

Innovation A

0.5 bonus points available

Rationale

Innovation credits are open-ended and reserved for outcomes, policies, and practices that address sustainability challenges and are not covered by an existing credit.

Criteria

Institution has a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policy, or practice that addresses a *sustainability challenge* and is not covered by an existing credit.

- 1) In general, innovation credits should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as other STARS credits.
- 2) Outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region or institution type are eligible for innovation credits.
- 3) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome must be ongoing or have occurred within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.
- 4) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already implemented; planned activities do not count.
- 5) The innovative practice or program should originate from an area within the defined institutional boundary.
- 6) Practices, policies, and programs that were once considered innovative but are now widely adopted (e.g., being the first institution to enact a policy 20 years ago that is now common) may not be claimed as innovation credits.
- 7) Multiple activities or practices whose sum is innovative can be considered for an innovation credit as long as those activities or practices are related. Listing a series of unrelated accomplishments or events under a single innovation credit is not accepted.
- 8) While the practices that led to receiving an award may be appropriate for an innovation credit, winning awards and/or high sustainability rankings in other assessments is not, in and of itself, grounds for an innovation credit. When the innovation is part of a partnership, the summary provided must clearly describe the institution's role in the innovation.

To help verify that the policy, practice, program, or outcome that the institution is claiming for an innovation credit is truly innovative, the institution may submit a letter of affirmation from an individual with relevant expertise in the associated content area or a press release or publication featuring the innovation.

Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for this credit. Partial points are not available.

Reporting Fields

Please note that institutions will report on each innovation credit separately.

Required

- ☐ Name or title of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome
- ☐ A brief description of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome that outlines how credit criteria are met and any positive measurable outcomes associated with the innovation
- ☐ Does the innovation describe a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policy or practice that is not already covered by an existing STARS credit?
- ☐ Is the innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome ongoing or has it occurred within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission?
- ☐ Has the institution previously received a STARS innovation credit for this specific practice, policy, program, or outcome?
- ☐ Which of the following impact areas does the innovation most closely relate to (select up to three):
 - ☐ Curriculum
 - ☐ Research
 - ☐ Campus Engagement
 - ☐ Public Engagement
 - ☐ Air & Climate
 - ☐ Buildings
 - ☐ Energy
 - ☐ Food & Dining
 - ☐ Grounds
 - ☐ Purchasing
 - ☐ Transportation
 - ☐ Waste
 - ☐ Water
 - ☐ Coordination & Planning
 - ☐ Diversity & Affordability
 - ☐ Investment & Finance
 - ☐ Wellbeing & Work

Optional

- ☐ A letter of affirmation from an individual with relevant expertise or a press release or publication featuring the innovation (upload)
- ☐ Website URL where information about the innovation is available
- ☐ 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

Sustainability challenges

AASHE defines sustainability in a pluralistic and inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations. Major sustainability challenges include (but are not limited to) climate change, global poverty and inequality, natural resource depletion, and environmental degradation. To identify additional sustainability challenges, it may be helpful to reference the principles outlined in the [Earth Charter](#) and/or the targets embedded in the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

Innovation B

0.5 bonus points available

Rationale

Innovation credits are open-ended and reserved for outcomes, policies, and practices that address sustainability challenges and are not covered by an existing credit.

Criteria

Institution has a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policy, or practice that addresses a *sustainability challenge* and is not covered by an existing credit.

- 1) In general, innovation credits should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as other STARS credits.
- 2) Outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region or institution type are eligible for innovation credits.
- 3) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome must be ongoing or have occurred within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.
- 4) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already implemented; planned activities do not count.
- 5) The innovative practice or program should originate from an area within the defined institutional boundary.
- 6) Practices, policies, and programs that were once considered innovative but are now widely adopted (e.g., being the first institution to enact a policy 20 years ago that is now common) may not be claimed as innovation credits.
- 7) Multiple activities or practices whose sum is innovative can be considered for an innovation credit as long as those activities or practices are related. Listing a series of unrelated accomplishments or events under a single innovation credit is not accepted.
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To help verify that the policy, practice, program, or outcome that the institution is claiming for an innovation credit is truly innovative, the institution may submit a letter of affirmation from an individual with relevant expertise in the associated content area or a press release or publication featuring the innovation.

Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for this credit. Partial points are not available.

Reporting Fields

Please note that institutions will report on each innovation credit separately.

Required

- ☐ Name or title of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome
- ☐ A brief description of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome that outlines how credit criteria are met and any positive measurable outcomes associated with the innovation
- ☐ Does the innovation describe a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policy or practice that is not already covered by an existing STARS credit?
- ☐ Is the innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome ongoing or has it occurred within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission?
- ☐ Has the institution previously received a STARS innovation credit for this specific practice, policy, program, or outcome?
- ☐ Which of the following impact areas does the innovation most closely relate to (select up to three):
 - ☐ Curriculum
 - ☐ Research
 - ☐ Campus Engagement
 - ☐ Public Engagement
 - ☐ Air & Climate
 - ☐ Buildings
 - ☐ Energy
 - ☐ Food & Dining
 - ☐ Grounds
 - ☐ Purchasing
 - ☐ Transportation
 - ☐ Waste
 - ☐ Water
 - ☐ Coordination & Planning
 - ☐ Diversity & Affordability
 - ☐ Investment & Finance
 - ☐ Wellbeing & Work

Optional

- ☐ A letter of affirmation from an individual with relevant expertise or a press release or publication featuring the innovation (upload)
- ☐ Website URL where information about the innovation is available
- ☐ 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

Sustainability challenges

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Innovation C

0.5 bonus points available

Rationale

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Criteria

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- 3) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome must be ongoing or have occurred within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.
- 4) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already implemented; planned activities do not count.
- 5) The innovative practice or program should originate from an area within the defined institutional boundary.
- 6) Practices, policies, and programs that were once considered innovative but are now widely adopted (e.g., being the first institution to enact a policy 20 years ago that is now common) may not be claimed as innovation credits.
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Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for this credit. Partial points are not available.

Reporting Fields

Please note that institutions will report on each innovation credit separately.

Required

- ☐ Name or title of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome
- ☐ A brief description of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome that outlines how credit criteria are met and any positive measurable outcomes associated with the innovation
- ☐ Does the innovation describe a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policy or practice that is not already covered by an existing STARS credit?
- ☐ Is the innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome ongoing or has it occurred within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission?
- ☐ Has the institution previously received a STARS innovation credit for this specific practice, policy, program, or outcome?
- ☐ Which of the following impact areas does the innovation most closely relate to (select up to three):
 - ☐ Curriculum
 - ☐ Research
 - ☐ Campus Engagement
 - ☐ Public Engagement
 - ☐ Air & Climate
 - ☐ Buildings
 - ☐ Energy
 - ☐ Food & Dining
 - ☐ Grounds
 - ☐ Purchasing
 - ☐ Transportation
 - ☐ Waste
 - ☐ Water
 - ☐ Coordination & Planning
 - ☐ Diversity & Affordability
 - ☐ Investment & Finance
 - ☐ Wellbeing & Work

Optional

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Standards and Terms

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Innovation D

0.5 bonus points available

Rationale

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Criteria

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- 9) In general, innovation credits should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as other STARS credits.
- 10) Outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region or institution type are eligible for innovation credits.
- 11) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome must be ongoing or have occurred within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.
- 12) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already implemented; planned activities do not count.
- 13) The innovative practice or program should originate from an area within the defined institutional boundary.
- 14) Practices, policies, and programs that were once considered innovative but are now widely adopted (e.g., being the first institution to enact a policy 20 years ago that is now common) may not be claimed as innovation credits.
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 - ☐ Research
 - ☐ Campus Engagement
 - ☐ Public Engagement
 - ☐ Air & Climate
 - ☐ Buildings
 - ☐ Energy
 - ☐ Food & Dining
 - ☐ Grounds
 - ☐ Purchasing
 - ☐ Transportation
 - ☐ Waste
 - ☐ Water
 - ☐ Coordination & Planning
 - ☐ Diversity & Affordability
 - ☐ Investment & Finance
 - ☐ Wellbeing & Work

Optional

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