STARS 3.1

Summary of Changes

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This document outlines the proposed changes between versions 3.0 and 3.1 of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). Each credit from STARS 3.0 is presented next to the equivalent credit from STARS 3.1 and a summary of any substantive changes. Credits are labeled to indicate the extent of changes (i.e., “no changes”, “minor edits”, “significant changes”, or “new”).

A detailed rationale for each change is beyond the scope of this document. The minutes of STARS Steering Committee meetings are often a useful reference to get a better understanding of the thinking that led to particular change.

Report Preface (PRE)

STARS 3.0 Credit	STARS 3.1 Credit
PRE 1: Executive Letter	PRE 1: Introductory Letter (minor edits) ● The executive letter has been reframed as an “Introductory Letter” to allow greater flexibility in who the letter is from.
PRE 2: Points of Distinction	PRE 2: Points of Distinction (no changes)
PRE 3: Institutional Characteristics	PRE 3: Institutional Characteristics (no changes)
PRE 4: Reporting Methodologies	PRE 4: Reporting Methodologies (minor changes) ● Reporting fields about review/assurance were removed because a new credit requesting this information has been added (see below).

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Academics (AC)

STARS 3.0 Credit	STARS 3.1 Credit
Curriculum	
AC 1: Sustainability Course Offerings	AC 1: Sustainability Course Offerings (minor changes) ● A new required field has been added to Indicator AC 1.2 (Published sustainability course listings) asking how the sustainability course listings are promoted to current and prospective students.
AC 2: Undergraduate Programs	AC 2: Undergraduate Programs (minor changes) ● Indicator AC 2.1 (Institutional sustainability learning outcomes for undergraduate students) now explicitly allows institution-wide undergraduate graduation requirements to count as learning outcomes. The indicator is now applicable to all institutions that offer undergraduate qualifications.
AC 3: Graduate Programs	AC 3: Graduate Programs (no changes)
AC 4: Applied Learning	AC 4: Applied Learning (minor changes) ● In indicator AC 4.1 (Applied learning for sustainability program), criterion B (which awarded points when 3 or more departments or units were currently supporting solutions-focused applied learning experiences for students) has been removed. The points associated with criterion B have been allocated to the three remaining criteria. ● Criterion D in AC 4.1 has been modified to focus more specifically on mechanisms to connect students to applied learning opportunities that address sustainability challenges. Portals that only document past applied learning projects no longer qualify.
AC 5: Sustainability Literacy Assessment	AC 5: Sustainability Literacy Assessment (no changes)
Research	
AC 6: Sustainability Research	AC 6: Sustainability Research (no changes)

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AC 7: Center for Sustainability Research	AC 7: Center for Sustainability Research (no changes)
AC 8: Responsible Research and Innovation	AC 8: Responsible Research and Innovation (no changes)

Engagement (EN)

STARS 3.0 Credit	**STARS 3.1 Credit**
Campus Engagement	
EN 1: Outreach and Communications	EN 1: Outreach and Communications (no changes)
EN 2: Co-Curricular Activities	EN 2: Co-Curricular Activities (minor changes) ● The presence of a student-managed investment fund that has a sustainability focus and other co-curricular activities have been added as criteria in indicator EN 2.2 (Sustainability-focused co-curricular activities). ● The documentation fields in indicator EN 2.3 (Percentage of students that participate in sustainability activities) have been slightly modified to reinforce that the indicator is asking about the percentage of students that participate in sustainability activities within a single year. Text was also added to make it clear that institutions may choose to report the average of the most recent three years for which data are available.
EN 3: Staff Engagement and Training	EN 3: Staff Engagement and Training (minor changes) ● The documentation fields in indicator EN 3.3 (Percentage of employees that participate in sustainability activities) have been slightly modified to reinforce that the indicator is asking about the percentage of employees that participate in sustainability activities within a single year. Text was also added to make it clear that institutions may choose to report the average of the most recent three years for which data are available.
EN 4: Sustainability Culture Assessment	EN 4: Sustainability Culture Assessment (minor changes) ● An institution may limit its analysis to undergraduate students if they represent its predominant student body or else report on the entire student body.

