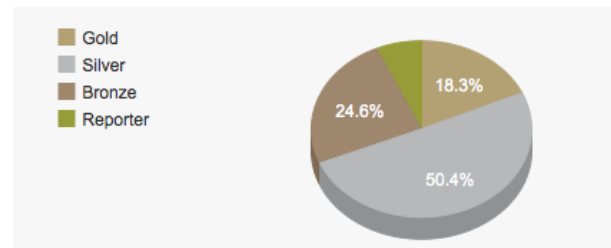


FIU anticipates achieving a “Silver” rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), on its inaugural submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).

STARS rates universities based on points achieved in the three main categories of: Education & Research, Operations & Planning, and Administration & Engagement. FIU registered as a STARS Participant in September 2012, and for the past eight months the Office of University Sustainability has compiled the data for the FIU STARS Report, which is attached in its entirety.

FIU now has the option reporting the data to acquire a rating, which makes the report public, or report for use internally and not receive a national rating but remain listed as a STARS Participant.

FIU’s provisional score is 50.16, which puts us at a silver rating. As you can see from the chart to the right, FIU’s score falls into the average rating for STARS, an average of 268 universities who have reported.

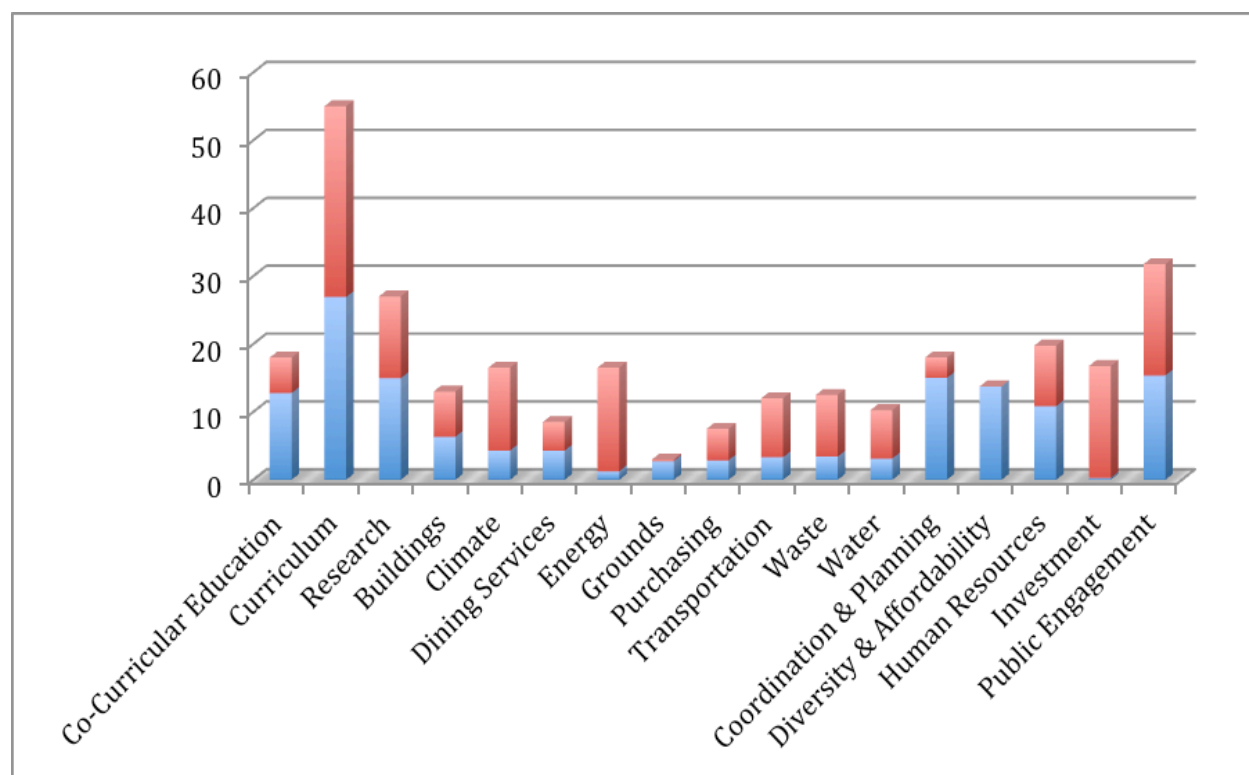


Our STARS rating is an important milestone in FIU’s sustainability efforts, which were formalized with the signing of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2007, and the creation of the Office of University Sustainability in 2010. This benchmark will form the basis for continuous improvement over time, and will provide the necessary self-awareness to improve our stewardship efforts.

