 8	Support Programs for Under-Represented Groups	2	2
PAE Credit 9	Support Programs for Future Faculty	4	4
PAE Credit 10	Affordability and Access Programs	3	0
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Diversity and Affordability Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Gender Neutral Housing	0.25	0
2	Employee Training Opportunities	0.25	.25
3	Student Training Opportunities	0.25	.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13.75</b>	<b>10.50</b>

STARS Score =76.36 %



## Human Resources

- Recognize institutions that have incorporated sustainability into their human resources programs and policies.
- Investment in human resources is integral to the achievement of a healthy and sustainable balance between human capital, natural capital, and financial capital.
- In addition, this subcategory recognizes faculty and staff training and development programs in sustainability.
- Equipping faculty and staff with the tools, knowledge, and motivation to adopt behavior changes that promote sustainability is an essential activity of a sustainable campus.



## UH Human Resources Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
PAE Credit 11	Sustainable Compensation	8	8
PAE Credit 12	Employee Satisfaction Evaluation	2	2
PAE Credit 13	Staff Professional Development in Sustainability- Emerging Goal	2	
PAE Credit 14	Sustainability in New Employee Orientation	2	2
PAE Credit 15	Employee Sustainability Educators Program- Emerging Goal	5	
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Human Resources Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Childcare	0.25	.25
2	Employee Wellness Program	0.25	.25
3	Socially Responsible Retirement Plan	0.25	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>19.75</b>	<b>12.50</b>

STARS Score =63.29 %



## Investment

- Recognize institutions that make investment decisions that promote sustainability
- Schools with transparent and democratic investment processes promote accountability and engagement by the campus and community
- Investing in these companies also supports the development of sustainable products and services



## UH Investment Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
PAE Credit 16	Committee on Socially Responsible Investment	2	2
PAE Credit 17	Shareholder Advocacy	5	0
PAE Credit 18	Positive Sustainability Investments	9	0
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Investment Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Student-Managed SRI Fund	0.25	0
2	Socially Responsible Investment Policy	0.25	0.25
3	Investment Disclosure	0.25	0.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16.75</b>	<b>2.5</b>

STARS Score = 14.93%



## Public Engagement

- This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that give back to their communities through community service, engagement, and partnerships.
- Community engagement can help students develop leadership skills while deepening their understandings of practical, real-world problems.
- For example, faculty research and courses can focus on how to address community problems.



## UH Public Engagement Benchmark

Credit number	Credit Title	STARS possible points	UH Actual points
PAE Credit 19	Community Sustainability Partnerships	2	2
PAE Credit 20	Inter-Campus Collaboration on Sustainability	2	2
PAE Credit 21	Emerging Goal - Sustainability in Continuing Education	7	
PAE Credit 22	Emerging Goal - Community Service Participation	6	
PAE Credit 23	Emerging Goal - Community Service Hours	6	
PAE Credit 24	Sustainability Policy Advocacy	4	0
PAE Credit 25	Trademark Licensing	4	2
<i>Tier Two</i>	<i>Public Engagement Tier Two Credits</i>		
1	Emerging Goal - Graduation Pledge	0.25	
2	Community Service on Transcripts	0.25	0
3	Farmers' Markets	0.25	0.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>31.75</b>	<b>6.25</b>

STARS Score =19.69%



Current UH STARS Score=36.55%  
Current STARS Ranking Would Be:  
Bronze





THANK YOU