The STARS Program

AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System
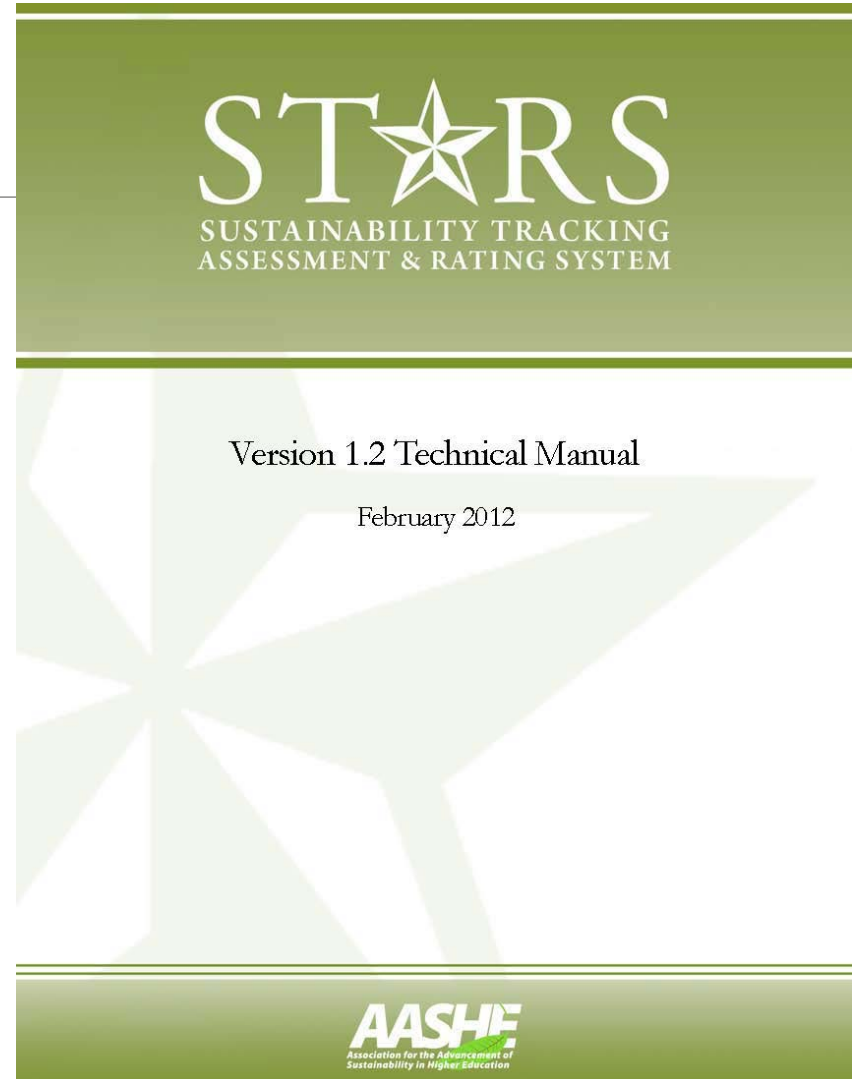
stars.aashe.org

What is STARS?

- A **voluntary, self-reporting** framework

- A **guide** for advancing sustainability in all sectors of higher education.

- A common **standard of measurement** for sustainability in higher education.

- A tool that promotes a comprehensive understanding of sustainability that includes its **social, economic and environmental** dimensions.

