Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2025, 2:00pm

Zoom: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83381805540

Present: Nathan King (Chair), Teresa Sweeney, Leslie Stevens, Ava Garrity, Matt Stolte, Cassidy Blackmore for Dwyn Taylor, Nam Nguyen, Josh Clemons, Felicity Bilow, Pat Donovan, Shushant Dahal, Autumn Timpano, Emily Williams, Andrew Dolbin-MacNab, Paul Ely, Diane Bonsall, Juli McClafferty, Irene Leech, Liza Morris, Yohan Sequeira, Simon Allen, Annie Lawrence, Dean Paul Winistorfer

Absent with Notice: Carrie Cox, Wesley Gwaltney, Alison Tobar

Absent: Zhuo Fu, Zoe Caran, Kendra Paisley, Catherine Shewchuk, Mae Hey

Guests: Kristina Cook, Yugasha Bakshi, Emily Vollmer, Erin Poff, Justin Lough, Sheree Anderson, Ralph Hall, Wesley Gibson, Brenda van Gelder, Sean McGinnis, Morgan Ralph, Sarah Bell, Javad Torabinejad, Olivia Solomon, Pat Hilt, Mark Witt, Ron Meyers, Chris Tedder, Steve Durfee, Adia Long, Meghan Marsh, Charul Agrawal, Gillian Eastwood

Nathan King called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 28th 2024

Nathan King noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (http://www.governance.vt.edu).

3. Announcements

There will be a Celebrate Sustainability Reception and Listening Session on Thursday, January 30, at 5:30 PM at the Y Center (1000 N. Main Street) hosted by Sustainable Blacksburg.

Giving Day is coming up from February 19th to 20th. Facilities has two funds that can be donated to: the Campus Beautification Fund and the Sustainability Fund.

There is a New River Environmental Coalition campus and community meeting on February 21 from 4:30-6pm in the Blacksburg Library Community Room.

Office of Sustainability student internship applications open beginning February 12 and closing March 12. Those interested should email sustainability@vt.edu

4. Presentation

Emily Vollmer presented on AASHE STARS 3.0 reporting at Virginia Tech.

Nathan King presented an overview of the Green RFP process for both last year's approved proposals and this year's potential RFPs, including gathering this year's subcommittee for Green RFP approvals.

5. **Open Discussion and Announcements**

Irene Leech: Will any of the 3.0 items change politically? Or sustainability in general?

Emily: STARS and AASHE are global tools, so they aren't likely to change anything based on the US political landscape unless there's any sort of directive to do so. I think they're based in the US, so there may be some changes with that, but we aren't anticipating anything.

Nathan: I doubt we'll see any sweeping changes over the next couple years. They tend to be more insulated, but no doubt they'll be advocating at the national level for things AASHE members feel are important.

Kristina: I noticed that before there was more of a focus on the AASHE website for national rankings, but now it is more global.

Emily: Yes, that's true. One of the major changes between 2.2 and 3.0 was to make it more inclusive for countries outside of the US.

Pat Donovan: Has there been any consideration for adding off campus locations for VT's STARS reporting? Satellite locations?

Emily: From what I am aware of, our peers are not including their satellite campuses, but that may change in the coming years. I don't think there's any plans for us to do that either for the next coming submission since it will be our first time tackling 3.0. We really want to get a good idea of how our baseline has changed from our last submission to this one, but there may be future interest in including the innovation and Arlington campuses.

Diane Bonsall: Can you repeat the details for Thursday evening's listening session?

Kristina: If you can be there, you'll be happy you came! There is a surprise guest. January 30th, 5:30 pm at the YMCA hosted by Sustainable Blacksburg.

5. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

The next CASEC Meeting will be held on February 24,2025 at 2:00 pm over Zoom.

Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee
January 27, 2025 – 2:00 PM

VIRGINIA TECH

Please Use Poll Everywhere to Sign in for Attendance

PollEv.com/yugashabakshi915

To participate on your computer:

1. Open web browser and enter web address provided to go to Poll Everywhere
2. Enter your VT email in the text box and select "next"
3. Select "Log in with Virginia Tech University Governance"
4. Sign in with VT SSO and complete two-factor authentication
5. Select "Join Presentation"

Participating on Your Phone or Tablet

Using a QR to Participate on Poll Everywhere
1. Open camera app on your phone
2. Place QR code in frame but DO NOT take a photo
3. Focus shot until yellow pollev.com indicator appears

4. Tap QR code on screen to open Poll Everywhere

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Approval of Proposed Agenda (Poll Everywhere)

- Meeting minutes: Electronic Vote Results

- Announcements

- Business

  - Introduction to STARS 3.0

  - Green RFP Overview

- Open Discussion

Announcements

Door Prizes

Surprise special guest!

