STARS 3.0

Innovation & Leadership Credit Catalog

May 2024

Overview

This document details the Innovation & Leadership (IL) credits that are available in version 3.0 of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). IL credits are optional and recognize institutions that are seeking innovative solutions to sustainability challenges and demonstrating sustainability leadership in ways that are not otherwise captured in STARS. These credits recognize:

- Initiatives and outcomes that are a step beyond what is recognized in a standard credit (e.g., achieving third party certification for a program or exceeding the highest criterion of an existing credit).

- Exemplary initiatives and outcomes that are only relevant to a minority of institution types or regions (e.g., participation in green hospital networks).

- Emerging best practices (e.g., calculating an institution's nitrogen footprint).

- Innovative programs and initiatives that address sustainability challenges and are not covered by an existing credit.

An institution may claim a specific IL credit in multiple reports as long as the criteria are still being met at the time of submission.

Scoring

Each IL credit is worth 1 bonus point. Partial points are available for some credits.

An institution may add any number or combination of these credits to its STARS report, including up to five open-ended Innovation credits (see IL 65 through 69), however the maximum number of bonus points applied toward scoring is 10. These bonus points are added to the total number of points earned by an institution. For example, if an institution earned 115 points out of 250 points available across Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration, earning 10 IL points would result in 125 points earned out of 250 points available for an overall score of 50.

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Reporting Methodologies

IL 1: Reporting Assurance

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has obtained **external assurance** that all of the information in the institution's current STARS report is reported in accordance with credit criteria. Partial points are available. An institution earns 0.5 bonus points when it has completed its own comprehensive independent review process to identify and resolve inconsistencies and errors in the institution's STARS report prior to submitting it to AASHE, but has not obtained external assurance.

Measurement

The review process(es) reported for this credit must be guided by and documented in the STARS Review Template (available for download from the [STARS website](#)). To qualify, each credit that has been substantively updated since the institution's previous report must be reviewed and any inconsistencies or errors that are identified must be successfully resolved prior to submitting the report to AASHE.

Independent review may include personnel affiliated with the institution as long as they are not involved in data collection for the credits they review. Other forms of internal review and data quality controls, while valuable, do not qualify for this credit and should be documented instead in *PRE 4: Reporting Methodologies*.

Please note that all reports are subject to review by AASHE staff prior to publication, which may require additional revisions. AASHE reserves the right to withhold points for this credit if it is determined that the review process was clearly unsuccessful in identifying and resolving inconsistencies or errors (e.g., when AASHE staff identify a significant number of issues not captured in the completed review template). Published reports are also subject to public data inquiries and periodic audits by AASHE staff.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has a peer reviewer or third party assurance provider provided affirmation that all of the information in the report is reported in accordance with credit criteria?

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Letter of affirmation from the peer reviewer or third party assurance provider that all of the information in the institution's current STARS report is reported in accordance with credit criteria. Upload.

  If No, the following field is also required:

- ○ Has the institution completed its own comprehensive independent review process to identify and resolve inconsistencies and errors in its current STARS report prior to submitting it to AASHE?

- Narrative outlining the institution's review process (required)

- Name, title, and organizational affiliation of each reviewer (required)

- Completed STARS Review Template (required). Upload.

If multiple reviews were completed, additional documentation may be uploaded in the Reporting Tool:

- Completed STARS Review Template (second review). Upload.

- Completed STARS Review Template (third review). Upload.

IL 2: Data Quality Certificate

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when a valid STARS 3.0 Data Quality Certificate from AASHE is held by:

A. One or more individuals who are leading the institution's STARS data collection process (e.g., the institution's STARS Liaison or primary contact)

   AND

B. One or more individuals who have completed a comprehensive review of the current STARS report (e.g., a reviewer or assurance provider tasked with verifying that the information in the report is reported in accordance with credit criteria).

Partial points are available. An institution that meets one, but not both criteria, earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on currently valid certificates held by personnel involved in preparing the institution's current STARS report.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Do one or more of the individuals who are leading the institution's STARS data collection process hold a valid STARS 3.0 Data Quality Certificate from AASHE? (required). For example, the institution's STARS Liaison or primary contact.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  ○ List of certificate-holding individuals leading the institution's data collection process

- Do one or more of the individuals who have completed a comprehensive review of the current STARS report hold a valid STARS 3.0 Data Quality Certificate from AASHE? (required). For example, a reviewer or assurance provider tasked with verifying that the information in the report is reported in accordance with credit criteria.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  ○ List of certificate-holding individuals who have completed a comprehensive review of the current STARS report

Curriculum

IL 3: Sustainability Course Inventory

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has conducted a comprehensive inventory of its **course** offerings within the previous three years to identify the **sustainability challenges** or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed by each course.

Measurement

Report on comprehensive course inventories completed within the previous three years. To qualify, the process used to complete the inventory must be inclusive of all academic course offerings or equivalent units of instruction (e.g., modules or subjects) and the completed inventory must, at minimum, include the title of each course and any corresponding sustainability challenges. A list of suggested keywords to help identify sustainability challenges is available for download from the STARS website.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution conducted a comprehensive inventory within the previous three years to identify the sustainability challenges or SDGs addressed by each course? (required)

  If Yes, the following two fields are also required:

  - Copy of the sustainability course inventory. Upload.

  - Description of the methodology used to complete the course inventory. Include information about how sustainability challenges or SDGs were identified (e.g., a keyword search coupled with a review and validation process), the definitions used, and how multiple offerings or sections were accounted for.

IL 4: Sustainability Course Designation

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it formally designates sustainability **course** offerings from multiple academic departments or units in its official course catalog or listing.

Measurement

Report on current policies and practices.

The designation might take the form of an identifying symbol or code to help students distinguish sustainability courses from other courses (e.g., a sustainability filter in an online catalog or a sustainability tag in a printed catalog). Identification of courses offered by a sustainability-focused academic subdivision (e.g., courses offered by a Sustainability Studies department and denoted with a "SUST" prefix) is not sufficient in the absence of course-level designations that encompass courses offered by multiple departments or units.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution formally designate sustainability course offerings from multiple academic departments or units in its official course catalog or listings? (required)

  If Yes, the following descriptive field and at least one form of evidence (document or website URL) are required:

  - Description of the sustainability course designation program. Include the methodology used to identify and approve courses for inclusion.

  - Published course catalog where the sustainability course designations appear. Upload.

  - Official online listings where the sustainability course designations appear. Website URL.

IL 5: Open Online Sustainability Course

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it offers a free, sustainability-focused course on the public internet, e.g., a massive open online course (MOOC) or the equivalent with a primary and explicit focus on sustainability.

Measurement

Report on courses that have enrolled students within the previous three years. To qualify, a course must have a dedicated instructor, include instructional materials and assessments, and have an established structure (e.g., an expected time commitment, a syllabus or calendar, and a mechanism for learner engagement). Continuing education courses that are free and otherwise meet the criteria are included.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution offer a free, sustainability-focused course on the public internet?

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's free, online sustainability course

Research

IL 6: Sustainability Research Inventory

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has conducted a comprehensive inventory of its **research** within the previous three years to identify the **sustainability challenges** or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed by each project, publication, and/or researcher.