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Public Engagement	
EN 5: Civic Engagement	EN 5: Civic Engagement (minor changes) ● Two similar documentation fields in indicator EN 5.3 (Support for public policies to advance sustainability) have been combined to streamline reporting.
EN 6: Community Partnerships	EN 6: Community Partnerships (minor changes) ● Criterion B in indicator EN 6.3 now offers partial credit to institutions if at least some of its community partnerships for sustainability are subject to an assessment process that includes joint evaluation by the institution and its community partners.
EN 7: Continuing Education	EN 7: Continuing Education (no changes)
EN 8: Shared Facilities	EN 8: Shared Facilities (minor changes) ● The applicability section has been modified to indicate that this credit is not applicable to institutions that are exclusively distance-based.
EN 9: Inter-Campus Collaboration	EN 9: Inter-Campus Collaboration (no changes)

Operations (OP)

STARS 3.0 Credit	**STARS 3.1 Credit**
Buildings & Grounds	
OP 1: Building Design and Construction	OP 1: Building Design and Construction (minor changes) ● The text now allows institutions to exclude projects that are pending certification from the calculation of the percentage of new floor area designed and constructed to green building standards.
OP 2: Building Operations and Maintenance	OP 2: Building Operations and Maintenance (no changes)
OP 3: Water Use	OP 3: Water Use (significant changes)

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	• Two new indicators focusing on the change in potable water use over time - “Percentage reduction in potable water per person” and “Percentage reduction in potable water use per square meter” - have been added. • Greater explanation of what counts as rainwater harvesting has been added to OP 3.5 (On-site systems for water recovery and return). • Institutions must now be able to measure *all* water use (including non-potable water use) to be able to earn points in indicator OP 3.6 (Ratio of total water recovered/returned to total water withdrawal). • Performance ranges by peer group for OP 3.1 and 3.2 have been updated based on analysis of a larger dataset that includes STARS submissions since 3.0 was released. • Documentation fields associated with various forms of non-potable water use have been moved from OP 3.1 into OP 3.6.
OP 4: Ecologically Managed Grounds	OP 4: Ecologically Managed Grounds (significant changes) • A definition of managed green space has been added and additional guidance has been added to indicator OP 4.2 (Ratio of ecologically managed green space to total managed green space) to make clear that the protected or restored area must be within the total area of managed green space and that the area covered by tree canopy must be from trees growing within the area of managed green space. • A new indicator - OP 4.3 Percentage of green space managed without irrigation - has been added to encourage drought-tolerant landscaping.
Energy & Climate	
OP 5: Energy Use	OP 5: Energy Use (significant changes) • Indicator OP 5.1 (Energy consumption per square meter) has been restructured to incorporate normalization for degree days and energy intensive space. • Indicator OP 5.2 (Energy consumption per person) has been replaced with two new indicators focusing on the change in energy consumption over time: “Percentage reduction in energy consumption per square meter” and “Percentage reduction in energy consumption per person.” • The definition of energy intensive space has been updated to reference specific building uses that have extraordinarily high energy requirements due to their intended purpose (e.g., hospitals and laboratories).

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OP 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions	OP 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (minor changes) ● An additional Scope 3 emissions sources (Investments) has been added to the list of Scope 3 emissions sources in OP 6.1 (Greenhouse gas emissions inventory and disclosure). ● Performance ranges by peer group for OP 6.2 and 6.3 have been updated based on analysis of a larger dataset that includes STARS submissions since 3.0 was released.

Food & Dining	
OP 7: Dining Service Procurement	OP 7: Dining Services Procurement (significant changes) ● In OP 7.1 (Percentage of food and beverage spend that meets sustainability criteria), food produced using sustainable or ethical methods by social enterprises is now counted in the same way as produced using sustainable or ethical methods by small producers. ● OP 7.2 (Percentage of dining service spend with social impact suppliers) has been removed. The 2 points previously associated with this indicator have been incorporated into OP 7.1.
OP 8: Food Recovery	OP 8: Food Recovery (no changes)
Procurement & Waste	
OP 9: Sustainable Procurement System	OP 9: Sustainable Procurement System (significant changes) ● The scope of OP 9.1 (Supplier code of conduct) has been broadened to ask more broadly about sustainable purchasing standards (including supplier code of conducts). ● OP 9.2 (Percentage of bid solicitations that identify sustainability considerations) and 9.3 (Average weight given to sustainability considerations in bid appraisal) have been merged into a single indicator: Percentage of bid solicitations that incorporate sustainability criteria. The distinction between supplier- and product- level criteria has also been removed. ● OP 9.4 (Percentage of contract spend with social impact suppliers) has been removed from this credit and converted into an Innovation & Leadership credit focused on purchasing from social enterprises.
OP 10: Purchased Goods	OP 10: Purchased Goods (minor changes) ● Total spend data is no longer required in the 4 indicators included