FIU’s Silver rating at 50.16 points is aligned with the rating of most of our peers. State institutions that have received silver include: University of Florida, Florida State, Florida Gulf Coast, and Valencia College. University of North Florida earned a lower bronze rating, and the only Florida institution that holds a gold rating is University of South Florida. No university has reached the top, platinum, rating level. FIU’s STARS rating is valid for three years, we anticipate updating all data and a subsequent re-certification after two years (at the completion of the 2015-2016 year).

The goal of conducting this sustainability audit was to start the conversation on campus and bring together departments for information gathering and sharing. The hope is the report will bring on awareness and help educate departments on the importance of minimizing the ecological footprint of the physical campus and making an operational commitment to address important sustainability topics such as green building, climate change, water conservation, and waste minimization.

Below is an illustration of the STARS categories, and the points achieved and not achieved in the FIU STARS Report. The blue indicates points FIU received for the category; the red shows how many points possible through STARS that were not achieved. This will allow us to see where the biggest overall improvements can be made and help in creating sustainability goals for the university. As you can see by the illustration, three of our strengths currently are Grounds, Coordination & Planning, and Diversity & Affordability.



Conducting the FIU STARS Report is an important step in recognizing and realizing the potential for sustainability on our campuses. In the full FIU STARS Report (attached), you will see in more detail how FIU performed in aspects of sustainability ranging from identifying sustainability research being conducted by our faculty to ensuring sustainable compensation.

For example, FIU succeeded in receiving high marks in the following categories, these are strengths FIU should be proud of:

1. Sustainability Courses by Department – the breadth of sustainability course offerings, of our 63 academic departments, over half offer at least one course related to or focused on sustainability. (Pg. 35, FIU STARS Report)
2. Faculty Engaged in Sustainability Research - depth of faculty involved in sustainability research working on sustainability issues both locally and globally. (Pg. 49, FIU STARS Report)
3. Student Group – student involvement, at least seven student organizations are focused on sustainability education and activism. (Pg. 18, FIU STARS Report)

4. Diversity & Affordability and Human Resources—our policies and programs demonstrate leadership from support for underrepresented groups to support for future faculty. FIU also ensures our employees are paid and treated fairly and that respect for and celebration of diversity is an everyday practice. (Pgs. 170-191, FIU STARS Report)
5. Innovation- the PerFormDance Solar House, designed and built by FIU students for the US Solar Decathlon was not only an exciting international, intercollegiate competition entry, but also a research and curricular initiative that will continue to serve as an educational tool and inspiration for future generations of students. (Pg. 218, FIU STARS Report)

While our overall rating was good, the FIU STARS Report reveals several areas where FIU can take action to make improvements:

1. Curriculum -while FIU scored an above average rating for the Educational & Research category, there are still points available that the Office of University Sustainability feels were missed in this inaugural report due to timing. For re-certification, we hope to involve more academic department chairs in the data collection.
2. Operations - FIU lacks a comprehensive framework with policies and guidance documents (e.g., procurement, renewable energy, transportation) on sustainability that have the support of top administration.
3. Investment- establishing a committee on investor responsibility, increasing shareholder advocacy, and ensuring positive sustainability investments would be initiatives FIU can work toward to improve our score in this category.

The FIU Office of University Sustainability worked with departments across campus from Human Resources, School of Environment Arts & Society, Parking & Transportation, Facilities, and Housing to put together the data for this inaugural submission to AASHE STARS. The report is the product of a collaborative effort drawn from many FIU departments, staff members and students who helped provide data for the benchmarking effort. This collaborative cooperation is very much appreciated and has proved critical to the successful completion of the FIU STARS Report process.

The Office of University Sustainability would like to thank the group of faculty, staff, and students who helped collect and affirm data:

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