Measurement

Report on comprehensive research inventories completed within the previous three years. To qualify, the process used to complete the inventory must be inclusive of all academic employees that conduct research, all funded research projects, and/or all published scholarly work. Community-based research and engaged scholarship should be included to the extent feasible. A list of suggested keywords to help identify sustainability challenges is available for download from the STARS website.

Documentation

- Has the institution conducted a comprehensive inventory of its research within the previous three years to identify the sustainability challenges or SDGs addressed by each project, publication, and/or researcher? (required)

  If Yes, the following two fields are also required:

  - Copy of the sustainability research inventory. Upload.

  - Description of the methodology used to complete the research inventory. Include information about how sustainability research was identified (e.g., a keyword search coupled with a review and validation process) and the definitions and timeframes used.

IL 7: External Funding Disclosure

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it publishes or requires its researchers to publish all external **funding** in a format that allows the public to identify potential conflicts of interest, e.g., by embedding a financial interest disclosure in the text of published work. Partial points are available. An institution that publishes or requires its researchers to publish all external funding from at least one targeted sector (e.g., the fossil fuel industry) earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on current policies and practices.

To qualify, an institution must require funding disclosure irrespective of whether or not individual journals require disclosure. A policy or practice that simply defers to the policies of the journals in which research is published does not qualify.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution publish or require its researchers to publish all external funding in a format that allows the public to identify potential conflicts of interest? (required)

    If No, the following field is also required:

    - Does the institution publish or require its researchers to publish all external funding from at least one targeted sector? For example, the fossil fuel industry.

    If Yes to either of the preceding fields, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL outlining the institution's means of publicly disclosing external research funding

IL 8: Open Access Journal Hosting

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it provides **open access** journal hosting services directly or through participation in a consortium.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's programs. To qualify, there must be dedicated staff who provide publishing support at no or minimal cost.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution provide open access journal hosting services directly or through participation in a consortium? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Description of the open access journal hosting services. Include sufficient information to justify claiming points for this credit, i.e., whether the journal(s) are hosted directly or through a consortium and the publishing support that is provided.

Campus Engagement

IL 9: Fair Trade Campus

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is designated as a Fair Trade College or University by Fairtrade International/FLO, a Fairtrade/FLO member organization (e.g., Fairtrade Canada), Fair Trade Campaigns USA, or AASHE-approved equivalent in countries these options are not available.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's designation.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution currently designated as a Fair Trade College or University?

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

    ○ Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's Fair Trade designation

IL 10: Green Athletics Program

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has or participates in a green athletics program, as evidenced by published sustainability criteria or standards by which athletic events, departments, and/or teams are assessed.

Measurement

Report on currently available criteria or standards. Examples may include published guidelines, checklists, policies, or assessment criteria.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have or participate in a green athletics program? For example, zero waste or carbon neutral athletic events and/or a sustainability-focused assessment program for athletic teams or departments.

  If Yes, the following fields is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL outlining the sustainability criteria or standards by which the institution's athletic events, departments, and/or teams are assessed

IL 11: Green Events Program

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has or participates in a green events certification/recognition program, as evidenced by published sustainability criteria or standards by which events are assessed and one or more qualifying green events held within the previous three years.

Measurement

Report on currently available criteria or standards and events held during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have or participate in a green events certification/recognition program? (required)

  If Yes, the two field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL outlining the sustainability criteria or standards by which the institution's events are assessed. Website URL.

- Has the institution held one or more qualifying green events within the previous three years? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of at least one qualifying green event

IL 12: Green Laboratory Program

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when at least 50 percent of its laboratories are certified by My Green Lab or an equivalent green laboratory program. Partial points are available. An institution that has at least one certified laboratory earns 0.5 points.

Measurement

Report on the current certification status of the institution's **laboratories**. A certification program may be administered by the institution or a third party, but must be focused on laboratory sustainability to qualify.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Percentage of laboratories certified by My Green Lab or an equivalent green laboratory program (required)
    - 75 to 100
    - 50 to 74
    - 25 to 49
    - 1 to 24

- Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's green laboratory certifications (required)

IL 13: Sustainable Library Certification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has one or more libraries with a current certification from the Sustainable Libraries Initiative or an equivalent national or international third party recognition program for sustainable libraries approved by AASHE.

Measurement

Report on the current certification status of the institution's libraries.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have one or more libraries with a current certification from the Sustainable Libraries Initiative or an equivalent national or international third party recognition program approved by AASHE? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's sustainable library certification

Public Engagement

IL 14: Addressing Historic Injustices

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has partnered with the communities impacted by its historic involvement in slavery, land theft, and/or other injustices to develop and implement a program of atonement, reparation, or repatriation. Partial points are available. An institution that has taken steps to publicly acknowledge and address its historic involvement in slavery, land theft, and/or other injustices, but does not fully meet the criteria outlined above earns 0.5 points.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's programs and initiatives.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution taken steps to publicly acknowledge and address its historic involvement in slavery, land theft, and/or other injustices? (required). This may include, for example, participation on a commission or in a consortium with other institutions that is focused on acknowledging and addressing historic injustices, and similar actions.

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL outlining the steps take to acknowledge and address the institution's historic involvement in injustices

- Has the institution partnered with the communities impacted by its historic involvement in injustices to develop and implement a program of atonement, reparation, or repatriation? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL outlining the institution's partnerships to structure a formal atonement, reparation, or repatriation program

IL 15: Anchor Learning Network

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is currently participating in the Anchor Learning Network (a project of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities) or an equivalent national or international network for **anchor institutions** approved by AASHE.

Measurement

Report on the institution's current participation status.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution currently participating in the Anchor Learning Network or an equivalent national or international network for anchor institutions approved by AASHE?

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

    ○ Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's participation in an external network for anchor institutions

IL 16: Community Engagement Assessment

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it:

A. Currently holds the Carnegie Foundation's Elective Classification for Community Engagement

   AND/OR

B. Has conducted a comprehensive assessment of its community engagement activities using the SHEFCE (TEFCE) Toolbox or AASHE-approved equivalent and publicly reported the results.

Measurement

Report on current classification status and/or assessments conducted within the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution currently hold the Carnegie Foundation's Elective Classification for Community Engagement? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Year the community engagement classification was awarded

- Has the institution conducted a comprehensive assessment of its community engagement activities using the SHEFCE (TEFCE) Toolbox or AASHE-approved equivalent and publicly reported the results? (required)

  If Yes, the following two fields are also required:

  - Description of the tool or framework used to conduct the community engagement assessment

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's most recent community engagement assessment results

IL 17: Community Partnerships Inventory

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has conducted an inventory of its **community partnerships** within the previous three years to identify the **sustainability challenges** or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed by each partnership.

Measurement

Report on inventories conducted during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution conducted an inventory of its community partnerships within the previous three years to identify the specific sustainability challenges or SDGs addressed by each partnership? (required)

    If Yes, the following two fields are also required:

    - Copy of the community partnerships inventory. Upload.

    - Description of the methodology used to complete the partnerships inventory. Include information about how community partnerships for sustainability were identified (e.g., a keyword search coupled with a review and validation process) and the definitions used.

