

## KPU Measures of Environmental Sustainability July 1 2016- June 30, 2017

The KPU Environmental Sustainability Committee was tasked with developing metrics to quantify KPU's progress and performance with respect to sustainability in support of Vision 2018's commitment to:

- Continue to enhance environmental sustainability efforts on campus.
- Integrate sustainability into the core curriculum across disciplines

The Committee chose to use the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), which is largely used throughout North America. AASHE describes STARS as:

*Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS®) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS is intended to engage and recognize the full spectrum of colleges and universities—from community colleges to research universities, and from institutions just starting their sustainability programs to long-time campus sustainability leaders. STARS encompasses long-term sustainability goals for already high-achieving institutions as well as entry points of recognition for institutions that are taking first steps toward sustainability.*

The credits included in STARS span the breadth of higher education sustainability and include performance indicators and criteria organized into four categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration. See link for more information:

<https://stars.aashe.org/pages/about/technical-manual.html>

In 2015, the KPU Environmental Sustainability Committee started the process by evaluating three STARS measures with the goal that each year additional measures can be added. These three measures do not include either the energy conservation measures or academic offerings for which we have robust programs in place.

	2015	2016	2017
EN3: Student Life	1.5/2.0	1.75/2.00	1.75/2.00
OP23: Waste Diversion	1.07/3.00	1.12/3.00	TBA/3.00
PA2: Sustainability Planning	1.5/4.0	2.0/4.0	2.0/4.0

Scores will be captured as the following items in the KPU Annual Vision 2018 Performance Report:

27. STARS score on how well KPU promotes campus life that reflects sustainability and the informal engagement of students
28. STARS score on how well KPU diverts waste and conserves resources through recycling, reusing, and composting
29. STARS score on how well KPU is institutionalizing sustainability by dedicating resources, planning for future projects and engaging the whole community in these processes

## EN 3: Student Life

2 points available

2015 Score: 1.5

2016 Score: 1.75

2017 Score: 1.75

### Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that have co-curricular programs and initiatives that contribute to students learning about sustainability outside of the formal classroom. These programs and initiatives engage students by integrating sustainability into their lives, experiential learning opportunities, and campus culture.

### Scoring

Institutions earn 0.25 points for each category listed for which it has one or more programs up to a maximum of 2 points available for this credit. Partial points are available based on the number of categories for which an institution has programs. Multiple programs and initiatives may be reported for each category and each category may include institution-governed and/or student-governed programs.

### Criteria and KPU Examples (not exhaustive list):

- An indication of whether the institution has one or more programs or initiatives in each the following categories:
  - Active student groups focused on sustainability
    - Sustainable Agriculture
    - Kwantlen Student Association
    - ESAAK (Environmental Sustainability Academic Association of Kwantlen)
    - School of Horticulture students have groups within each program area
    - Let's Be Compassionate Club
    - Numerous other student groups
  - Gardens, farms, community supported agriculture (CSA) or fishery programs, or urban agriculture projects in which students are able to gain experience in organic agriculture and/or sustainable food systems
    - Terrace garden at KPU Richmond
    - Westerman Campus Garden /Grassroots Café Patio Garden
    - Multiple School of Horticulture projects
    - Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School
  - Student-run enterprises that include sustainability as part of their mission statement or stated purpose (e.g. cafés through which students gain sustainable business skills)
    - Grass Roots Café
    - Kwantlen St. Farmers Market
    - Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School Box-a-Week produce sales
    - Pop-up sales by Sustainable Agriculture and Design students at KPU Richmond
  - Sustainable investment funds, green revolving funds or microfinance initiatives through which students can develop socially, environmentally and fiscally responsible investment skills  
None
  - Conferences, speaker series, symposia or similar events related to sustainability that have students as the intended audience
    - Green Wednesdays – annual multiple presentations
    - ecoDays – annual weeklong event, multiple campuses