Sustainable Blacksburg
https://sustainableblacksburgva.org/

GIVING DAY VIRGINIA TECH.

February 19th-20th

Division of Facilities

https://givingday.vt.edu/giving-day/94092/department/94150

Facilities Sustainability Fund: Supports the Office of Sustainability's efforts in the implementation of VT's Climate Action Committment

Campus Beautification Fund: Dedicated to the enhancement of Virginia Tech's campus aesthetics

NREC Community Meeting
- Student Community
- New River Valley Community

Internship Applications will be open for Office of Sustainability Interns beginning February 12th.

- **Please email sustainability@vt.edu with interest**

- **Applications close March 12th**

STARS 3.0

AASHE STARS 3.0

Emily Vollmer | vollmere@vt.edu

Sustainability Outreach and Reporting Coordinator

January 27, 2025

What is STARS? Why do we participate?

- The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) is a **global, self-reporting framework** for universities to **measure their sustainability performance**
  - STARS is hosted by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
  - ~400 active reports, 1200+ member institutions
- Benefits of STARS and why we participate:
  - Benchmarking (internal + external), **functions as our Sustainability Plan**/guides progress, generates recognition, builds community
  - Connections to **CAC goals** (infrastructure and behavioral)
  - Feeds into other global reports and reputation: Princeton Review, Sustainable Campus Index

What does a STARS report look like?

- Submit data for **~50 credits** (e.g. Campus Fleet, Sustainability Course Offerings, Dining Services Procurement) which all fit under **four main categories:**
  - **Academics**
  - **Engagement**
  - **Planning and Administration**
  - **Operations**

- Data comes from partners across campus to reflect a holistic summary of sustainability at Virginia Tech

- Takes about one year to collect and submit data; submit a **report every three years** which gives us a score and a rating

- Reports are publicly available

- v3.0 released to encourage progress, make reporting criteria more conscious of climate justice, streamline the reporting tool, encourage reporting assurance and data quality, and generally make the report more stringent
  - v2.0 was released in 2013

13.1 Percentage of fleet vehicles that are electric vehicles

Total number of cars, vans, trucks, and buses in the institution's fleet (required) ❓

Number of cars, vans, trucks, and buses in the institution's fleet that are zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) (required) ❓

Number of cars, vans, trucks, and buses in the institution's fleet that are plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) (required)

The Reporting Tool will automatically calculate the following two figures:

Percentage of fleet vehicles that are electric vehicles

Points earned for indicator OP 13.1

0.0

Optional documentation

Notes about the information provided for this credit (optional)

File   Edit   View   Insert   Format   Tools   Help

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☰ ∨   ☰ ∨   ☰ ☰   Ix
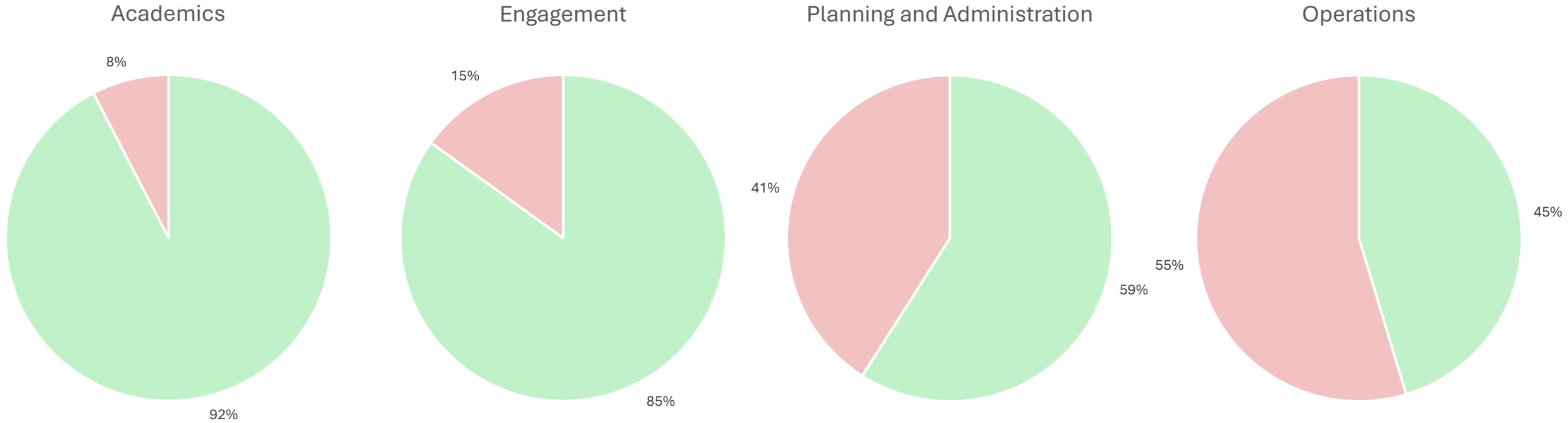
How have we done historically?