IL 18: Continuing Education Inventory

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has conducted an inventory of its **continuing education** courses/programs within the previous three years to identify the **sustainability challenges** or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed by each course or program.

Measurement

Report on inventories conducted during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution conducted an inventory of its continuing education courses/programs within the previous three years to identify the specific sustainability challenges or SDGs addressed by each course or program? (required)

  If Yes, the following two fields are also required:

  - Copy of the continuing education course/program inventory. Upload.

  - Description of the methodology used to complete the continuing education inventory. Include information about how continuing education courses or programs for sustainability were identified (e.g., a keyword search coupled with a review and validation process) and the definitions used.

IL 19: Hospital Network

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has an affiliated healthcare facility that is a member or active participant of one or more of the following:
- Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH)
- Healthcare Anchor Network (HAN)
- Practice Greenhealth
- An equivalent national or international health care network or program for sustainability approved by AASHE

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's affiliated healthcare facilities (e.g., acute care facilities, clinics, hospitals, and health systems).

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have an affiliated healthcare facility that is currently participating in a recognized healthcare network or program for sustainability? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's participation in a recognized healthcare network or program for sustainability

IL 20: Lobbying Disclosure

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it publicly and comprehensively discloses its **lobbying** efforts, as evidenced by a website or regularly published report that details the efforts taken by the institution and/or its representatives to make their positions or views about laws, policies, and/or government practices known to politicians and public officials.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's policies and/or practices and the most recent documentation available from within the previous three years.

To qualify, an institution must proactively disclose its lobbying efforts through its own channels. External websites and reports do not qualify in the absence of these proactive efforts.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution publicly and comprehensively disclose its lobbying efforts? (required)

  If Yes, at least one of the following two fields is also required:

  - Online resource documenting the institution's lobbying efforts. Website URL.

  - Publication documenting the institution's lobbying efforts. Upload.

IL 21: PILOT Program

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it participates in a **payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT)** or equivalent program designed to compensate local authorities for public funds lost due to the institution's tax exempt properties or status.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's programs.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution participate in a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) or equivalent program? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Description of the payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) or equivalent program

IL 22: Trademark Licensing Monitoring and Verification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is a member of the Fair Labor Association (FLA), the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC), or – for institutions that are ineligible for FLA or WRC membership – an equivalent independent trademark licensing monitoring and verification organization approved by AASHE.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's membership. The companies, suppliers, and licensees that an institution works with may also participate in monitoring and verification organizations, thereby helping to ensure fair labor practices are applied throughout the supply chain, however these activities are not sufficient to earn points in this credit.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution currently a member of a qualifying trademark licensing monitoring and verification organization? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's membership of a qualifying trademark licensing monitoring and verification organization

IL 23: Voter Education and Participation

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it meets both of the following criteria:

    A. Institution's highest student voter participation rate in a local or national election or referendum held during the previous five years is 80 percent or more OR institution has earned a Platinum Seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (US) within the previous three years.

    B. Institution has been recognized for its leadership in voter education and support by one of the following programs during the previous three years:
- Champion Campus or Best in Class Campus (ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge)
- Voter Friendly Campus (US)
- An equivalent national or international leadership recognition program approved by AASHE

Partial points are available. An institution that meets one of the criteria earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on voter participation rates from within the previous five years and/or recognition received during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool, with the percentage figure provided within a range from 0 to 100. At least one of the following fields is required.

- Institution's highest student voter participation rate in a local or national election or referendum held during the previous five years. Report the percentage of students voting.

  If 80 percent or more, the following field is also required:

  - Description of the election or referendum in which the participation rate was achieved

- Has the institution earned a Platinum Seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge within the previous three years?

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's Platinum Seal

- Has the institution been recognized for its leadership in voter education and support by a qualifying program during the previous three years? Champion Campus, Best in Class Campus, Voter Friendly Campus, or AASHE-approved equivalent.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

- ○ Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's student voter education and support award or designation

Buildings & Grounds

IL 24: Biodiversity Assessment

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has conducted a baseline biodiversity assessment that is inclusive of the entire campus, was conducted or supervised by one or more trained biodiversity assessors, and is currently used to protect or positively affect the areas of biodiversity importance and endangered or vulnerable species identified. Partial points are available. An institution that has conducted a less comprehensive biodiversity assessment within the previous three years (e.g., an assessment covering a subset of the campus) earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on comprehensive baseline assessments that are currently used by the institution and less comprehensive assessments that were conducted within the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution conducted a baseline biodiversity assessment that is inclusive of the entire campus? (required)

  If Yes, the following three fields are also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL outlining the methodology and results of the institution's biodiversity assessment. Include the online location of the assessment report and/or information about the scope and timeframe of the assessment, the personnel who conducted/supervised the assessment and their qualifications, and identified areas of biodiversity importance.

  - List of endangered and vulnerable species with habitats on campus, by level of extinction risk

  - Narrative outlining how the baseline biodiversity assessment is used to protect or positively affect the areas and species identified. For example, ongoing monitoring, habitat conservation, and/or a biodiversity plan.

- Has the institution conducted a less comprehensive biodiversity assessment within the previous three years? For example, a formal bird census or a habitat survey covering one section of campus.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Description of the institution's less comprehensive biodiversity assessment. Include information on the methodology used and how the results are published and used.

IL 25: Grounds Certification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when at least 50 percent of its managed grounds are certified to an organic landscaping or ecological land management standard. Partial points are available. An institution with certified grounds totaling less than 50 percent of the total area of managed grounds earns 0.5 bonus points.

An updated list of qualifying standards is available in the [STARS Help Center](#).

Measurement

Report on the current certification status of the institution and/or its grounds. Areas that are not routinely maintained or are predominantly maintained by entities other than the institution's in-house and/or contracted landscaping/grounds services may be excluded (e.g., natural/semi-natural areas and agricultural land).

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Percentage of managed grounds certified to one or more qualifying organic landscaping or ecological land management standards (required)
  - 75 to 100
  - 50 to 74
  - 25 to 49
  - 1 to 24

- Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's certified grounds (required)

IL 26: High Performance Building Certification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has at least one building that is certified at the highest achievable level under a **green building rating system** (i.e., Living, Platinum, Outstanding, or equivalent).

An updated list of qualifying standards is available in the STARS Help Center.

Measurement

Report on the current certification status of the institution's buildings.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have at least one building that is certified at the highest achievable level under a green building rating system? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's certified high performance buildings

IL 27: Infrastructure Certification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when at least one of its infrastructure projects completed within the previous five years is third party certified under a sustainable infrastructure rating system (e.g., (e.g., BREEAM Infrastructure, Envision, PEER, or SITES).

An updated list of qualifying standards is available in the STARS Help Center.

Measurement

Report on the certifications awarded and infrastructure projects completed within the previous five years. Infrastructure projects include, but are not limited to, the construction or renovation of bridges, canals, dams, drainage and flood alleviation, landscapes, levees, parks, power generating stations, recycling facilities, roads, stormwater management systems, water treatment plants, and wind farms.

