



stars[®]

a program of **aashe**

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.

Gain international recognition for your sustainability efforts.

Join the [hundreds of higher education institutions](#) around the world that have already earned a STARS Rating.

Rated institutions are featured in AASHE's annual [Sustainable Campus Index](#) (SCI), which highlights best practices and top performers by impact area and institution type, and are included in the STARS Benchmarking Tool, which allows AASHE members to compare institutions on their sustainability performance.

Create a baseline for continuous improvement.

STARS will allow you to comprehensively measure your institution's current sustainability performance and assess your progress, both internally and in comparison to peer institutions.

The STARS rating gave our institution something to celebrate, and the credits provided both food for thought in terms of what goals are achievable in our current context and what we might try to achieve in the long term.

We now have more of a common vocabulary to talk about STARS-related topics. We also know where we need to go to improve in each of the categories. And because we are working with STARS, we have greater validity with others to get some of these other improvements developed and implemented.

Inform strategic planning and budgeting.

STARS can serve as a framework to help integrate sustainability into your institution's planning and development efforts. Participants have used STARS as the basis for their sustainability reports and strategic sustainability plans. In addition, your STARS rating or score can be incorporated into your institution's overall strategic plan as an indicator of progress toward sustainability.

Due to administrative changes at the institution, it was very difficult to generate momentum and interest, however, the results of the data collection will be used to draft a Sustainability Strategic Plan which will fulfill the requirements of the College Strategic Plan.

STARS gives a certain amount of legitimacy to the resources [the institution] has put to sustainability, it provides positive reinforcement for efforts already underway and it shines a light on the whole spectrum of sustainability work happening on campus, all three of which will give institutional weight to sustainability moving forward, in our strategic planning process and in the budgeting process with a new office of sustainability.

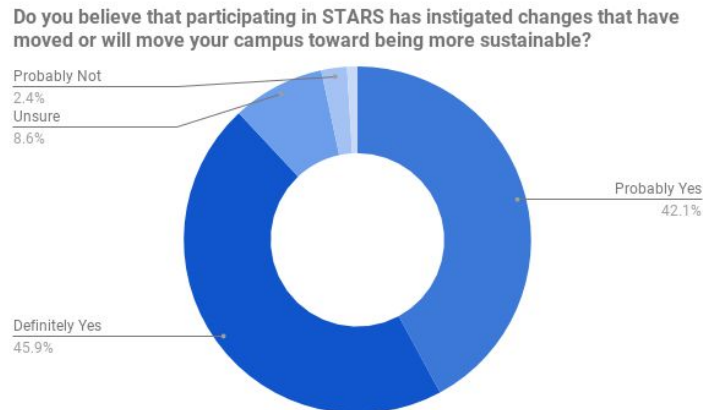
Generate new ideas.

Whether your institution is just starting out or an established leader in sustainability, STARS will help you identify best practices that you can implement locally.

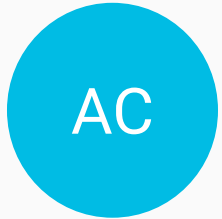
The biggest benefit of STARS was that it has generated new ideas. Given that STARS is so widely used, the credits we were not able to attain are looked at as suggestions that we hope to implement in the future.

Make real progress towards sustainability.

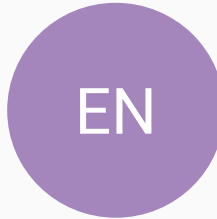
Nine out of ten participants report that STARS has instigated changes that have moved or will move their institutions toward being more sustainable.