- Submitted our first STARS report in 2011
  - STARS first launched v1.0 in 2009
- Gold rating since 2014
- We've continually improved in score and rating at each submission, but it's hard to move the needle

Year	Version	Score	Rating
2011	1.1	61.91	Silver
2013	1.2	63.30	Silver
2014	1.2	71.02	Gold
2017	2.1	71.94	Gold
2021	2.2	72.78	Gold
2024	2.2	73.17	Gold
2027	3.0	TBD	TBD

Percentage of Points Earned in Each Category

Academics	Engagement	Planning and Administration	Operations

8%

92%

15%

85%

41%

59%

55%

45%

Above results based on most recent STARS submission (May 2024)

Academics	Engagement	Planning and Administration	Operations
8%	15%	41%	45%
92%	85%	59%	55%
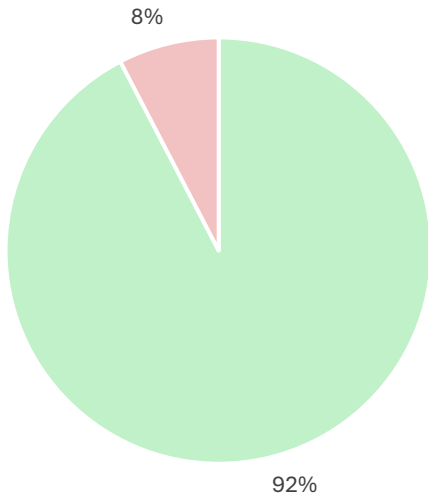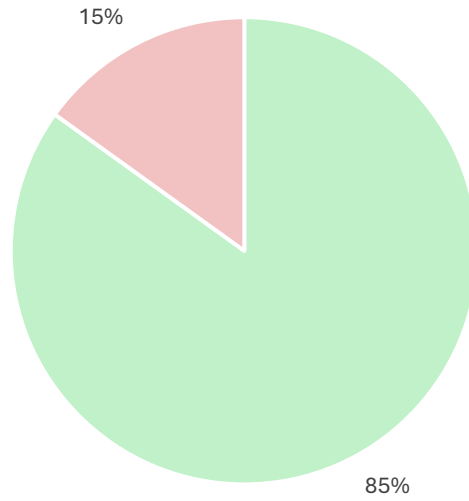
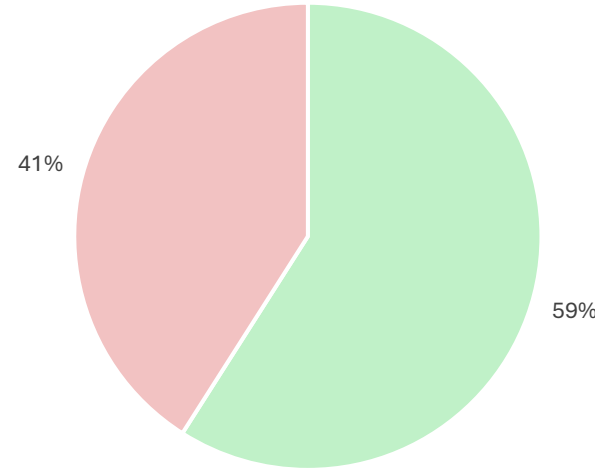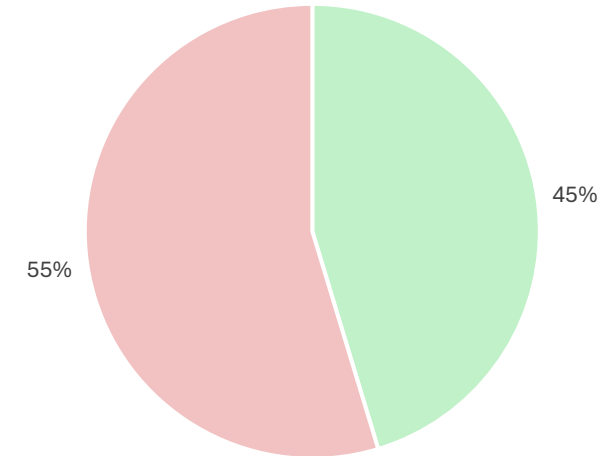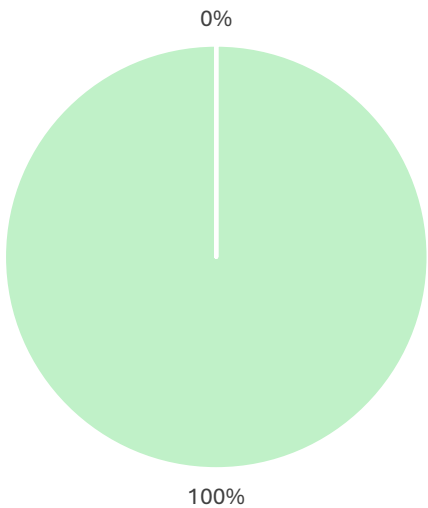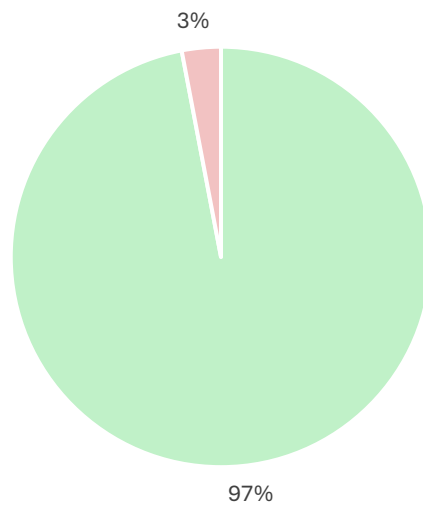*Above results based on Virginia Tech's most recent STARS submission (Gold, May 2024)*

