

## STARS Executive Summary

Developed by:

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### Overview

*During the 2016-2017 Academic Year, the Office of Sustainability (OS) coordinated data collection for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) for the second time. The OS utilized a collaborative, distributed model for data collection, wherein departments assembled and entered information directly into an online data portal. This approach gave agency to participants and presumably helped them become more familiar with STARS as a strategic planning tool. In addition to gathering a substantial amount of information as the primary contact for several areas of the report, the OS's role as facilitator of the assessment also entailed training reporters, answering questions, troubleshooting technical issues, tracking down gaps and inconsistencies in data, and confirming accuracy as needed. Through this process of collaboration with over 20 departments, HSU secured a Gold Rating with 69.28 percentage points. Overall, the campus improved its STARS score by about 14 percentage points since conducting the first iteration of the assessment in 2013.*

*HSU performed well in academic, engagement, and planning/administration credits, and garnered the greatest number of points within curriculum, purchasing, coordination & planning, and diversity & affordability sub-sections. The campus showed the greatest room for improvement within energy, food & dining, grounds, and transportation sub-sections.*

*Informally, (beyond the points award system in the STARS tracking mechanism), Sustainability staff who facilitated the assessment noted that the campus additionally has a need for academic leadership and formal infrastructure for integrating sustainability into curriculum, a streamlined system for tracking and publicizing sustainability research, and could generally benefit from increased strategic engagement and education throughout sustainability systems on campus. Furthermore, improvement in operations credits may require significant financial investment for creation of new or renewal of physical infrastructure.*

### Next Steps

During the 2017-2018 Academic Year, the OS will implement an iterative, three-step improvement process, whereby they will:

1. Debrief with department leads on results and opportunities for improvement
2. Meet back to determine specific improvement action plans
3. Support and facilitate improvement actions as needed

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## Key Findings

Overarching Categories	Credit Sections	Points earned	Points possible	Percent
	Curriculum	31.15	40	77.88%
	Research	12.23	18	67.94%
	Academics Total	<b>43.38</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>74.79%</b>
	Campus Engagement	15.94	21	75.90%
	Public Engagement	14.38	20	71.90%
	Engagement Total	<b>30.32</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>73.95%</b>
	Air & Climate	7.66	11	69.64%
	Buildings	2.21	8	27.63%
	Energy	2.39	10	23.90%
	Food & Dining	2.64	8	33.00%
	Grounds	0	4	0.00%
	Purchasing	5.14	6	85.67%
	Transportation	3.36	7	48.00%
	Waste	5.85	10	58.50%
	Water	4.33	6	72.17%
	Operations Total	<b>33.58</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>47.97%</b>
	Coordination & Planning	7	8	87.50%
	Diversity & Affordability	8.52	10	85.20%
	Investment	4.4	7	62.86%
	Wellbeing & Work	4.02	7	57.43%
	Planning & Admin Total	<b>23.94</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>74.81%</b>
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>131.22</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>65.28%</b>
<b>Extra Credit</b>	Innovation & Exemplary Practice Total	Max 4 points earned		4.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>69.28%</b>		

## Priority Recommendations

The OS constructed specific suggestions that if implemented, should improve HSU's STARS score in the future and should strengthen HSU's commitment to sustainability. Highlights include:

1. Establish a formal faculty learning community that facilitates, trains, and incentivizes integration of sustainability concepts into course curriculum
2. Improve tracking of sustainability research projects & publicize these achievements to recruit/retain faculty, staff, and students
3. Bolster face-to-face interaction and education for sustainability outreach campaigns in general
4. Develop employee champions for sustainability policies, practices, and programs
5. Adopt definitions, priorities, and criteria for sustainability within procurement, dining, laboratories, grounds, and cleaning
6. Allocate resources to procure a greater amount of energy from renewable portfolios
7. Bolster support, engagement, and infrastructure for sustainable transportation
8. As planned, assemble the new iteration of the Sustainability Committee during Academic Year 2017-2018