Categories



Academics



Engagement



Operations



Planning & Administration



Innovation & Leadership

Subcategories

AC

Curriculum
Research

EN

Campus Engagement
Public Engagement

OP

Air & Climate
Buildings
Energy
Food & Dining
Grounds
Purchasing
Transportation
Waste
Water

PA

Coordination & Planning
Diversity & Affordability
Investment & Finance
Wellbeing & Work

IN

Exemplary Practice
Innovation

Public Recognition



Scoring



Percentage
Score
(% of points earned)

+

Innovation &
Leadership pts

=

Overall STARS
Score

Score

85 +

65 - 84

45 - 64

25 - 44

Recognition Level

Platinum

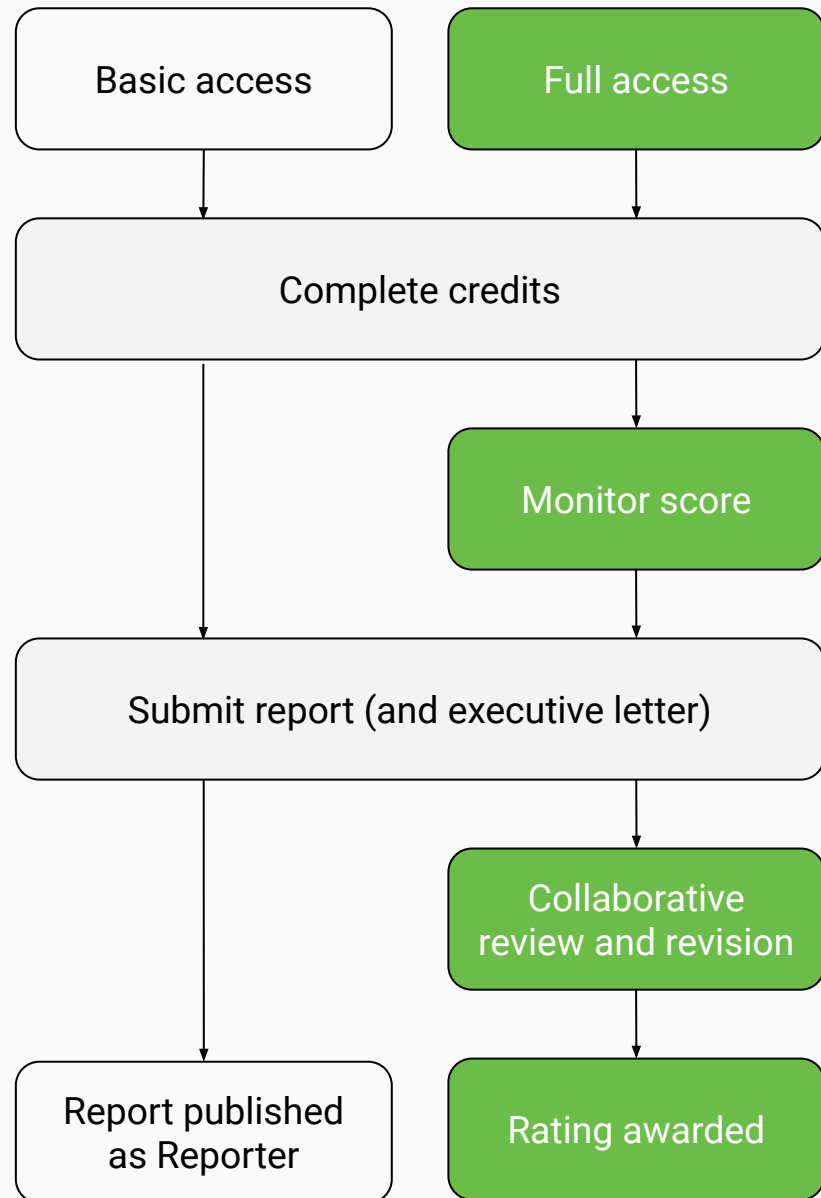
Gold

Silver

Bronze

Reporter

Reporting Process



Timeframes



- ❑ Each full access subscription is valid for 12 months.
- ❑ Each STARS report and rating is valid for up to 3 years.
- ❑ A report may be submitted as often as once per year.

Resources



- ❑ [Technical Manual](#)
- ❑ [Help Center](#)
- ❑ [Credit Checklist](#)
- ❑ [Forms & Templates](#) (Data Collection tab):
 - ❑ Data Tracking Sheets and Credit Forms
- ❑ [Data Displays](#)
- ❑ [Benchmarking Tool](#)



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