



Virginia Commonwealth University

The following information was submitted through the [STARS Reporting Tool](#) to be shared with Sierra magazine for consideration in their Cool Schools publication.

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Table of Contents

Education & Research	3
Co-Curricular Education	3
Curriculum	25
Research	45
Operations	56
Buildings	56
Climate	62
Dining Services	69
Energy	82
Grounds	94
Purchasing	101
Transportation	111
Waste	129
Water	143
Planning, Administration & Engagement	154
Coordination and Planning	154
Diversity and Affordability	166
Human Resources	180
Investment	191
Public Engagement	200
Innovation	212
Innovation	212
Supplemental	221
Supplemental Data	221

The information presented in this submission is self-reported and has not been verified by AASHE or a third party. If you believe any of this information is erroneous, please see the [process for inquiring](#) about the information reported by an institution.

Education & Research

Co-Curricular Education

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that provide their students with sustainability learning experiences outside the formal curriculum. Engaging in sustainability issues through co-curricular activities allows students to deepen and apply their understandings of sustainability principles. Institution-sponsored co-curricular sustainability offerings, often coordinated by student affairs offices, help integrate sustainability into the campus culture and set a positive tone for the institution.

Credit
Student Sustainability Educators Program
Student Sustainability Outreach Campaign
Sustainability in New Student Orientation
Sustainability Outreach and Publications
Student Group
Organic Garden
Model Room in a Residence Hall
Themed Housing
Sustainable Enterprise
Sustainability Events
Outdoors Program
Themed Semester or Year

Student Sustainability Educators Program

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution coordinates an ongoing peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education program for degree-seeking students. The institution:

- Selects or appoints students to serve as educators and formally designates the students as educators,
- Provides formal training to the educators in how to conduct outreach, and
- Offers faculty or staff and/or financial support to the program.

This credit focuses on programs for degree-seeking students enrolled in a for-credit program. Continuing education and/or non-credit students are excluded from this credit.

Student clubs or groups, which are covered by *Co-Curricular Education Tier Two Credit 1*, are not eligible for this credit unless the group meets the criteria outlined above.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Total number of degree-seeking students enrolled at the institution :

31899

Program name (1st program) :

Resident Assistants Program

Number of students served by the program to whom peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education is offered (1st program) :

4750

A brief description of the program, including examples of peer-to-peer outreach activities (1st program) :

All Resident Assistants (RAs) receive sustainability training in addition to their regular RA training. RA's are responsible for being available to residents to serve as a resource, mediator, advisor, and crisis responder. Respond to student situations, policy violations, and emergencies. RA's are also responsible for planning and implementing social activities for residents.

A brief description of how the student educators are selected (1st program) :

Resident assistants are selected based on the following criteria:

1. Sophomore standing (having earned at least 24 credit hours) by date of employment, junior/senior standing preferred.
2. Candidates should have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 to apply
 - Candidates must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 to be hired.
 - If an RA's cumulative GPA falls below 2.5 at any time, her/his RA position may be terminated.
3. Candidates may not be on University or Residence Hall disciplinary probation.
4. Candidates may not have outstanding debts to the university.
5. RA's may not hold a major office in a major student organization. (e.g., SGA, RHA, IFC).
6. The RA position is for one academic year at a time. Current staff member must re-apply. Re-hire is contingent upon a successful evaluation and re-application process.
7. In order to be considered for the RA position you must turn in an application and complete the entire interview process.

A brief description of the formal training that the student educators receive (1st program) :

Resident assistants receive group training in the subjects of leadership, teamwork, conflict resolution, event planning, communication skills, and sustainability.

A brief description of the staff and/or other financial support the institution provides to the program (1st program) :

Resident assistants receive financial and staff support from the VCU Office of Residential Life and Housing.