Building certifications (e.g., LEED BD+C and Parksmart) are addressed in other credits and do not qualify here.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have at least one infrastructure project completed within the previous five years that is third party certified under a sustainable infrastructure rating system? (required)

   If Yes, the following field is also required:

   ○ Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's certified infrastructure projects

IL 28: Water Footprint or Balance

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has published its **water footprint** or a **sustainable water balance assessment** within the previous three years.

Measurement

Report on analyses published within the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution published its water footprint or a sustainable water balance assessment within the previous three years? (required)

  If Yes, the following field and at least one of the two subsequent fields is also required:

    - Narrative outlining the methodology used to calculate the institution's water footprint or sustainable water balance

    - Copy of the institution's water footprint or sustainable water balance report. Upload.

    - Website URL where the institution's water footprint or sustainable water balance report may be found

IL 29: Zero Emission Grounds Equipment

Criteria

An institution earns the maximum of 1 bonus point available for this credit when it is able to demonstrate that at least 90 percent of the equipment used by its landscaping/grounds services is zero emission (i.e., human or electric powered) equipment.

Measurement

Report on the most recent data available from within the previous three years. Motorized vehicles that are reported in the Vehicle Fleet credit should be excluded.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution able to demonstrate that at least 90 percent of the equipment used by its landscaping/grounds services is zero emission? (required). For example, 90 percent of items or 90 percent of operating time.

  If Yes, at least one of the following two fields is also required:

  - Online resource affirming that the 90 percent target for zero emission landscape maintenance equipment has been reached. Website URL. For example, a press release or a policy that restricts the use of gasoline-powered equipment.

  - Document affirming that the 90 percent target for zero emission landscape maintenance equipment has been reached. Upload. For example, a letter of affirmation or equipment inventory.

- Description of the institution's transition to zero emission landscape maintenance equipment (optional). Include information about any gasoline powered equipment still in use, e.g., for emergency purposes.

Energy & Climate

IL 30: Energy System Certification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point for having an energy management system (EMS) or electricity delivery system (e.g., microgrid) that is certified under ISO 50001, PEER, or an equivalent national or international standard approved by AASHE. Partial points are available. An institution that has successfully completed the US Department of Energy's 50001 Ready program or AASHE-approved equivalent earns 0.5 bonus points.

An updated list of qualifying standards is available in the [STARS Help Center](#).

Measurement

Report on the institution's current certification/recognition status.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have an energy management system or electricity delivery system that is certified under ISO 50001, PEER, or an equivalent national or international standard approved by AASHE? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's energy system certifications

  If No, the following field is required:

  - Has the institution successfully completed the US Department of Energy's 50001 Ready program or AASHE-approved equivalent?

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's participation in the 50001 Ready program or equivalent

IL 31: GHG Verification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when at least one of its GHG emissions inventories completed within the previous three years has been third party verified by a nationally or internationally accredited GHG inventory verification service (e.g., through The Climate Registry), Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Platform (SIMAP) staff, or an equivalent independent external entity.

Measurement

Report on GHG emissions inventories completed during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has at least one of the institution's GHG emissions inventories completed within the previous three years been third party verified? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the third party verification of the institution's GHG inventory

IL 32: Peer Reviewed Carbon Mitigation Projects

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has developed or issued new carbon offsets from one or more off-campus carbon mitigation projects during the previous three years that are verified by qualified peer reviewers rather than (or in addition to) conventional third party verifiers.

Measurement

Report on off-campus projects that have resulted in peer-verified carbon offsets within the previous three years.

A project may follow an existing protocol (e.g., approved or endorsed by the Gold Standard, the Verified Carbon Standard, the Climate Action Reserve, or the American Carbon Registry) or a new protocol developed and peer-reviewed by higher education institutions (e.g., approved by The Offset Network), as long as the project is subject to peer verification.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- During the previous three years, has the institution developed or issued carbon offsets from a peer reviewed off-campus carbon mitigation project? (required)

  If Yes, provide a description of the project(s) and at least one form of affirmation:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's peer-reviewed off-campus carbon mitigation projects

IL 33: Renewable Energy Impact Evaluation

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it:

A. Measures and evaluates the avoided emissions and/or community health impacts associated with prospective renewable energy projects

AND

B. Uses that information to prioritize those projects that are particularly effective at reducing emissions or negative health impacts (e.g., projects in locations with high grid emissions intensity relative to other options).

Measurement

Report on the current policies and activities from within the previous three years.

This credit is inclusive of both purchased renewable energy products (e.g., PPAs) and the design and construction of an institution's own renewable energy projects.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution measure and evaluate the avoided emissions and/or community health impacts associated with prospective renewable energy projects? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    ○ Narrative outlining the methodology used to measure and evaluate the avoided emissions and/or community health impacts associated with prospective renewable energy projects

- Does the institution use data on avoided emissions or community health impacts to prioritize projects that are particularly effective at reducing emissions or negative health impacts? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    ○ Narrative outlining how data on avoided emissions and/or community health impacts are used in the procurement process. Include one or more examples from within the previous three years of projects selected, at least in part, because they were shown to be particularly effective at reducing emissions or negative health impacts.

Food & Dining

IL 34: Coolfood Pledge

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when its dining services are active members of the Coolfood Pledge, as evidenced by having reported food purchase amounts by weight to the World Resources Institute (WRI) within the previous 18 months.

Measurement

Report on the current reporting status of the institution's dining services.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool:

- Is the institution and/or its contracted food service management company a member of the Coolfood Pledge? (required)

- Have the institution's dining services reported food purchase amounts by weight to WRI within the previous 18 months? (required)

  If Yes to both of the above, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's participation in the Coolfood Pledge

IL 35: Nitrogen Footprint

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has calculated its nitrogen footprint during the previous three years and the footprint includes scope 1 and scope 2 nitrogen emissions and scope 3 nitrogen emissions from, at minimum, purchased food and wastewater. Partial points are available. An institution that has calculated a nitrogen footprint that only includes scope 1 and 2 nitrogen emissions earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on analyses conducted during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution calculated its nitrogen footprint within the previous three years? (required). To qualify, the footprint must include scope 1 and scope 2 nitrogen emissions.

  If Yes, the following two fields and at least one form of evidence (document or website) is also required:

  - Narrative outlining the methodology used to calculate the institution's nitrogen footprint and the sources accounted for. For example, the Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Platform (SIMAP).

  - Does the nitrogen footprint include scope 3 emissions from purchased food and wastewater?

  - Copy of the institution's nitrogen emissions inventory. Upload.

  - Website URL where the institution's nitrogen emissions inventory may be found

IL 36: Red Listed Foods

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it and/or its contracted food service management company have banned or eliminated the purchase of at least one food or beverage product type or production method due to its negative social, environmental, or health impacts. Examples include:

- Animal products from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) or the equivalent
- Bottled water
- Genetically modified foods
- Palm oil
- Red list fish and seafood products (e.g., products designated as "Avoid" or "Not Recommended"), as identified by Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch or a similar sustainable fish and seafood program.

Measurement

Report on the current policies and/or practices of the institution's self-operated dining services or the institution's contracted food service management company.