Academics	Engagement	Planning and Administration	Operations
0%	3%	14%	37%
100%	97%	86%	63%
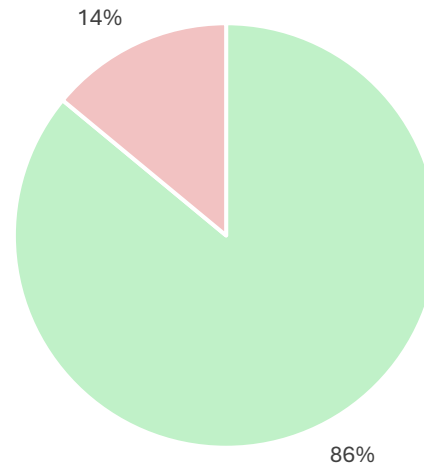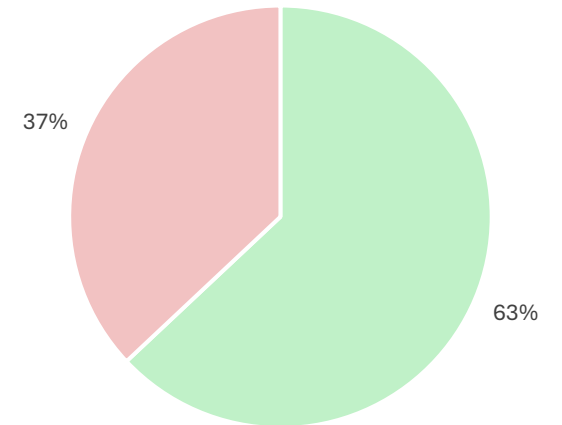
Above results based on Colorado State University's most recent STARS submission (Platinum, Nov 2022)

How do we currently compare to other Virginia schools?

- Any schools not listed either do not participate or have expired reports
- Currently hold the **3rd highest score**
- Historically have been at/near the top of this list
- Some schools will be tackling 3.0 before us, giving us an idea of potential score increases/decreases

University	Version	Score	Date of Most Recent Submission
University of Virginia	2.2	74.85	Feb 2024
George Mason University	2.2	73.66	Feb 2024
Virginia Tech	2.2	73.17	May 2024
University of Richmond	2.2	69.24	Mar 2022
James Madison University	2.2	66.71	Sep 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	2.2	65.54	Sep 2024
Washington and Lee	2.2	60.54	Mar 2024
Virginia Wesleyan University	2.2	53.11	Jan 2023
Radford University	2.2	52.41	May 2022
Randolph College	2.2	Reporter	Feb 2023

How do we currently compare across the ACC?

