

Nitrogen Footprint

0.5 bonus points available

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that calculate an institution-level nitrogen footprint to assess the nitrogen pollution generated by their activities.

Criteria

Institution has calculated and publicly reported on its *nitrogen footprint* within the previous three years.

The nitrogen footprint includes utilities, food consumption, fertilizer use and transportation and may also include food production and research animals, if applicable.

Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for calculating and publicly reporting on its nitrogen footprint. Partial points are not available.

Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ A copy of the institution's nitrogen footprint (upload or website URL)
- ☐ Are the following included in the institution's nitrogen footprint? (Yes, No, N/A)
 - ☐ Utilities
 - ☐ Food consumption
 - ☐ Food production
 - ☐ Fertilizer use
 - ☐ Transportation
 - ☐ Research animals
- ☐ Year the institution's nitrogen footprint was completed or last updated
- ☐ A brief description of the methodology or tool used to calculate the institution's nitrogen footprint

Optional

- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

Standards and Terms

Nitrogen footprint

Consistent with the Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Platform (SIMAP), a nitrogen footprint is "the amount of reactive nitrogen released to the environment from a campus' resource

consumption". Examples of reactive nitrogen include water pollutants nitrate and ammonium, air quality pollutants ammonia and nitrogen oxides, and the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide. According to SIMAP:

When released to the environment, reactive nitrogen contributes to a cascade of negative impacts to human and ecosystem health (e.g., smog, acid rain, forest dieback, eutrophication, climate change). Major sources of reactive nitrogen include food production (from sources like fertilizer runoff, manure management, and food waste) and fossil fuel combustion (a by-product of combustion).