To qualify, the initiative must exceed or be additional to minimum regulatory compliance or existing prohibitions/bans in the institution's jurisdiction.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution or its contracted food service management company banned or eliminated the purchase of at least one food or beverage product type or production method due to its negative social, environmental, or health impacts? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the red-listed products or production methods

IL 37: Sustainable Dining Recognition

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when at least 50 percent of its on-site **food service establishments** are formally recognized for leadership in sustainable dining by a national or international assessment or awards program. Partial points are available. An institution with at least one food service establishment that is formally recognized by a qualifying assessment or awards program earns 0.5 bonus points.

An updated list of qualifying programs is available in the STARS Help Center.

Measurement

Report on recognition achieved during the previous three years and currently valid certifications.

An institution that has earned an award or certification for a multi-establishment dining program may report establishments operated by the program and included in the awards or certification process as "recognized".

If a food court includes independently branded or operated franchises or retailers, those franchises or retailers should be treated as distinct establishments to the extent feasible. Otherwise, a food court may be treated as a single establishment.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Percentage of on-site food service establishments formally recognized for leadership in sustainable dining by a qualifying assessment or awards program (required)
    - 75 to 100
    - 50 to 74
    - 25 to 49
    - 1 to 24

- Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the formal recognition the institution's dining services have received for leadership in sustainable dining (required)

Procurement & Waste

IL 38: Avoided Spend

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it tracks the estimated market value of goods that are not purchased due to reduction and reuse initiatives across two or more of the following product categories:

- Cleaning products
- Office paper
- Electronics
- Furniture
- Other (e.g., non-paper office supplies, food serviceware, or vehicles)

This may be accomplished, for example, by determining the current market value of:

- Normalized reductions in the volume of specific goods purchased from a baseline (e.g., cleaning products per square meter of floor area cleaned and reams of paper purchased per person).

- Goods that are reused on-site (e.g., furniture) as if they were purchased new.

- Disposable goods that are displaced by reusable alternatives (e.g., based on the number of times reusable items are used where disposable items have been the standard).

Partial points are available. An institution that tracks its avoided spend for at least one of the product categories listed earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on current practices and the more recent data available from within the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool, with expenditure amounts in local currency.

- Local currency code (required). Report the three-digit ISO alphabetic code of the currency used to document the institution's expenditures for this credit (e.g., AUD, CAD, or USD).

- Does the institution track the estimated market value of cleaning products that are not purchased due to reduction and reuse initiatives? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Annual avoided spend on cleaning products

- Does the institution track the estimated market value of office paper that is not purchased due to reduction and reuse initiatives? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Annual avoided spend on office paper

- Does the institution track the estimated market value of electronics that are not purchased due to reduction and reuse initiatives? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Annual avoided spend on electronics

- Does the institution track the estimated market value of furniture that is not purchased due to reduction and reuse initiatives? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Annual avoided spend on furniture

- Does the institution track the estimated market value of other products that are not purchased due to reduction and reuse initiatives? (required)

  If Yes, the following two fields are also required:

  - Description of other product categories for which the institution tracks its avoided spend

  - Annual avoided spend on other products

  If Yes to any of the above, the following field is also required:

- Narrative outlining how the institution tracks its avoided spend (required)

IL 39: Ecological or Biodiversity Footprint

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has published its **ecological or biodiversity footprint** within the previous three years.

Measurement

Report on analyses published within the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution published its ecological or biodiversity footprint within the previous three years? (required)

  If Yes, the following field and at least one of the two subsequent fields is also required:

  - Narrative outlining the methodology used to calculate the institution's ecological or biodiversity footprint

  - Copy of the institution's ecological or biodiversity footprint report. Upload.

  - Website URL where the institution's ecological or biodiversity footprint report may be found

IL 40: Materiality/Hot-Spot Analysis

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus points when it uses **materiality/hot-spot analysis** to inform and prioritize its sustainable procurement efforts.

Measurement

Report on current practices and activities from within the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution use materiality/hot-spot analysis to inform and prioritize its sustainable procurement efforts? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative outlining how the institution use materiality/hot-spot analysis to inform and prioritize its sustainable procurement efforts

IL 41: Materials Management Recognition

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it:

- Has completed an Atlas Zero Waste Stage 1 Assessment from the Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN) and published its scorecard

  AND/OR

- Is a Green certified Campus Race to Zero Waste Certified Plastics Reduction Partner (US NWF), a Campus Race to Zero Waste competition winner (US NWF), or – where these programs are not available – an AASHE-approved equivalent.

Partial points are available. An institution earns 0.5 bonus points when it is otherwise formally recognized for leadership in materials management or waste recovery by a national or international assessment or awards program (e.g., a Silver or Bronze certified Campus Race to Zero Waste Certified Plastics Reduction Partner).

Measurement

Report on current certification status and recognition received during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have a published Atlas Zero Waste scorecard from PLAN? (required)

- Is the institution a Green certified Campus Race to Zero Waste Certified Plastics Reduction Partner, a Campus Race to Zero Waste competition winner, or AASHE-approved equivalent? (required)

- Is the institution otherwise formally recognized for leadership in materials management or waste recovery by a national or international assessment or awards program? (required)

  If Yes to any of the preceding fields, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's materials management recognition

IL 42: Purchased Building Materials

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has established embodied carbon targets for new building projects and/or seven or more of the building materials listed below using the [Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator (EC3)](#) tool or an equivalent resource:

- Concrete (ready mixed concrete, slurry, shotcrete)
- Masonry (CMU)
- Steel (rebar, steel wire and mesh, plate steel, structural steel, steel decking, cold formed steel, open-web steel joists)
- Aluminum (aluminum extrusions, thermally improved aluminum extrusions)
- Wood (dimensional lumber, prefabricated wood products, composite lumber, mass timber)
- Sheathing (plywood/OSB sheathing, glass mat gypsum sheathing)
- Thermal/moisture protection (insulation, membrane roofing)
- Cladding (insulated metal panel, metal panel)
- Openings (glazing)
- Finishes (gypsum board, acoustical ceiling tiles, resilient flooring, carpet)
- Network infrastructure (data cabling)
- Asphalt
- Manufacturing inputs (cementitious)

This may include commitments to reductions in embodied carbon from baseline, absolute thresholds of embodied carbon, and/or the consideration of embodied carbon in procurement processes (e.g., prioritizing products that fall within a set percentile of embodied carbon for a material type or including embodied carbon as a consideration in the bid solicitation and appraisal).

Measurement

Report on the current policies and practices.

Documentation

- Has the institution established embodied carbon targets for new building projects using the Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator (EC3) tool or an equivalent resource? (required)

- Has the institution established embodied carbon targets for seven or more distinct types of building materials using the EC3 tool or an equivalent resource? (required)

  If Yes to either of the above, the following two fields are also required:

  - Has the institution updated its building standards to include embodied carbon targets as performance criteria?

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's embodied carbon targets for building materials

IL 43: Sustainable Procurement Recognition

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is recognized by the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC) for its participation in the Sustainable Procurement (SP) Assessment program.