- Any schools not listed ether do not participate, have expired reports, or scored below 67 points
- Currently hold the **5th highest score**
- Larger discrepancy in scoring among the top
- Again, some schools will be tackling 3.0 before us, giving us an idea of potential score increases/decreases

University	Version	Score	Date of Most Recent Submission
Stanford University	2.2	85.88	Mar 2022
University of California, Berkeley	2.2	85.72	Mar 2021
University of Miami	2.2	80.84	Apr 2024
University of Virginia	2.2	74.85	Feb 2024
Virginia Tech	2.2	73.17	May 2024
University of Pittsburgh	2.2	72.67	Feb 2024
University of Louisville	2.2	68.45	Mar 2022
North Carolina State University	2.2	68.35	Aug 2022
Florida State University	2.2	67.49	Mar 2023
University of Notre Dame	2.2	67.28	Jan 2022

Our Next Submission

- Next submission is due **May 2027** which means we will start collecting data in 2026 (next year!)
  - This gives us one full year to try to implement some changes to keep up with STARS 3.0
  - **Reporting period will be June 2024 - May 2027**
- We'll go through each category and pull out some major points of change and some opportunities for improvement
  - Subcommittees can be a great avenue for implementing changes to support our STARS report
- Technical Manual pages available upon request along with completed 3.0 examples

STARS Technical Manual

Version 3.0

May 2024

stars
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Preface

- No major changes
    - These are all **non-scoring credits to give baseline information** that feeds into the rest of the report
        - Number of students and employees, demographics, gross square footage of buildings, campus acreage
        - Highlight points of distinction
        - Includes letter of support from President Tim Sands
- Added a Reporting Methodologies section

Academics

Increased available points from 58 to 64

- Need to publish completed CALL projects (1 point)
  - **CALL spotlight** template available, developed in UH 3204
- Need to provide a "**support program**" for faculty involved in integrating sustainability into academics (2 points)
  - CALL Subcommittee fulfils this requirement
- Need to **provide incentives** to academic staff working to integrate sustainability into academics (1 point) AND need to provide incentives to faculty and students to conduct sustainability research (2 points)
- **Sustainability Literacy Assessment** now requires academic staff to be involved in the creation of the assessment (4 points)
- Need to develop some sort of process or tool to **assess the success of CALL projects** (1 point) (example)

Engagement

Increased available points from 41 to 50

- Need to integrate sustainability information into new student and new employee **orientation** (2 points)

- Need at least 50% of students to **engage in sustainability** activities/programs/events (5 points), need at least 50% of employees to engage in sustainability (4 points)

- Provide **sustainability-focused employee training opportunities** annually (2 points)
  - Anyone have any experience with creating materials TLOS, PageUp, LinkedIn Learning?

- Need to conduct a **sustainability culture assessment** (3 points)
  - Can be tied into the sustainability literacy assessment; sustainable behavior and choices subcommittee could help create this

- Need to measure student civic engagement and employee community service (5 points)

- Need to **publish guidelines** for creating and maintaining reciprocal and mutually beneficial community partnerships AND all the institution's community partnerships for sustainability need to undergo a joint evaluation by institution and community partners (3 points)

Operations – Buildings and Water

Increased available points from 69 to 85

- **Existing building operations** - need 100% of buildings to be managed under a green cleaning program, individually assessed for energy performance and indoor environmental quality, water performance, and certified to a third-party green building standard (5 points)
- Need annual potable water use per full-time equivalent of students and employees to be less than or equal to a peer group benchmark (2 points)
    - **Peer group benchmarks were introduced this year to replace self-benchmarking**
- Need annual potable water use per gross square meter of floor area to be less than or equal to a peer group benchmark (2 points)
- Need to have systems to harvest rainwater, recover water for reuse, and collect and return water to surface water or ground water through on-site green infrastructure (1 point)

Operations – Grounds and Waste

Increased available points from 69 to 85

- Need to eliminate the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides (2 points)

- Need area of protected, restored, or otherwise ecologically managed land to be equal to or greater than the total area of managed campus greenspace (3 points)

  - Majority of Stroubles Creek restoration efforts are outside of our campus boundary; Old Growth Forest has potential, but we lack official policies protecting or dictating management of that land; Bee Campus habitats are minimal

- Need to **divert 90%+ of non-hazardous waste** from landfill (2 points)

- Need to generate waste per FTE of students and employees and per gross square meter of floor area at a rate less than or equal to a peer group (2 points)

- Need to divert 90%+ of construction and demolition waste from landfill

Operations – Energy Use and GHG Emissions

Increased available points from 69 to 85

- Need to consume energy per FTE of students and employees and per gross square meter of floor area at a rate less than or equal to a peer group (6 points)

- Need **100%** of annual energy consumption to come from **renewable sources** (3 points)

- Need to achieve **zero scope 1 and 2 emissions**
  - Normalized by gross floor area of building space (4 points)
  - Normalized by FTE students and employees (4 points)
  - Zero adjusted net scope 1 and 2 (4 points)

Operations – Dining
Increased available points from 69 to 85

- Need to compare food and beverage purchases to a [table of sustainability criteria](#). Earn full points when all products purchased are listed on that table (6 points)