Categories

- Education and Research

- Operations
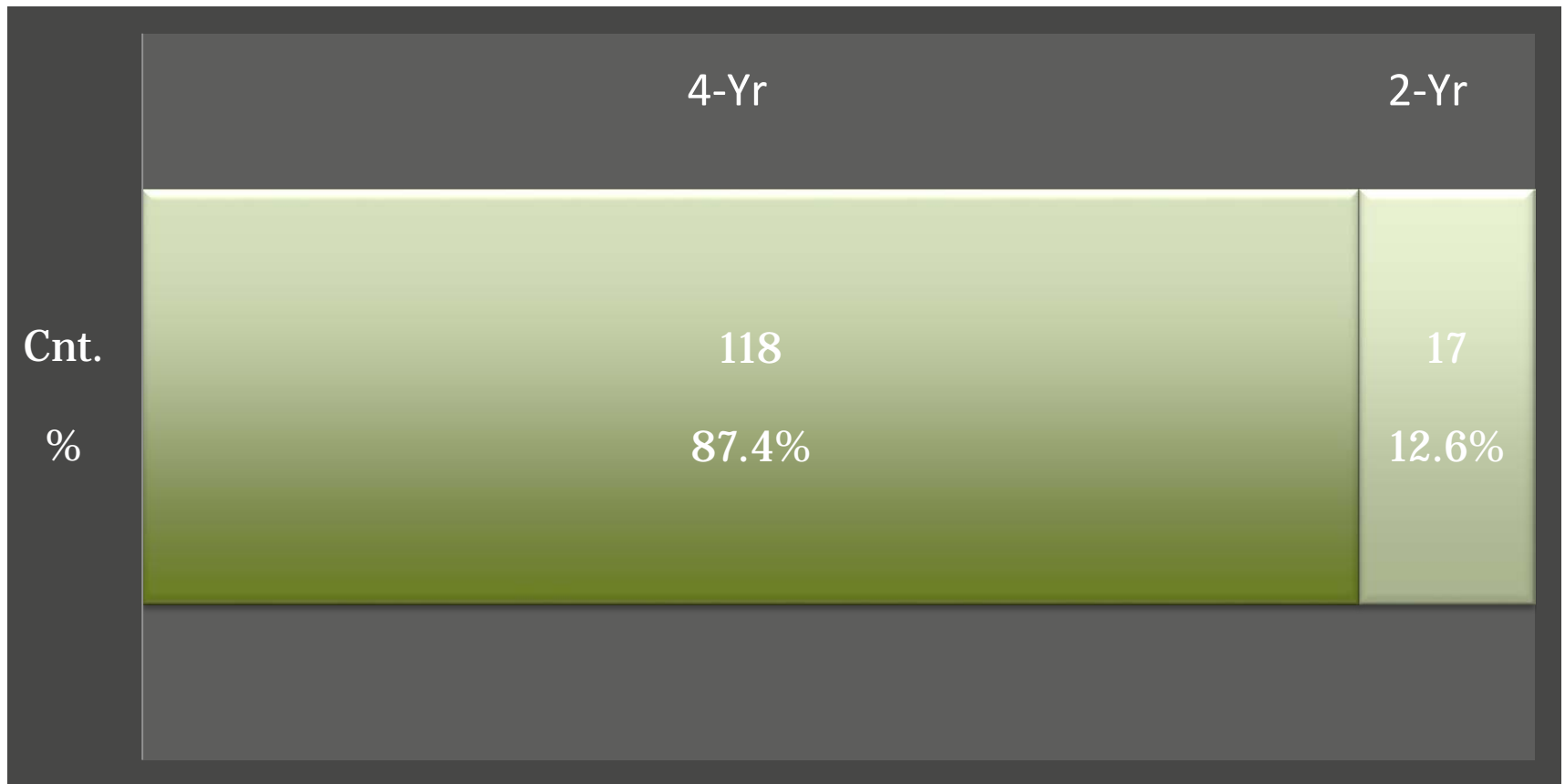
- Planning, Administration, & Engagement

- Innovation

STARS
SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING
ASSESSMENT & RATING SYSTEM

Version 1.2 Technical Manual

February 2012

AASHE
Association for the Advancement of
Sustainability in Higher Education

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SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING
ASSESSMENT & RATING SYSTEM

Sub-Categories

- ## Education & Research
  - Co-Curricular Education; Curriculum; Research

- ## Operations
  - Buildings; Climate; Dining Services; Energy; Grounds; Purchasing; Transportation; Waste; Water

- ## Planning, Administration & Engagement
  - Coordination & Planning; Diversity and Affordability; Human Resources; Investment; Public Engagement

Community Colleges & STARS

	4-Yr	2-Yr
Cnt.	118	17
%	87.4%	12.6%

Comparison by Categories

Silver — 45-65

Bronze— 25-45

STARS Categories	Subcategory Averages			Difference Between 2-Yr and 4-Yr
	4-Year Institutions	2-Year Institutions	All Institutions	
Count	111	17	128	
Overall Score	52.74	44.04	51.59	-8.71
ER	53.4%	39.4%	51.6%	-14.1%
OP	38.0%	31.3%	37.2%	-6.8%
PAE	58.9%	54.6%	58.4%	-4.4%
IN	66.0%	57.4%	64.8%	-8.6%