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	in this credit. Instead, institutions are asked to report the percentage of total spend that meets each type of sustainability criteria. ● "EPEAT 2.0 registered" (any tier) has been added as a "Preferable" certification.
OP 11: Materials Management	OP 11: Materials Management (minor changes) ● Text was added to clarify that plastic bottles are to be included in criterion D of OP 11.2 (Single-use disposable plastics program).
OP 12: Waste Generation and Recovery	OP 12: Waste Generation and Recovery (significant changes) ● Indicator OP 12.2 (Non-hazardous waste generated per square meter) has been converted into an indicator focused on change over time: "Percentage reduction in non-hazardous waste generated per person". ● The reporting window for indicator OP 12.4 (Percentage of construction and demolition waste diverted from disposal) has been extended from 3 years to 5 years. ● Performance ranges by peer group for OP 12.1 have been updated based on analysis of a larger dataset that includes STARS submissions since 3.0 was released.
Transportation	
OP 13: Vehicle Fleet	OP 13: Vehicle Fleet (no changes)
OP 14: Commute Modal Split	OP 14: Commute Modal Split (no changes)
OP 15: Air Travel	OP 15: Air Travel (no changes)

Planning & Administration (PA)

STARS 3.0 Credit	**STARS 3.1 Credit**
Coordination & Planning	
PA 1: Sustainability Coordination	PA 1: Sustainability Coordination (no changes)
PA 2: Commitments and Planning	PA 2: Commitments and Planning (minor changes) ● Two reporting fields in PA 2.1 (Public sustainability

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	commitment) have been merged to streamline reporting. ● A definition of “social justice” was added.
PA 3: Institutional Governance	PA 3: Institutional Governance (minor changes) ● Several optional descriptive fields have been removed to streamline reporting.
NA	PA 4: Reporting Assurance (new credit) ● This new credit is similar to a credit from STARS 2.2 that was converted to an Innovation & Leadership credit in STARS 3.0. It has been returned as a standard credit based on data showing that doing a pre-submission data review significantly improves data quality.
Investment	
PA 4: Sustainable Investment Program	PA 9: Sustainable Investment Program (no changes)
PA 5: Investment Holdings	PA 10: Investment Holdings (minor changes) ● Institutions can now report on indicator PA 10.1 (Investment holdings disclosure) without needing to also report data for PA 10.2 (Percentage of the investment pool allocated to positive sustainability investments).
Equal Opportunity	
PA 6: Institutional Climate	PA 5: Equal Opportunity Programs (significant changes) ● Indicators 6.1 (Support for students from underrepresented groups) and 6.2 (Support for employees from underrepresented groups) have been reframed to ask about “equal opportunity programs” for students and employees. ● Indicator 6.3 (Institutional climate assessment) has been folded into two new indicators focused on wellbeing assessment that have been added to PA 11: Health and Wellbeing.
PA 7: Racial and Ethnic Representation	NA (significant changes) ● This credit has been converted into two new Innovation & Leadership credits: “Diversity Index” and “Racial/Ethnic Representation” based on data indicating that many institutions are unable to report on this credit, especially in contexts outside the United States.

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PA 8: Gender Parity	PA 6: Gender Parity (no changes)
PA 9: Affordability and Access	PA 7: Affordability and Access (minor changes) ● Indicator PA 9.2 (Percentage of students that are low-income) has been broadened to allow institutions to report on first-generation students in addition to or instead of low-income students. In addition, the indicator is now scored across a continuum rather than based on ranges. ● This credit is now worth 6 points as it has absorbed the three points that had been allocated to Racial and Ethnic Representation in STARS 3.0.
PA 10: Student Success	PA 8: Student Success (significant changes) ● Indicator PA 10.1 (Completion rate for low-income students) has been broadened to allow institutions to report on first-generation students in addition to or instead of low-income students. ● Indicators PA 10.2 (Completion rate for students with marginalized gender identities) and 10.3 (Percentage of marginalized racial, ethnic, and/or Indigenous groups with equitable completion rates) have been removed.
Wellbeing & Work	
PA 11: Health, Safety and Wellbeing	PA 11: Health and Wellbeing (significant changes) ● Two new indicators - PA 11.2 (Student wellbeing assessment) and 11.4 (Employee wellbeing assessment) - have been added. Both ask about assessment of physical, mental and social wellbeing.
PA 12: Employee Rights	PA 12: Employee Rights (no changes)
PA 13: Pay Equity and Living Wage	PA 13: Employee Compensation (minor changes) ● Indicator PA 13.1 has been reframed to ask about a “pay gap analysis” rather than an “internal pay equity assessment.” A definition of pay gap analysis has been added. ● Institutions can now report on indicator PA 13.1 without needing to also report data for PA 13.2 and 13.3.

Innovation & Leadership (IL)

An updated catalog of Innovation & Leadership (IL) credits will be published with the official launch of STARS 3.1.

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