- Need at least 10% of spend managed by Dining Services to be with social impact suppliers (2 points)

- Need to **donate surplus food, divert pre- and post-consumer food waste from landfill**, and track organic materials management efforts on an annual basis (2 points)

Operations – Procurement

Increased available points from 69 to 85

- Need to have a **published supplier code of conduct** that includes expectations regarding environmental impact, treatment of workers, governance and ethical business practices, and monitoring and review (1 point)
- Need 100% of bid solicitations to identify product sustainability specifications and supplier sustainability considerations (2 points)
  - Need these factors to each be assigned 10% weight in the bid appraisal process (2 points)
- Need at least 10% of annual contract spend to be with social impact suppliers (2 points)
- Need 100% of total annual spend on consumable cleaning products, electronics, office furniture, and office paper to meet one or more criteria in a provided table (4 points)

Operations – Transportation
Increased available points from 69 to 85

- Need all cars, vans, trucks, and buses in the institution's fleet to be **electric vehicles** (2 points)

- Need 100% of students and employees to use **sustainable commuting options** (anything other than single-occupancy vehicles) (6 points)

- Need the institution to provide incentives designed to encourage employees to reduce their air travel, to adopt restrictive measures designed to reduce the GHG emissions associated with air travel, and to have a program designed to mitigate the GHG emissions associated with its directly financed air travel (2 points)

Planning and Administration - Investment

Increased available points from 34 to 41

- Need to incorporate environmental, social, and governance **(ESG) factors and/or climate risk as issues to be considered** when making investment decisions, as evidenced by a published policy or directive and/or a committee on investor responsibilities (2 points)

- Need to **publish a snapshot of holdings** in the institution's investment pool AND need 100% of the investment pool to be allocated to funds that are explicitly focused on sustainability or ESG, sustainability-focused industries or sectors, businesses selected for exemplary sustainability performance, community development financial institutions, place-based investments that target positive social and environmental impacts in economically divested areas, and/or green revolving funds seed from the investment pool (4 points)

Planning and Administration – Diversity and Inclusion

Increased available points from 34 to 41

- Need the institution's **ethnic diversity index** for its students, faculty, staff, and executive staff to each be 0.75 or greater (1 point)
  - Requires completion of a [racial and ethnic diversity worksheet](#)
- Need each marginalized racial, ethnic, and/or indigenous group in the region to be **equitably represented** among the student body, faculty, staff, and executive staff (2 points)
- Need 45%+ of students and employees to identify as women or other marginalized gender identities (2 points)

Planning and Administration – Governance

- Need a sustainability **committee** (1 point)
- Need a sustainability commitment (2 points) and **measurable sustainability objectives** (3 points)
- Need governing bodies that allow student, faculty, and staff participation; need to allow their participation at the highest governing body (3 points)
- Need to consult **community members** in governance operations; allow community members to participate in institutional decisions, plans, or policies (1 point)

2.2 vs 3.0 Point Allocation

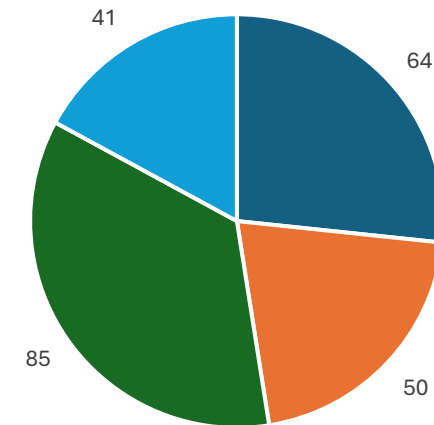STARS v2.2 Point Allocation

STARS v3.0 Point Allocation
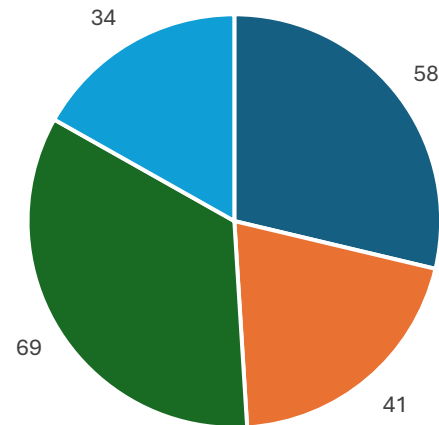
- Academics
- Engagement
- Operations
- Planning and Administration

- **Point allocation between categories has remained mostly the same**
    - Slightly larger portion of operations-related points, slightly smaller academics

Review Process

Standard Review Timeline

Submit for a rating — approx. 30 days → Receive review results — within 60 days → Publish, earn rating, start next report

AASHE standard review   Address review results

Key Takeaway : If you have a goal to earn a rating before a specific date, aim to submit the report about 90 days from that date to provide sufficient time for the standard review process.