The website URL for 1st Program :

http://www.housing.vcu.edu/ra_rd_resources/rajobs.html

Program name (2nd program) :

Number of students to whom peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education is offered (2nd program) :

A brief description of the program, including examples of peer-to-peer outreach activities (2nd program) :

A brief description of how the student educators are selected (2nd program) :

A brief description of the formal training that the student educators receive (2nd program) :

A brief description of the staff and/or other financial support the institution provides to the program (2nd program) :

The website URL for 2nd program :

[STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

Program name (3rd program) :

Number of students to whom peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education is offered (3rd program) :

A brief description of the program, including examples of peer-to-peer outreach activities (3rd program) :

A brief description of how the student educators are selected (3rd program) :

A brief description of the formal training that the student educators receive (3rd program) :

A brief description of the staff and/or other financial support the institution provides to the program (3rd program) :

The website URL for 3rd program :

Program name (All other programs) :

Number of students to whom peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education is offered (All other programs) :

A brief description of the program, including examples of peer-to-peer outreach activities (All other programs) :

A brief description of how the student educators are selected (All other programs) :

A brief description of the formal training that the student educators receive (All other programs) :

A brief description of the staff and/or other financial support the institution provides to the program (All other programs) :

The website URL for all other programs :

Student Sustainability Outreach Campaign

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution holds at least one sustainability-related outreach campaign directed at students. The campaign yields measurable, positive results in advancing sustainability. The sustainability-related outreach campaign may be conducted by the institution, a student organization, or students in a course.

To measure if the campaign yields measurable, positive results, institutions should compare pre-campaign performance to performance during or after the campaign.

The campaign could take the form of a competition (such as a residence hall conservation competition), or a collective challenge (such as a campus-wide drive to achieve a specific sustainability target).

The campaign may focus on one or more sustainability issues, but educating students is a primary feature of the campaign.

The campaign may reach additional campus members (faculty, staff, visitors, etc.) as long as students are one of the audiences of the campaigns.

The following impacts are not sufficient for this credit:

- Increased awareness
 - Additional members of a mailing list or group
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution hold a campaign that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

The name of the campaign(s) :

RecycleMania

A brief description of the campaign(s) :

RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. Over a 10-week period, schools report recycling and trash data which are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. With each week's reports and rankings, participating schools watch how their results fluctuate against other schools and use this to rally their campus communities to reduce and recycle more.

A brief description of the measured positive impact(s) of the campaign(s) :

The recycling rate increased from 2010 in the corrugated cardboard and bottles and cans categories, showing a measured positive impact.

The website URL where information about the sustainability outreach campaign(s) is available :

<http://www.recyclemaniacs.org/>

Sustainability in New Student Orientation

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution includes sustainability prominently in its new student orientation activities and programming. Sustainability activities and programming are made available to all new students and are intended to educate about the principles and practices of sustainability.

Because orientation activities vary from one institution to another, prominent inclusion of sustainability may not take the same form on each campus. When reporting for this credit, each institution will determine what prominent inclusion of sustainability means given its particular context.

As this credit is intended to measure sustainability being infused throughout the institution, program or discipline-level orientations are not included in this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution include sustainability prominently in new student orientation? :

Yes

A brief description of how sustainability is included prominently in new student orientation :

VCU's Think Green Guides were distributed to all students at Ram Resources Sessions during New Student Orientation.

The website URL where information about sustainability in new student orientation is available :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/>

Sustainability Outreach and Publications

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution produces outreach materials and/or publications that foster sustainability learning and knowledge. The publications and outreach materials may include the following:

- A central sustainability website that consolidates information about the institution's sustainability efforts
 - A sustainability newsletter
 - A vehicle to publish and disseminate student research on sustainability
 - Building signage that highlights green building features
 - Food service area signage and/or brochures that include information about sustainable food systems
 - Signage on the grounds about sustainable groundskeeping strategies employed
 - A sustainability walking map or tour
 - A guide for commuters about how to use alternative methods of transportation
 - A guide for green living and incorporating sustainability into the residential experience
 - Regular coverage of sustainability in the main student newspaper, either through a regular column or a reporter assigned to the sustainability beat
 - Other
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a central sustainability website that consolidates information about the institution's sustainability efforts? :

Yes

A brief description of the central sustainability website that consolidates information about the institution's sustainability efforts :

The VCU Goes Green website is a centralized source to find information on sustainability in and around the university. The website highlights recent initiatives and upcoming events. The website is also a resource for sustainability information, links, and ways to get involved.