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…by subcategory

STARS Subcategories	Subcategory Averages			Difference Between 2-Yr and 4-Yr
	4-Year Institutions	2-Year Institutions	All Institutions	
Count	111	17	128	
ER-Co-Curricular Education	73.4%	53.5%	70.7%	-19.9%
ER-Curriculum	44.7%	34.4%	43.4%	-10.3%
ER-Research	57.7%	33.3%	57.5%	-24.4%
OP-Buildings	31.2%	34.0%	31.6%	2.8%
OP-Climate	24.1%	23.8%	24.1%	-0.3%
OP-Dining Services	51.4%	39.7%	49.8%	-11.8%
OP-Energy	21.9%	23.6%	22.1%	1.7%
OP-Grounds	70.3%	69.3%	70.2%	-1.1%
OP-Purchasing	45.4%	41.1%	44.8%	-4.2%
OP-Transportation	42.6%	18.8%	39.4%	-23.7%
OP-Waste	44.5%	37.2%	43.6%	-7.3%
OP-Water	55.7%	39.5%	53.5%	-16.2%
PAE-Coordination & Planning	81.0%	80.1%	80.9%	-0.9%
PAE-Diversity & Affordability	87.9%	77.0%	86.5%	-10.9%
PAE-Human Resources	63.4%	59.8%	63.0%	-3.7%
PAE-Investment	13.2%	17.1%	13.6%	3.9%
PAE-Public Engagement	55.3%	36.2%	52.8%	-19.1%

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STARS®
SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING
ASSESSMENT & RATING SYSTEM

…by credit

Credits of Strength for 2-Yr Schools:
PAE-12: Employee Satisfaction Evaluation
OP-3: Indoor Air Quality
PAE-13: Staff Professional Development in Sustainability
PAE-18: Positive Sustainability Investments
OP-14: Campus Fleet

Credits of Strength for 4-Yr Schools
ER-12: Sustainability Immersive Experience
OP-15: Student Commute Modal Split
PAE-23: Community Service Hours
ER-15: Sustainability Research Identification
ER-1: Student Sustainability Educator's Program

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ST★RS
SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING
ASSESSMENT & RATING SYSTEM

Community College Design

- Divisions
  - Academic Affairs
  - Student Services
  - Institutional Advancement
  - Administrative Services
  - Finance
- Departments
  - Academic, Procurement, HR, Operations, Student Life, Advising, IT, etc.
- Councils
  - Representation from college departments
- Teams
  - strategic or professional development, Green Team

Community Elected Board of Trustees

- No large Colleges w/in a College
- Central Operations, HR, IT, Procurement Depts.
- Collective &broad student life activities
- Student-Centered & Community-Centric

Moraine Valley Community College

STARS
Successes & Challenges

Garnering Buy-In

Before committing

- Executive Leadership Team presentation
  - *Illinois Sustainable Campus Compact*
  - *League for Innovation*
  - *IGEN*
  - *SMHEC*

After adoption

Presentations to:

- Board of Trustees
- Administrative Council
- Deans Council
- Academic Leadership Team
- Division mtgs
- Department mtgs
- … Chamber mtgs ;)

Strengths & Challenges

strengths

- PAE – ~58%
  - *Diversity & Affordability*
  - *Sustainable Compensation*

- ER – ~36%
  - *Staff/Faculty prof development*
  - *Outreach (news)*

- OP- ~20%
  - *Food Purchasing*
  - *Indoor Air Quality*

challenges

- *PAE –*
  - *Student Engagement credits*

- ER –
  - *Curriculum & Degrees*
  - *Sustainability learning outcomes*

- OP-
  - *Commuting – Travel CO2*
  - *Energy monitoring too centralized (no sub-meters)*

CC Challenges: Completing STARS

- Consistent info?? (turnover & minimal records)

- Older archival systems

- Lack of resources, incl time & staffing

- Often falls to 1 or 2 staff persons

- 17 rated schools may not be convincing to administration for need/use

- Budget issues taking precedent

What are your challenges?

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sustainability

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Questions?

1) Email stars@aashe.org

2) Call (303) 395 1332

3) Subscribe to the *STARS Update* & AASHE Bulletin (www.aashe.org/user/newsletters)

4) Post a question to the AASHE Campus Sustainability Discussion Forums (www.aashe.org/forums)

5) Post to the Campus Sustainability Perspectives Blog (www.aashe.org/blog)