Questions?

Emily Vollmer | vollmere@vt.edu

Sustainability Outreach and Reporting Coordinator

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Approval of Proposed Agenda (Poll Everywhere)

- Meeting minutes: Electronic Vote Results

- Announcements

- Business

  - Introduction to STARS 3.0

  - **Green RFP Overview**

- Open Discussion

Green RFP Overview

Previous Year Green RFP Update

- Of the 2 proposals approved:

- Stroubles Creek is complete
- Patton LEDs is in-progress

2024-2025 Green RFP – Key Points and CASEC's Role

- Formal university program for **student organizations** to submit sustainability initiatives or ideas.
- Program was launched in **academic year 2010-11**
- The uniqueness – proposals are submitted, reviewed, **select proposals prioritized**, approved proposals funded, & implementation initiated in the **same academic year**.
- **To date: 135 proposals have been approved, totaling $2,178,600**

- CASEC to review & prioritize the select proposals listed in the Green RFP Summary Table.

2024-2025 Green RFP Process and Timeline

DATE	ACTIVITY
Sept 20	Green RFP 2024-25 announcement
Nov 15	Proposal deadline to Office of Sustainability
Dec 1	Office of Sustainability coordinates review with subject matter experts
Jan 27	**CASEC Subcommittee to begin review & prioritize proposals**
Feb 24	Subcommittee presents recommendations to CASEC for approval
Mar 7	CASEC presents proposals to the Office of Budget & Financial Planning
Mar/Apr	OBFP convenes Budget Review Committee- identifies funding sources
June/July	Select proposals approved - implementation initiated in summer

Green RFP Subcommittee

- **<u>Evaluation criteria</u>**:
  1. Does the proposal support the goals of the climate action commitment
  2. Does the proposal generate savings
  3. Does the proposal pertain to energy reduction/conservation or enhance social/ecosystem services
  4. Does the proposal address a one-time or ongoing need
  5. Does the proposal leverage other funding sources or volunteers

  Current Members:
  - Yugasha Bakshi
  - Kristina Cook

- If you are interested in serving, please let me or Kristina know. (You can post it in this meeting's chat if you are certain now!)

Green RFP Breakdown of Proposal Types

- The proposals spanned categories such as: energy, transportation, stormwater management, dining, and water usage.
- Estimated total cost of all 35 proposals was $12.8 million

- These proposals went through a 2-layer review by the Office of Sustainability and by subject matter experts in the above categories.
- Ranked Category 1 – 4
- Category 1 proposals have merit and are feasible to move forward for subcommittee review

- The following proposals were chosen to move forward:

Proposal Number	Title & Description	Student Organization	One-Time Cost	VTCAC Points	Impact
1	**15 Tree Planting on the Huckleberry Trail by Southgate**	Students for Sustainable Practice	$10,000	1,6,10	**This proposal would add 15 tree seedlings to a portion of the Huckleberry Trail parallel to Southgate near the athletic fields.** This will increase canopy cover in a district of campus with one of the lowest canopy cover ratings in support of CAC goal 6 and will replace 3 overmature trees in the area. The planting will also sequester carbon over time and provide other environmental benefits that include removing vehicle pollution along Southgate, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, and erosion control. Once the trees are mature, they will provide shade for walkers or bikers along that section of the Huckleberry, which tends to be a fairly popular section of trail on campus. This proposal was review by Kenny Harmon (Arborist) and Jack Rosenberger (Landscape Architect) and they recommend it. **Annual Cost Savings: $1,143 of environmental benefits. Payback period is 9 years.**
2	**Stroubles Creek Riparian Restoration (Phase 8)**	Stroubles Creek Coalition, VT StREAM Lab, Environmental Coalition at VT	$25,000.00	1,6,7,8,10,12	**This proposal is in support of the next phase of the highly successful Stroubles Creek Restoration project located just west of the Duck Pond and Rt 460.** The proposal involves planting at least 3,000 seedlings in an effort to restore the riparian habitat along the DEQ "impaired" stream and it's tributaries. Restoring this habitat has a myriad of positive environmental outcomes including; carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, improved water quality, less soil erosion, and better stormwater management. This also includes education and outreach that will impact hundreds, if not thousands of students on-campus. Matching funds will also be provided through New River Conservancy, essentially doubling the impact of the project. This proposal was reviewed by Mark Whitt (Stormwater) and he highly recommends it. **Cost Savings: $258,000 of environmental benefits by year 30.**
3	**Electric Lawnmower for Grounds**	UAP 3354 - Introduction to Environmental Policy and Planning	$39,100.00	1,6,11,12	**This proposal would fund the transition of a second Grounds lawnmower to electric, which would have multiple sustainability benefits for campus.** The implementation of electric powered lawn mowers will lower campus operational and maintenance costs which will provide monetary savings, decrease noise pollution thereby enhancing the student experience on campus, and reduce campus carbon emissions creating a more eco-friendly and clean environment. For example, this will reduce the amount of gasoline burned by the mowing fleet and maintenance is typically easier. As Virginia Tech transitions to 100% renewable energy, it is estimated that this type of mower could reduce carbon emissions by nearly 8 tons per year and reduce costs by as much as $2,500 annually. This proposal was reviewed by Matt Gartt (Grounds) and he highly recommends it. **Cost Savings: $2,500 Payback period is 15.6 years.**
4	**Pritchard Hall Covered Bike Racks**	Sustainable Land Development Club	$64,000.00	1,9,11,12	**This proposal would help incentivize Pritchard Hall residents to use more sustainable forms of transportation while providing shelter for bikes for weather protection.** This would fund removing the existing staple-type bike rack and concrete pad at Pritchard Hall, replacing the concrete pad, and installing two 7-loop inverted u-type racks and two covered shelters. Virginia Tech would like covered bike racks to be the gold standard moving forward and Pritchard is currently the largest residence hall without a covered bike rack. Project reviewed by Nick Quint (Sustainable Transportation Network Manager) and Ken Belcher (Director of Facilities and Operations) and they fully support it. **Cost Savings: N/A**