Measurement

Report on recognition received during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution been recognized by SPLC for its participation in the SP Assessment program within the previous three years ? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's recognition by SPLC

IL 44: Zero Waste Certification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is at least Bronze-Level Zero Waste Certified by the Post-Landfill Action Network's Atlas Zero Waste Assessment (Atlas) or – in countries where Atlas is not available – an approved national affiliate of the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA). Partial points are available. An institution that is not Bronze-Level Zero Waste Certified by Atlas, but has achieved Bronze-Level badges or better in five or more areas of their Atlas Scorecard earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on current certification status and recognition received during the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution zero waste certified under a qualifying program? (required)

  If No, the following two fields is also required:

  - Has the institution earned Bronze-Level badges (or better) in any of the Scope, System, or Program Scores on their Atlas Scorecard?

  If Yes to either of the preceding fields, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's zero waste certification or status

Transportation

IL 45: Bicycle Friendly Recognition

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is formally recognized for leadership in cycling infrastructure and support by a national or international external assessment or awards program.

An updated list of qualifying programs is available in the STARS Help Center.

Measurement

Report on the institution's current certification or recognition status.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution currently recognized for leadership in cycling infrastructure and support by a qualifying program? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's bicycle friendly recognition

IL 46: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when at least 5 percent of its public parking spaces are reserved for full battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and/or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and equipped with charging stations.

Measurement

Report on the most recent data available from within the previous three years.

An institution that makes its fleet vehicle charging stations available to the public may count those stations toward the total.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Total number of public parking spaces (required)

- Number of public parking spaces reserved for electric vehicles and equipped with charging stations (required)

The Reporting Tool will automatically calculate the following figure:

- Percentage of public parking spaces dedicated to electric vehicles

IL 47: Fleet Sustainability Recognition

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is formally recognized for the sustainability of its vehicle fleet by a national or international assessment or awards program.

An updated list of qualifying programs is available in the STARS Help Center.

Measurement

Report on the institution's current certification or recognition status.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution formally recognized for the sustainability of its vehicle fleet by a qualifying assessment or awards program?

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing information about the institution's fleet sustainability recognition

IL 48: Shared Mobility Program

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has a program to incentivize the use of at least two of the following shared mobility options:

    A. Public transportation
    B. Bicycle or scooter sharing
    C. Car sharing or carpooling

Partial points are available. An institution that has a program to incentivize at least one of the options earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on current programs and initiatives. Incentives may include providing free or reduced cost access or hosting/managing a program on-site. Programs available in the local community do not qualify in the absence of on-campus access that is actively incentivized by the institution.

Documentation

- Does the institution have a program designed to incentivize the use of public transportation? (required). For example, free or reduced cost access to municipal services or provision of a campus shuttle.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Description of the institution's programs designed to incentivize the use of public transportation

- Does the institution have a bicycle or scooter sharing program? (required). This may include docked and/or dockless bike sharing, electric scooter sharing, and other shared micro-mobility options.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Description of the institution's bicycle or scooter sharing program

- Does the institution have a car sharing or carpool program? (required). Conventional motor pools are excluded.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Description of the institution's car sharing or carpool program

Coordination & Planning

IL 49: Participatory Budgeting

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has engaged students, academic staff, and non-academic staff in one or more **participatory budgeting** processes during the previous three years. Partial points are available. An institution for which at least one of the three stakeholder groups have been engaged in a participatory budgeting process during the previous three years earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on activities from within the previous three years.

Documentation

- Has the institution engaged students in a participatory budgeting process during the previous three years? (required)

- Has the institution engaged academic staff in a participatory budgeting process during the previous three years? (required)

- Has the institution engaged non-academic staff in a participatory budgeting process during the previous three years? (required)

  If Yes to any of the above, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL outlining the institution's participatory budgeting processes

IL 50: Social Enterprise

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is formally recognized as Certified B Corporation or **social enterprise** (as evidenced by recognition in a national or international social enterprise directory or equivalent).

Measurement

Report on the institution's current status. The intent of this credit is to recognize private, for-profit institutions that have achieved B Corps status and other institutions that are explicitly operated as social enterprises (e.g., democratically managed educational cooperatives). Conventional public and private colleges and universities are unlikely to qualify.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution formally recognized as a Certified B Corporation or social enterprise? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL outlining the institution's status as a Certified B Corporation or social enterprise

IL 51: Sustainability Projects Fund

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has a dedicated fund (e.g., a **green fund**) to support campus sustainability projects that is ongoing (i.e., not a one-time award or grant) and includes a multi-stakeholder decision-making process to determine which projects receive funding.

Measurement

Report on current programs and initiatives.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have a dedicated fund to support campus sustainability projects that is ongoing and includes a multi-stakeholder decision-making process to determine which projects receive funding? (required)

  If Yes, the following five fields are also required:

  - Name of the institution's sustainability projects fund

  - Which of the following best describes the primary source of funding for the sustainability projects fund?
    - Student fees (major funding comes from fees paid for by students)
    - Donation driven (e.g., by alumni, corporate and/or foundation donations)
    - Department driven (e.g., academic and administrative budgeted green funds)
    - Hybrid (a combination of fund types)

  - Year the institution's sustainability projects fund was established

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's sustainability projects fund

  - Narrative outlining the multi-stakeholder decision-making process used to determine which projects receive funding through the sustainability projects fund

IL 52: Sustainability-Equity Coordination

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has at least one formal entity or mechanism (e.g., a community of practice, committee, center, office, task force, or clearinghouse) that brings together staff with formal sustainability responsibilities and staff with formal equity and social justice responsibilities for purposes of joint coordination and planning.

This might include, for example, a representative from the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) office serving on the institution's sustainability committee, a representative from the sustainability office serving on the institution's DEI committee, or another regular mechanism for collaboration between the two offices.

Measurement

Report on current programs and initiatives.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have at least one formal entity or mechanism that brings together staff with formal sustainability responsibilities and staff with formal equity and social justice responsibilities for purposes of joint coordination and planning? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website providing an overview of the institution's sustainability-equity coordination

Investment

IL 53: Student-Managed Sustainable Investment Fund

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it maintains a student-managed investment fund that has a sustainability or environmental, social, and governance (ESG) focus.

Measurement

Report on current programs and practices.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution maintain a student-managed investment fund that has a sustainability or environmental, social, and governance (ESG) focus? (required). To qualify, the sustainability or ESG focus of the fund must be explicitly documented in its mission statement or published guidelines. Green revolving funds and other types of sustainability project funds that are allocated exclusively to the institution's own initiatives do not qualify.

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the sustainability or ESG-focused student-managed investment fund

IL 54: Sustainable Retirement Plan

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when its employee retirement plan includes one or more funds with a sustainability or environmental, social, and governance (ESG) focus. This may include an ESG option, a sleeve of ESG funds, or an ESG fund as the qualified default investment alternative (QDIA).

Measurement

Report on current programs and practices. If different plans exist for different types of employees (e.g., academic and non-academic employees), report on the plan that serves the greatest number of employees.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution's employee retirement plan include one or more funds with a sustainability or ESG focus? (required). A sustainability or ESG focus may be indicated by explicit mention of either term in the name or high level description of the fund, management by a firm exclusively using an ESG lens for investing, or high sustainability grades/scores from a rating agency (e.g., MSCI) or tool (e.g., As You Sow).