The website URL for the central sustainability website that consolidates information about the institution's sustainability efforts :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/>

STARS Reporting Tool | AASHE | Sierra Magazine

Does the institution have a sustainability newsletter? :

No

A brief description of the sustainability newsletter :

The website URL for the sustainability newsletter :

Does the institution have a vehicle to publish and disseminate student research on sustainability? :

Yes

A brief description of the vehicle to publish and disseminate student research on sustainability :

Individual research departments have their own vehicles to disseminate student research. VCU News also picks up stories regarding student sustainability research.

The website URL for the vehicle to publish and disseminate student research on sustainability :

Does the institution have building signage that highlights green building features? :

Yes

A brief description of building signage that highlights green building features :

There is signage at all LEED buildings that highlights individual green features as well as LEED rating. There are 27 signs alone at the Cary Street Gym that touch on everything from land preservation, to water efficiency, to recycled materials used in building construction.

The website URL for building signage that highlights green building features :

<http://www.vcu.edu/rice/facilities/building.html>

Does the institution have food service area signage and/or brochures that include information about sustainable food systems? :

Yes

A brief description of food service area signage and/or brochures that include information about sustainable food systems :

VCU Dining Services has come up with a brochure that highlights their sustainable food initiatives including buying local, serving all trayless meals, and using a solar powered trash compactor.

The website URL for food service area signage and/or brochures that include information about sustainable food systems :

<http://www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSMA/VirginiaCommonwealth/Sustainability/>

Does the institution have signage on the grounds about sustainable grounds-keeping strategies employed? :

Yes

A brief description of signage on the grounds about sustainable grounds-keeping strategies employed :

There is signage at the Harris Hall Rain Garden, xeriscaped (bayscaping) landscaping and Arbor Day tree plantings that highlight sustainable grounds-keeping strategies.

The website URL for signage on the grounds about sustainable grounds-keeping strategies employed :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/initiatives/buildings/index.html>

Does the institution have a sustainability walking map or tour? :

Yes

A brief description of the sustainability walking map or tour :

The VCU Green Map is a Sustainability Walking Map that highlights sustainable assets, including buildings, food, and open space and surrounding commercial entities.

The website URL of the sustainability walking map or tour :

<http://www.opengreenmap.org/greenmap/virginia-commonwealth-university-green-map>

Does the institution have a guide for commuters about how to use alternative methods of transportation? :

Yes

A brief description of the guide for commuters about how to use alternative methods of transportation :

Green Unity 4 VCU drafted an Alternate Transportation Guide. This guide highlights the alternative modes of transportation such as: bikes, busses, and walking. VCU also has two Mobility Hub Kiosks oneach campus that have information on alternative transportation.

The website URL for the guide for commuters about how to use alternative methods of transportation :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/initiatives/transportation.html>

Does the institution have a guide for green living and incorporating sustainability into the residential experience? :

Yes

A brief description of the guide for green living and incorporating sustainability into the residential experience :

The guide was created to provide the VCU community with resources that could aid in everyday life, from water consumption to waste reduction. Every action we take has a consequence that can easily be reduced. This guide provides easy tips for making small lifestyle adjustments that will lessen your personal ecological footprint, and therefore reduce the campus footprint as a whole.

The website URL for the guide for green living and incorporating sustainability into the residential experience :

http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/pdf/green_guide_to_living.pdf

Does the institution have regular coverage of sustainability in the main student newspaper (either through a regular column or a reporter assigned to the sustainability beat)? :

Yes

A brief description of regular coverage of sustainability in the main student newspaper, either through a regular column or a reporter assigned to the sustainability beat :

Sustainability events and projects are highlighted in stories in the VCU student newspaper, Commonwealth Times (CT). In 2010 there were almost 40 stories featured on VCU Sustainability and almost every issue had some coverage.

The website URL for regular coverage of sustainability in the main student newspaper, either through a regular column or a reporter assigned to the sustainability beat :

Does the institution produce another sustainability publication or outreach material not covered above? (1st material) :

Yes

A brief description of this material :

VCU Sustainability also has a Facebook page to interact with students in real-time. Facebook facilitates an easy way to highlight VCU sustainable assets and detail the strides the university is making as well as connecting with students.