5	**CID Bike Rack**	Office of Sustainability Food Team	$2,500.00	1,7,9,12	**This proposal would help address bicycle overcrowding at CID that was identified in the 2024 Bike Census.** This would fund the addition of 7-loop bike rack that would provide more secure parking and help reduce instances of bikes being chained to nearby trees. Installing more bike racks encourages cycling, which is a zero-emissions form of transportation and increases health/wellbeing of students. Project reviewed by Nick Quint (Sustainable Transportation Network Manager) and Ken Belcher (Director of Facilities and Operations) and they fully support it. **Cost Savings: N/A**
6	**Harper Covered Bike Rack Improvement**	Graduate Urban Affairs and Planning Association	$4,000.00	1,9,12	**This proposal would help address bicycle overcrowding at Harper Hall that was identified in the 2024 Bike Census while decreasing barriers to sustainable transportation.** The census showed 100% utilization in the covered bike rack which was clearly more than nearby un-sheltered bike racks. This would fund additional covered bike parking in the current shelter at Harper by adding a 3-loop and 4-loop bike racks. Installing more bike racks encourages cycling, which is a zero-emissions form of transportation and increases health/wellbeing of students. Project reviewed by Nick Quint (Sustainable Transportation Network Manager) and Ken Belcher (Director of Facilities and Operations) and they fully support it. **Cost Savings: N/A**
7	**War Memorial Bike Rack**	Graduate Urban Affairs and Planning Association	$3,500.00	1,9,12	**This proposal would help address bicycle overcrowding at War Memorial Gym that was identified in the 2024 Bike Census while decreasing barriers to sustainable transportation.** The census showed 120% utilization at the current rack by the gym and some students had resorted to locking their bikes to nearby lamp poles. This proposal would fund the addition of a 6-loop bike rack that would provide more secure parking and help reduce instances of bikes being chained to nearby objects. Installing more bike racks encourages cycling, which is a zero-emissions form of transportation and increases health/wellbeing of students. Project reviewed by Nick Quint (Sustainable Transportation Network Manager) and he fully supports it. **Cost Savings: N/A**
8	**Honey Bee Boxes at Hahn Horticulture Garden and Maintenance Equipment**	UAP 3354 - Introduction to Environmental Policy and Planning	$2,000.00	6,10	**This proposal would fund the installation of 3 honey bee boxes in Hahn Horticulture Garden in support of the Bee Campus USA initiative and would enhance educational opportunities for the campus and community.** Also, this would include the installation of a fence to provide undisturbed space for the bees and any associated beekeepers performing maintenance on the hives. Honey bees provide critical ecosystem services by pollinating up to 50% of plant species in the surrounding area and are a good indicator of ecosystem health. Project reviewed by Scott Douglas (Director, Hahn Horticulture Garden) and he fully supports it. **Cost Savings: N/A**
8 Proposals	**6 Student Orgs**		**$150,100**		

	LEDs for New Classroom Building	UAP 3354 - Introduction to Environmental Policy and Planning	$7,320.00	1,4, 10	This proposal is currently being funded through the Energy Action Plan

Next Meeting: **February 24, 2025**
2:00 p.m. via Zoom

VIRGINIA TECH