PA 2: Commitments and Planning

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that have made a public commitment to and developed comprehensive plans for sustainability. Sustainability planning affords an institution the opportunity to clarify its vision of a sustainable future and provides a roadmap to help guide decision-making. Establishing measurable goals and objectives allows an institution to track its future progress, identify and document its successes, and manage the levels of resources devoted to (and required for) the attainment of its sustainability goals. Including sustainability in the institution's strategic plan and other guiding documents also signals an institution's commitment to sustainability and may help infuse an ethic of environmental, fiscal and social responsibility throughout the campus community.

Applicability

Applicable to all institutions.

Points available

A maximum of 6 points are available for this credit.

Criteria

2.1 Public sustainability commitment

An institution earns 2 points when it has made a public commitment to sustainability, as evidenced by a published statement, policy, or plan that outlines the institution's guiding vision or goals for sustainability and/or its status as a signatory to one or more external sustainability commitments that include a reporting requirement.

Measurement

Report on the institution's current plans and commitments. External commitments that do not include ongoing reporting requirements do not qualify.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution made a public commitment to sustainability, as evidenced by an external commitment or a published plan? (required)

  If Yes, at least one of the following two fields is also required:

- ○ Narrative detailing the institution's guiding vision or goals for sustainability and the plan(s) in which they are published

- ○ Narrative and/or website URL outlining the institution's external sustainability commitments that include a reporting requirement

2.2 Measurable sustainability objectives

An institution earns 3 points when it has adopted one or more **measurable sustainability objectives** that address A) teaching, learning, and research, B) stakeholder engagement, C) campus operations, D) racial equity and social justice, and E) administration and finance, as evidenced by their inclusion in a published plan and the identification of an accountable staff position or unit for each objective. Partial points are available as outlined in Table I.

Table I. Points earned for indicator 2.2

Criterion. Institution has adopted one or more measurable sustainability objectives that address:	Points available	Points earned
A. Teaching, learning, and research	0.6	
B. Stakeholder engagement	0.6	
C. Campus operations	0.6	
D. Racial equity and social justice	0.6	
E. Administration and finance	0.6	
Total points earned →		

Measurement

Report on the institution's active plans, e.g., the institution's current strategic plan, campus master plan, sustainability plan, and/or climate action plan.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- ● Has the institution adopted one or more measurable sustainability objectives that address teaching, learning, and research? (required). For example, objectives related to sustainability courses and education programs, research that addresses sustainability challenges, or co-curricular education, employee training, and community education in sustainability.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - ○ Narrative listing the institution's measurable sustainability objectives that address teaching, learning, and research. Include the plan in which each objective is published,

the year it was last updated, and the staff position or unit accountable for each objective.

- Has the institution adopted one or more measurable sustainability objectives that address stakeholder engagement? (required). For example, objectives related to collaborations and partnerships for sustainability or student and staff participation in sustainability initiatives.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  ○ Narrative listing the institution's measurable sustainability objectives that address stakeholder engagement. Include the plan in which each objective is published, the year it was last updated, and the staff position or unit accountable for each objective.

- Has the institution adopted one or more measurable sustainability objectives that address campus operations? (required). For example, objectives related to energy and water efficiency, ecologically managed grounds, renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable procurement, waste minimization and recovery, or sustainable transportation.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  ○ Narrative listing the institution's measurable sustainability objectives that address campus operations. Include the plan in which each objective is published, the year it was last updated, and the staff position or unit accountable for each objective.

- Has the institution adopted one or more measurable sustainability objectives that address racial equity and social justice? (required). For example, objectives related to equitable student access and success, pay equity, a living wage, or labor and human rights.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  ○ Narrative listing the institution's measurable sustainability objectives that address racial equity and social justice. Include the plan in which each objective is published, the year it was last updated, and the staff position or unit accountable for each objective.

- Has the institution adopted one or more measurable sustainability objectives that address administration and finance? (required). For example, objectives related to sustainability reporting, overall sustainability performance, student and staff wellbeing, sustainable investment, or financial savings attributable to sustainability initiatives.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  ○ Narrative listing the institution's measurable sustainability objectives that address administration and finance. Include the plan in which each objective is published, the year it was last updated, and the staff position or unit accountable for each objective.

2.3 Climate resilience assessment and planning

An institution earns 1 point when it A) has conducted a baseline assessment to identify vulnerabilities and resilience activities related to climate change on campus and in the local community, B) participates in an ongoing campus-community task force or committee that is focused on climate

resilience, and C) has incorporated climate resilience strategies and/or goals into one or more of its published plans. Partial points are available as outlined in Table II.

Table II. Points earned for indicator 2.3

Criterion	Points available	Points earned
A. Institution has conducted a baseline assessment to identify vulnerabilities and resilience activities related to climate change on campus and in the local community.	0.33	
B. Institution participates in an ongoing campus-community task force or committee that is focused on climate resilience.	0.33	
C. Institution has incorporated climate resilience strategies and/or goals into one or more of its published plans.	0.33	
Total points earned →		

Measurement

Report on active plans and assessments completed or updated within the previous five years.

A campus-community task force or committee may be hosted by the institution, by an entity in the community, or jointly as long as both institutional and community representatives participate.

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Has the institution conducted a baseline assessment to identify vulnerabilities and resilience activities related to climate change on campus and in the local community? (required)

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's climate resilience assessment

- Does the institution participate in an ongoing campus-community task force or committee that is focused on climate resilience? For example, an ongoing climate change committee that includes representatives from the institution and the local community.

  If Yes, the following field is also required:

  - Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the campus-community task force or committee focused on climate resilience

- Has the institution incorporated climate resilience strategies and/or goals into one or more of its published plans?

If Yes, the following field is also required:

- ○ Narrative listing the institution's climate resilience strategies and goals and the plan(s) in which they are published

Glossary

Measurable sustainability objectives – Criteria used to assess progress toward the attainment of a sustainability goal or target (e.g., emissions reductions, reductions in resource use or waste, the establishment of new sustainability programs or initiatives, increases in the number of people impacted by sustainability programs and initiatives, and financial savings attributable to sustainability initiatives). In addition to being measurable, such objectives should be specific, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART). Examples include:

- The institution will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2030.
- 100 percent of graduates will be able to demonstrate sustainability literacy by 2030 as measured by a standard sustainability literacy survey.
- By 2030, all students and staff will be required to participate in anti-racism training and the diversity and inclusion grant program will double the percentage of graduate students from marginalized groups.
- In 2030, the institution will roll out a student eco-reps program in all residence halls and the sustainability committee will adopt a green office certification program.
- The institution will save in excess of $1 million over the next 10 years due to energy efficiency improvements.