The website URL for this material :

<https://www.facebook.com/vcugoesgreen>

Does the institution produce another sustainability publication or outreach material not covered above? (2nd material) :

Yes

A brief description of this material :

VCU Goes Green has a blog that is updated with events and news.

The website URL for this material :

[STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

Does the institution produce another sustainability publication or outreach material not covered above? (3rd material) :

Yes

A brief description of this material :

VCU produced a Move-Out Guide for students with information on what is recyclable and where to drop-off recycling when they move out at the end of an academic year.

The website URL for this material :

Does the institution produce another sustainability publication or outreach material not covered above? (4th material) :

No

A brief description of this material :

The website URL for this material :

Does the institution produce another sustainability publication or outreach material not covered above? (5th material) :

No

A brief description of this material :

The website URL for this material :

Does the institution produce another sustainability publication or outreach material not covered above? (6th material) :

No

A brief description of this material :

The website URL for this material :

Does the institution produce another sustainability publication or outreach material not covered above? (7th material) :

No

A brief description of this material :

The website URL for this material :

Does the institution produce another sustainability publication or outreach material not covered above? (8th material) :

No

A brief description of this material :

The website URL for this material :

Student Group

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have an active student group focused on sustainability? :

Yes

The name and a brief description of each student group :

Green Unity 4 VCU is an organization that focuses on promoting sustainability at VCU through service and education. This organization works directly with the Center for Environmental Studies as well as student groups and local organizers. Their focus is VCU and the Richmond community with the belief that change can start here where students can see their impacts. Green Unity's aim is to promote cooperation and teamwork among students, faculty and staff from different schools and units within the university, as each will have unique skills and expertise to share. They work with local organizations and businesses to promote sustainability, conservation and overall, an environmentally friendlier quality of life. Green Unity has a presence on both the Monroe Park and the MCV Campuses and is open to all students on both campuses.

List up to 4 notable recent activities or accomplishments of student group(s) :

Get Your Butt Off the Ground campaign

Neighborhood clean up campaigns

E-waste recycling program

MCV Campus Community Garden

Green Unity (GU101) mini-seminars

Monroe Park Earth Day

MCV Campus Earth Day

List other student groups that address sustainability :

The website URL where information about student group(s) is available :

<https://www.facebook.com/greenunity>

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have an on-campus garden where students are able to gain organic farming and/or gardening experience? :

Yes

A brief description of the garden :

The Student Garden on the MCV Campus has the following features:

1. Compost bins (3)
2. Gardens for Life signage for explanation of community garden project
3. Vermiculture and rain barrels, complete with informational signage, for educational purposes
4. Garden shed with combination lock (all current members will have the combination)
5. Raised beds to improve access to people of all mobility needs, improve soil quality, and improve soil drainage
1. Sub-irrigated planters, in addition to raised beds, to maximize use of space in the garden
1. Design around existing steam pipes and utility access areas

Plots will be available for purchase to all students in a variety of packages that works with different schedules and time commitments.

The website URL where information about the garden is available :

<http://green-unity.blogspot.com/>

Model Room in a Residence Hall

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have an occupied, formally designated model room in a residence hall that is open to students during regular hours and demonstrates sustainable living principles? :

No

A brief description of the model room :

The website URL where information about the model room in the residence hall is available :

Themed Housing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have sustainability-themed housing (residential floor or hall, or theme house) where residents learn about sustainability together and to which residents must apply? :

Yes

A brief description of the themed housing, including name(s) and descriptions of theme(s) :

West Grace Street Residence hall and Academic Scloras Program in Real Environments (ASPIRE) under construction with completion in Summer 2012. see link

http://news.vcu.edu/news/Learn_Where_You_Live_VCU_ASPIRE_offers_a_oneofakind_experience

The website URL where information about the themed housing is available :

http://www.housing.vcu.edu/halls_villages/west_grace_south.html

The total number of residents in themed housing. :

Sustainable Enterprise

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a student-run enterprise, such as a cafe, through which students gain sustainable business skills? :

No

A brief description of the enterprise :