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the sustainability or ESG focused funds included in the institution's employee retirement plan

Social Equity

IL 55: Mission to Serve a Marginalized Population

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when its primary purpose and/or historic mission is to serve a specific marginalized racial, ethnic, or Indigenous population, e.g., an Aboriginal college, Historically Black College or University (HBCU), First Nations university, Tribal College or University (TCU), wānanga, or international equivalent.

Measurement

Report on the institution's primary purpose and/or historic mission. An institution that is recognized as a minority-serving institution or the equivalent based on its enrollment figures rather than its primary purpose or historic mission does not qualify. The extent to which marginalized racial, ethnic, and Indigenous groups are served by an institution is recognized in the Racial and Ethnic Diversity credit.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution's primary purpose and/or historic mission to serve a specific marginalized racial, ethnic, or Indigenous population? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's mission to serve a specific marginalized racial, ethnic, or Indigenous population

IL 56: Open and Shared Course Materials

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it A) hosts a peer-to-peer exchange program or lending library that is explicitly designed to ensure that students in financial need have access to required course materials and B) provides incentives for academic employees that explicitly encourage the authorship, peer review, and/or adoption of **open educational resources (OER)**. Partial points are available. An institution that meets one, but not both, of the criteria earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's programs and initiatives.

Conventional textbook buyback and resale programs and library collections that may include copies of textbooks on reserve do not qualify in the absence of a peer-to-peer program.

Incentives may include honors, fellowships, titles, monetary rewards, and/or release time. Incentives to replace commercial course materials with licensed library content that is openly available to all the members of the institution) also qualify.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution host a peer-to-peer exchange program or lending library that is explicitly designed to ensure that students in financial need have access to required course material? (required).

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

    ○ Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the peer-to-peer course materials exchange program or lending library

- Does the institution provide incentives for academic employees that explicitly encourage the authorship, peer review, and/or adoption of open educational resources? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

    ○ Narrative and/or website URL that provides an overview of the institution's incentives for open educational resources

IL 57: Social Equity Recognition

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is formally recognized for leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by a national or international assessment or awards program.

An updated list of qualifying programs is available in the [STARS Help Center](#).

Measurement

Report on recognition received during the previous three years and currently valid designations. Internal and/or individual awards do not qualify.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution formally recognized for leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion by a qualifying assessment or awards program? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's social equity recognition

IL 58: Universal Design

Criteria

An institution earns TBD bonus points when it has published **universal design (UD)** guidelines or principles that exceed or are additional to regulatory compliance and apply to the entire institution.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's policies and initiatives.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have published universal design (UD) guidelines or principles that exceed or are additional to regulatory compliance and apply to the entire institution? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website providing information about the institution's universal design guidelines or principles

IL 59: Work College

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus points when it is formally recognized as a **work college** by the US Department of Education, the Work Colleges Consortium, or the equivalent.

Measurement

Report on the institution's current recognition status. To qualify, the institution must require at least 50 percent of all students who are enrolled on a full-time basis to participate in a comprehensive work-learning-service program that reduces the cost of education.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution formally recognized as a work college? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's work college status and programming. Include information about how the work-learning-service program reduces the cost of education.

Wellbeing & Work

IL 60: Collective Bargaining

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it engages in **collective bargaining** with regular/permanent employees, short-term/casual employees, and student employees, as evidenced by the presence of union contracts or equivalent formal outcomes, e.g., memoranda of agreement/understanding (MOA/MOU) with workers' organizations. Partial points are available. An institution that engages in collective bargaining with at least two of the three employee categories listed above earns 0.5 bonus points.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's union contracts and/or other formal outcomes of collective bargaining. Collective bargaining processes engaged in by entities of which the institution is part (e.g., government or university system) qualify as long as the results of the processes are recognized by the institution.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution engage in collective bargaining with regular/permanent employees? (required). As evidenced, for example, by a union contract covering academic and/or non-academic staff.

- Does the institution engage in collective bargaining with short-term/casual employees? (required). As evidenced, for example, by a union contract covering contingent academic staff.

- Does the institution engage in collective bargaining with student employees? (required). As evidenced, for example, by a union contract covering graduate students.

  If Yes to any of the three preceding questions, the following field is also required

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the unions or collective bargaining units active at the institution

IL 61: OHSMS Certification

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has an occupational health and safety management system (OHSMS) that has been audited by an external entity to ensure conformance to a national or international standard.

An updated list of qualifying programs is available in the [STARS Help Center](#).

Measurement

Report on audits completed within the previous three years.

Documentation

- Has the institution's OHSMS been audited by an external entity within the previous three years to ensure conformance to a qualifying standard? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's OHSMS certification

IL 62: Pay Scale Equity

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it has a maximum compensation scale ratio of 1:15, where 1 represents the compensation of the lowest-paid full-time employee and 15 represents the compensation of the highest paid senior administrator (e.g. president or chancellor).

Measurement

Report on the most recent data available from within the previous three years.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool, with the factor provided in 1:X format.

- The factor by which the compensation of the highest compensated senior administrator exceeds that of the lowest compensated full-time employee (required)

  If Yes, at least one of the following fields is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL supporting the institution's reported pay scale ratio. For example, the methodology used and/or actual compensation amounts.

IL 63: Wellness Recognition

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is formally recognized for leadership in health and wellness by a national or international assessment or awards program.

An updated list of qualifying programs is available in the [STARS Help Center](#).

Measurement

Report on recognition achieved during the previous three years and currently valid designations.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution formally recognized for its leadership in health and wellness by a qualifying assessment or awards program? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's wellness recognition

IL 64: Workplace Recognition

Criteria

An institution earns 1 bonus point when it is formally recognized for leadership by a national or international workplace assessment or awards program that is based, at least in part, on the results of an evaluation of employee satisfaction.

An updated list of qualifying programs is available in the [STARS Help Center](#).

Measurement

Report on recognition achieved during the previous three years and currently valid designations.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Is the institution formally recognized for leadership by a qualifying workplace assessment or awards program? (required)

    If Yes, the following field is also required:

    - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's workplace recognition

Innovation

IL 65 - 69: Innovation A - E

Criteria

There are five open-ended Innovation credits available. For each of these credits, an institution may claim 1 bonus point for a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, program, or initiative that addresses a **sustainability challenge** and is not covered by an existing credit.

Measurement

Report on current programs and initiatives and outcomes that occurred within the previous three years.

In general, an Innovation credit should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as other STARS credits. Outcomes, programs, and initiatives that are innovative for the institution's region or institution type are eligible. Outcomes, programs, and initiatives that were once considered innovative but are now commonplace do not qualify. Multiple activities whose sum is innovative can be considered for an Innovation credit as long as the activities or practices are clearly related. A series of unrelated accomplishments or events would not qualify, for example. While the outcomes or activities that led to receiving an award may be appropriate for an Innovation credit, winning an award or achieving a high sustainability ranking in another assessment is not, in and of itself, grounds for an Innovation credit.

Documentation

For each Innovation credit that is claimed, report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Name of the innovative outcome, program, or initiative (required)

- Does the innovation represent a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, program, or initiative that addresses a sustainability challenge and is not covered by an existing credit? (required)

- Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the innovation (required). Provide justification for claiming the innovation, e.g., what is new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon about it.

