

OP 9: Landscape Management

2 points available

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that manage their grounds sustainably. Sustainable landscape management integrates economic, social, and ecological considerations to meet human needs and maintain healthy ecosystems.

Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions with managed grounds comprising one or more percent of the total area of the campus.

Criteria

Institution's grounds include areas that are managed:

- Organically, without the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides (i.e., only *ecologically preferable materials* may be used);
OR
- In accordance with an *Integrated Pest Management* (IPM) program.

An area of grounds may be managed organically or in accordance with an IPM program that uses selected chemicals, but not both.

Scoring

An institution earns the maximum of 2 points available for this credit when 100 percent of campus grounds are managed without the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides. Incremental points are available based on the percentage of grounds managed organically or in accordance with an IPM program. Scoring for this credit is based on the total area of managed grounds, i.e., the sum of areas managed under conventional, IPM, and organic programs.

Points for this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

Management level	Factor		Area managed at each level		Total area of managed grounds		Points earned
Organic	2	×	_____	÷	_____	=	
IPM	1		_____				
Conventional	0		_____				
Total points earned →							Up to 2

Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Total campus area (hectares or acres)
- ☐ Figures required to calculate the total area of managed grounds:
 - Area managed organically, without the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides (hectares or acres)
 - Area managed in accordance with an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that uses selected chemicals only when needed (hectares or acres)
 - Area managed using conventional, chemical-based landscape management practices (hectares or acres)

If the total area of managed grounds is less than the total campus area, provide:

- A brief description of any land excluded from the area of managed grounds (e.g., the footprint of buildings and impervious surfaces, experimental agricultural land, areas that are not regularly managed or maintained)

If reporting an organic program, provide:

- A brief description of the organic landscape management program (Include affirmation that only ecologically preferable materials are used.)

If reporting an IPM program, provide:

- A copy or brief description of the IPM plan or program (text or upload)

Optional

- ☐ A brief description of the institution's approach to the following:
 - Plant stewardship (e.g., protecting and using existing vegetation, using native and ecologically appropriate plants, controlling and managing invasive species)
 - Soil stewardship (e.g., organic soils management practices that restore and/or maintain a natural nutrient cycle and limit the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemicals)
 - Hydrology and water use (e.g., restoring and/or maintaining the integrity of the natural hydrology of the campus by promoting water infiltration, minimizing or eliminating the use of potable water for irrigation, and/or protecting/restoring riparian, wetland, and shoreline habitats and lost streams)
 - Landscape materials management and waste minimization (e.g., composting and/or mulching on-site waste)
 - Energy-efficient landscape design (e.g., the placement and selection of shade trees and windbreaks and the use of vegetation and reflective materials to reduce heat islands)
 - Other sustainable landscape management practices (e.g., use of environmentally preferable landscaping materials, initiatives to reduce the impacts of ice and snow removal, wildfire prevention)
- ☐ Website URL where information about the institution's sustainable landscape management program 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)

Measurement

Timeframe

Report on current programs and practices at the time of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards

For total campus area, report the total amount of land within the institutional boundary. In calculating the area of managed grounds, an institution may exclude the footprint of buildings and impervious surfaces, experimental agricultural land, and land that is not regularly managed or maintained, as long as such areas are excluded consistently.

To simplify reporting, an institution may elect to account for the footprint of a building or facility and associated impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and parking areas based on how the entire site is managed as long as the same methodology is used consistently for all managed areas. For example, if the Housing Department uses integrated pest management to maintain four acres that include residence halls and paved surfaces as well as associated grounds, all four acres may be counted toward the “area managed in accordance with an IPM program” as long as all managed areas are counted the same way.

Standards and Terms

Ecologically preferable materials

Ecologically preferable materials include OMRI Listed products (Organic Materials Review Institute) and/or products listed/certified by an IFOAM-endorsed standard. Consistent with the NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care, rescue treatments using non-organic pesticides to control insect and disease problems that can cause significant harm are allowed, providing there are no effective organic alternatives.

Integrated pest management

Integrated pest management (IPM) uses a combination of biological, cultural, physical/mechanical and chemical management tools to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. Although every IPM program is different, successful programs use the same four-tiered approach: 1) set action thresholds, 2) monitor and identify pests, 3) prevent or remove conditions that attract pests, and 4) control. For more information, see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s IPM Principles.

Scoring Example: Landscape Management

The total campus area of Example University comprises 50 acres, all of which are regularly managed. The grounds are managed by three separate departments: Athletics, Housing, and Facilities Management. The Athletics department manages 5 acres of grounds using conventional landscape management techniques and does not follow an IPM program. The Housing department, which manages 20 acres of grounds, follows an IPM program. The Facilities Management department manages 24 acres following an IPM program. Facilities Management also oversees a 1 acre campus garden that is managed organically without the use of any inorganic fertilizers or chemicals.

Management level	Factor		Area managed at each level		Total area of managed grounds		Points earned
Organic	2	×	1	÷	50	=	0.04
IPM	1		44				0.88
Conventional	0		5				0
Total points earned →							0.92