- Langley Farmers' Market
  - National Campus Sustainability Day – annual multi-campus week-long events
  - KPU-Science World speaker series – general interest, general public
  - Activism Training hosted by the KSA
- Cultural arts events, installations or performances related to sustainability that have students as the intended audience
    - KDocs – annual - various documentaries with sustainability theme and discussions
  - Wilderness or outdoors programs (e.g. that organize hiking, backpacking, kayaking, or other outings for students) that follow Leave No Trace principles
    - Active KSA outdoor recreation activities – regular on-going activities
    - Shoreline cleanup - biannual, multiple locations
    - Bike-to-Work Week KSA Riders team (biannual); hosting Celebration Station on multiple campuses
  - Sustainability-related themes chosen for themed semesters, years, or first-year experiences (e.g. this could take the form of choosing a sustainability-related book for common reading)
    - Sustainability-focused First year Cohort - pilot
  - Programs through which students can learn sustainable life skills (e.g. a series of sustainable living workshops, a model room in a residence hall that is open to students during regular visitation hours and demonstrates sustainable living principles, or sustainability-themed housing where residents and visitors learn about sustainability together)
    - Sustainable Agriculture student presentations, demonstrations on food security and healthy eating – KPU Richmond
  - Sustainability-focused student employment opportunities offered by the institution
    - KSA Sustainability Coordinator as paid employee
    - Sustainability Specialist (KSA) Part time student position paid by the KSA
    - MultiPass Specialist (KSA) Part time student position paid by the KSA
    - President's Intern – duties include organization of KPU Sustainability Week activities
    - Sustainability-focused co-op work term positions routinely posted on KPU Career Services website – typically 10-15/year EPT student co-op placements
    - Volunteer positions with the Kwantlen St. Market
  - Graduation pledges through which students pledge to consider social and environmental responsibility in future job and other decisions
    - None
  - Other co-curricular sustainability programs and initiatives (please specify)
    - Lots occurring – too many to record. See KPU Experiential Learning webpage for comprehensive list:  
<http://www.kpu.ca/experiential>

**KPU 2017 Score Rationale:** Although we could easily give ourselves the top score of 2.0 we, the KPU Environmental Sustainability Committee, believe KPU should strive to increase the number of activities under each criteria.

## PA 2: Sustainability Planning

4 points available

2015 Score: 1.5    2016 Score: 2.0    2017 Score: 2.0

### Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that have developed comprehensive plans to move toward sustainability. Sustainability planning affords an institution the opportunity to clarify its vision of a sustainable future and provides a road map to help guide decision-making. Including sustainability at a high level 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.

### Scoring

Institutions earn 1/6 point for each of the areas listed for which they have formally adopted plans and an additional 1/6 point if the plans include at least one measurable objective with corresponding strategies and timeframes. A maximum of 4 points is available for this credit.

The criteria may be met by any combination of formally adopted plans, for example:

- Strategic plan or equivalent guiding document
- Campus master plan or physical campus plan
- Sustainability plan
- Climate action plan
- Human resources strategic plan
- Diversity plan

KPU's Vision 2018 provides an overarching guide. Plans at some level of development exist as indicated below in italics.

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|--|--|
| ○ Curriculum ( <i>High level plan</i> )  | ○ Grounds ( <i>In external provider's contract</i> ) |
| ○ Research (or other scholarship appropriate for the institution) ( <i>High level plan</i> ) | ○ Purchasing   |
| ○ Campus Engagement  | ○ Transportation                                     |
| ○ Public Engagement  | ○ Waste  |
| ○ Air & Climate ( <i>Detailed plan with targets</i> )  | ○ Water  |
| ○ Buildings ( <i>High level plan</i> )   | ○ Diversity & Affordability ( <i>High level</i> )    |
| ○ Dining Services/Food   | ○ Health, Wellbeing & Work ( <i>High level</i> )     |
| ○ Energy ( <i>Detailed plan with targets</i> )   | ○ Investment   |
|  | ○ Other (please specify)                             |

KPU has a Carbon Neutral Action Report and a Strategic Energy Management Plan, each of which are updated annually. The Carbon Neutral Action Report and the Strategic Energy Management Plan have specific measurable objectives, strategies and timeframes to achieve the objectives. See <http://www.kpu.ca/sustainability> for detailed information. Vision 2018 also has measurable objectives as does the contract with the external grounds keepers. New in 2016-17 was KPU signing the Tallories Declaration, a sustainability pledge adopted by post-secondary institutions world-wide.

**KPU 2017 Score: (0.167 x 8 subject areas) + (0.167 x 4 plans with measureable objectives) = 2.004**  
**No change over the previous year.**