Glossary

Anchor institution – An enterprise such as a college, university, or hospital that is rooted in its local community by mission, invested capital, or relationships to customers, employees, and vendors. As place-based entities that control vast economic, human, intellectual, and institutional resources, anchor institutions have the potential to bring crucial, and measurable, benefits to local children, families, and communities. [Adapted from the definition used by the Anchor Learning Network.]

Biodiversity footprint – A comprehensive assessment of the biodiversity impacts associated with the activities of an institution, e.g., its operations, construction, procurement, and waste.

Collective bargaining – Negotiations that take place between an employer, a group of employers, or one or more employers' organizations, on the one hand, and one or more workers' organizations, on the other hand, for:
- determining working conditions and terms of employment,
- regulating relations between employers and workers, and/or
- regulating relations between employers or their organizations and a workers' organization or workers' organizations.

[Adapted from the definition used by the International Labor Organization (ILO).]

Community partnership – A lasting, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial collaboration between a higher education institution and one or more other entities (e.g., a government agency, civil society organization, or business) to understand and address the core problems facing local, regional, national, and/or international communities.

Continuing education – Non-credit courses and education programs that train community members and help build knowledge about particular subjects. Continuing education is inclusive of non-credit, community education, further education, and extension courses and programs. Examples include non-degree career training, workforce training, credential maintenance courses, formal personal enrichment courses, self-directed learning and experiential learning (on and off campus). In some cases, non-credit students may earn continuing education units, certification, or other evidence of completion to meet personal or professional requirements.

Course – A unit of instruction comprising a sequence of educational activities in a particular field or range of related fields of education. A course may also be referred to as a "module", "unit", or "subject" and is often one academic term in length, led by one or more instructors, and has a fixed roster of students. A course may be taken singularly or combined with other courses offered as part of an education program. [Adapted from the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).]

Ecological or biodiversity footprint – A comprehensive assessment of the ecological and/or biodiversity impacts associated with the activities of an institution, e.g., its procurement, waste, and other aspects of its operations.

Education program – A coherent set or sequence of educational activities designed and organized to achieve predetermined learning objectives or accomplish a specific set of educational tasks over a sustained period.

External assurance – Independent review and affirmation provided by personnel not affiliated with the institution, for example a peer reviewer or contracted assurance provider.

Food service establishment – A site or mobile unit where food is served to customers for consumption on and/or off the premises. Included are cafés, cafeterias, catering services, coffee shops, convenience stores, dining halls, fast food outlets, food courts, restaurants, and equivalent enterprises operated by the institution, a contracted food service management company, an independent operator, or a franchisee.

Funding – Financial relationships in the form of grants, contracts, royalties, consulting fees, honoraria, payment for expert testimony, travel support, or any other gift with financial value.

Green building rating systems – Tools and certifications used to assess and recognize buildings that meet sustainability requirements or standards. Rating systems vary in their approach and can be applied to the design and construction of new buildings and major renovations or to the operations and maintenance of existing buildings. An extensive (but non-comprehensive) list of green building rating tools may be found on the [World Green Building Council](#) (WorldGBC) website.

Green fund – A financial mechanism dedicated to the funding of campus-based projects such as renewable energy installations, energy retrofits, educational outreach, and the hiring of personnel for the benefit of an institution's sustainability efforts. Student fees, alumni donations, administrative budgets, and grants are the main sources of funding for green funds. Unlike projects funded by other financial mechanisms such as green revolving loan funds, green fund projects do not necessarily generate significant financial savings or a return on investment that can be reinvested into the fund.

Laboratory – A space run by and people who work for a particular Principal Investigator (PI). In the absence of PIs, a laboratory may be defined as a group of people occupying a common area, using shared equipment, and doing similar laboratory work. [Adapted from the definition used by My Green Lab.]

Lobbying – Making positions or views about laws, policies, and/or government practices known to politicians and public officials.

Materiality/hot-spot analysis – Assessment of the potential sustainability impacts and risks of products or product categories throughout their supply chains, including, but not limited to, impacts on people and the environment, traceability considerations, anticipated stakeholder responses, and environmental and social regulations of the countries where the suppliers are based. Materiality/hot-spot analysis involves the rapid assimilation and analysis of a range of information sources, including life cycle based studies, market, and scientific research, expert opinion, and stakeholder concerns. These analyses are often used as precursors to developing more detailed or granular sustainability information, e.g., to prioritize specific goods and/or services or product categories for intervention. [Adapted from the definitions used by the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).]

Open access – Free availability on the public internet, permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of peer-reviewed research articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The

only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited. [Adapted from the definition used by The Budapest Open Access Initiative.]

Open educational resources (OER) – Educational materials, textbooks, and other resources that are publicly accessible, meaning that they are openly available for anyone to use and, under some licenses, to re-mix, improve, and redistribute.

Participatory budgeting – A democratic process through which an organization's stakeholders collectively decide how to spend part of a budget. [Adapted from the definition used by the Participatory Budgeting Project.]

Payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) – Voluntary payments made by tax-exempt organizations to contribute toward the cost of the public services they consume.

Research – The conception or creation of new knowledge. Research may include improving or developing concepts, theories, models, techniques, instrumentation, software, and/or operational methods. [Adapted from the definition used by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).]

Social enterprise – An operator in the social economy whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than make a profit for their owners or shareholders. A social enterprise operates by providing goods and services for the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion and uses its profits primarily to achieve social objectives. It is managed in an open and responsible manner that involves employees, consumers, and other stakeholders affected by its commercial activities. The term "social enterprise" encompasses businesses:

- For which the social or societal objective of the common good is the reason for the commercial activity, often in the form of a high level of social innovation;
- Whose profits are mainly reinvested to achieve this social objective; and
- Where the method of organization or the ownership system reflects the enterprise's mission, using democratic or participatory principles or focusing on social justice.

Examples include fair and ethical trade organizations, self-help organizations, cooperatives, community owned enterprises, and charity or non-profit organizations. [Adapted from the definition used by the European Commission.]

Sustainability challenge – An issue or situation that threatens or undermines ecological integrity, racial equity and social justice, or the ability of future generations to meet their needs (e.g., biodiversity loss, poverty and inequality, and climate change), OR a goal or objective that contributes to the resolution of such an issue or situation (e.g., ecosystem health, universal human rights, and renewable energy generation). To identify sustainability challenges, it may be helpful to reference the targets embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the principles outlined in the Earth Charter, and/or the Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries.

Sustainable water balance assessment – A comprehensive assessment of the overall sustainability of an institution's water resources, use, and impacts at both the site and catchment level.

Universal design (UD) – The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. UD goes beyond compliance with regulations that prohibit discrimination and require equal access (e.g., the Americans

with Disabilities Act) to promote equity by proactively removing barriers to access and reducing the need for individual accommodations.

Water footprint – A comprehensive assessment of the water-related impacts associated with the activities of an institution, e.g., its operations, construction, procurement, and waste.

Work college – A degree-granting institution with a commitment to community service that has an ongoing work-learning-service program that reduces the cost of education and for which at least 50 percent of full-time students are required to participate. [Adapted from the work of the US Department of Education and the Work Colleges Consortium.]