The website URL where information about the sustainable enterprise is available :

Sustainability Events

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution hold major events related to sustainability, such as conferences, speaker series, or symposia, that have students as the intended audience? :

Yes

A brief description of the event(s) :

VCU has a variety of sustainability events throughout the academic year, including: Move-in day, Campus Sustainability Day, America Recycles Day, RecycleMania, VCU Bike Week, VCU Earth Week, Arbor Day, and Move-Out Day. Additionally VCU hosts conferences such as 4th Annual Greening VA Universities and Colleges Conference, 1st Annual VA Governors Conference on Energy and VCU Energy & Sustainability Conference. Guest speakers, such as Jeremy Rifkin and Joel Salatin, are also scheduled.

The website URL where information about the event(s) are available :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/events/index.html>

Outdoors Program

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a wilderness or outdoors program that organizes hiking, backpacking, kayaking, or other outings for students and follows Leave No Trace principles? :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

The VCU Sports Recreation's Outdoor Adventure Program (OAP) serves VCU students, faculty, staff, alumni and guests by providing low-cost outdoor activity-based trips, including whitewater rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, canoeing, caving, hiking, backpacking and skiing. On all of the trips every effort is taken to leave the campsite in better condition than it was found to be in. The Outdoor Adventure Program takes the steps to ensure that no one leaves any trash or harms the environment on their trips.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/outdoor_adventure.html

Themed Semester or Year

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution chosen a sustainability-related theme for its themed semester, year, or first-year experience during the past three years? :

Yes

A brief description of the themed semester, year, or first-year experience :

VCU proudly kicked off its Year of the Environment Oct. 1, 2009, at the VCU Rice Center. Throughout the year, the university hosted a variety of events associated with the initiative, including workshops, lectures and other events available to the VCU and the greater Richmond communities.

The sustainability-related book that was chosen, if applicable :

The website URL where information about the theme is available :

<http://www.yearofenvironment.vcu.edu/>

Curriculum

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that have formal education programs and courses that address sustainability. One of the primary functions of colleges and universities is to educate students. By training and educating future leaders, scholars, workers, and professionals, higher education institutions are uniquely positioned to prepare students to understand and address sustainability challenges. Institutions that offer courses covering sustainability issues help equip their students to lead society to a sustainable future.

Credit
Sustainability Course Identification
Sustainability-Focused Courses
Sustainability-Related Courses
Sustainability Courses by Department
Sustainability Learning Outcomes
Undergraduate Program in Sustainability
Graduate Program in Sustainability
Sustainability Immersive Experience
Sustainability Literacy Assessment
Incentives for Developing Sustainability Courses

Sustainability Course Identification

Responsible Party

Clifford Fox

Assistant Director

Center for Environmental Studies

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has developed a definition of sustainability in the curriculum. The definition was developed by a committee comprised of at least three faculty members who teach courses in different departments. The committee may include students, staff, and other stakeholders as well. The definition does not have to be formally adopted.

In order to report on other STARS Curriculum credits, the definition of sustainability in the curriculum should distinguish between courses that focus or concentrate on the concept of sustainability throughout the course and courses that relate to an aspect of sustainability or include sustainability as part of the course.

- Sustainability-focused courses concentrate on the concept of sustainability, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions, or examine an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens.
- Sustainability-related courses incorporate sustainability as a distinct course component or module or concentrate on a single sustainability principle or issue.

Part 2

Institution has identified its sustainability-focused and sustainability-related course offerings. A course is either sustainability-focused or sustainability-related; no course should be identified as both sustainability-focused and sustainability-related. Each institution is free to choose a methodology to identify sustainability courses that is most appropriate given its unique circumstances. Asking faculty or departments to self-identify sustainability courses using the definition in Part 1 or looking at the stated learning outcomes and course objectives associated with each course may provide a richer view of sustainability course offerings than simply reviewing course descriptions, but it is not required.

Part 3

Institution makes its sustainability course inventory publicly available online. The identification can be incorporated into the course catalog or posted as a stand-alone document.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution developed a definition of sustainability in the curriculum? :

Yes

A copy of the institution's definition of sustainability in the curriculum? :

1. The following sustainability learning objectives were approved in the Fall 2011 meeting to guide the sustainability academics effort at VCU. Classes that meet three or more of these objectives will be considered sustainability focused.:

- a. The student will identify the linkages between human and natural systems across multiple scales.
- b. The student will be able to do at least three of the following:
 - i. Gather, evaluate and process sustainability information.
 - ii. Use communication skills as a part of on-going dialogue on sustainability.
 - iii. Use problem-solving skills related to ethical sustainability questions.
 - iv. Use problem-solving skills related to environmental sustainability questions.
 - v. Use problem-solving skills related to economic sustainability questions.
 - vi. Use problem-solving skills related to social and political sustainability questions.
 - vii. Use problem-solving skills related to managerial sustainability questions.

Has the institution identified its sustainability-focused and sustainability-related course offerings? :

No

A brief description of the methodology the institution followed to complete the inventory :

Does the institution make its sustainability course inventory publicly available online? :

No

The website URL where the sustainability course inventory is posted :

Sustainability-Focused Courses

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution offers sustainability-focused academic courses.

This credit does not include continuing education and extension courses, which are covered by *PAE Credit 21: Sustainability in Continuing Education*.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The number of sustainability-focused courses offered :

20

The total number of courses offered :

4326

Number of years covered by the data :

One

A list of sustainability-focused courses offered :

Biological Concepts
Community Ecology
Earth System Science
Ecosystems Ecology
Ecology
Ecology Lab
Environmental Science
Guided Study: Sustainability
Man and Environment
Natural Resources Economics
Politics of the Environment
Physical Geography
Physical Geology
Regional Planning and Sustainable Development
Research Seminar in Environmental Studies
Sustainable Development

Sustainable Societies- Africa
Sustainable Societies- James River Basin
Transportation Policy & Planning
World Regions Geography

The website URL where the publicly available sustainability course inventory that includes a list of sustainability-focused courses is available :

A copy of the sustainability course inventory :

Sustainability-Related Courses

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution offers sustainability-related academic courses.

This credit does not include continuing education and extension courses, which are covered by *PAE Credit 21: Sustainability in Continuing Education*.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The number of sustainability-related courses offered :

59

The total number of courses offered :

4326

Number of years covered by the data :

One

A list of sustainability-related courses offered :

Applied and Environmental Microbiology

Aquatic Ecology

Aquatic Ecology Lab

Barrier Island Ecology

Community Involvement

Conservation Psychology

Ecological Risk Assessment

Economic Approach to Environmental Issues

Energy!

Energy Conversion Systems

Energy and the Environment

Energy Planning

Environmental Analysis

Environmental Economics

Environmental Factors for Interior Environments

Environmental Geology

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Environmental Management
Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology
Environmental Planning
Environmental Policy and Administration
Environmental Policy and Planning
Environmental Pollution
Environmental Remote Sensing
Environmental Research Methods
Environmental Technology
Environmental Valuation
Fluid Mechanics
Geography of Africa
Graduate Level Research Seminar in Environmental Studies
Historical and Cultural Landscapes
The History of Human Settlement
Hydrogeology
Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
Introduction to Human Geography
Introduction to Meteorology
Introduction to Oceanography
Land Use and Infrastructure Planning
Meteorology and Climatology
Microbial Ecology
Nature Writing
Nanomaterials-based system design concepts
Oceanography
Pesticides, Health and the Environment
Physiological Ecology
Planning Processes
Plant Ecology
Pollution Physiology
Population Ecology
Principles of Environmental Health
Principles of Waste Management
Quantitative Ecology
Regional Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean
Rural Planning, Policy, and Development
Stream Ecology
Survey in Environmental Studies
Thermodynamics
Topics in Environmental Studies
Urban Land Uses
Virginia Environmental Law
Wetlands Ecology

The website URL where the sustainability course inventory that includes a list of sustainability-related courses is

posted :

A copy of the sustainability course inventory :

Sustainability Courses by Department

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution's academic departments (or equivalent) offer sustainability-related and/or sustainability- focused courses.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The number of departments that offer at least one sustainability-related or -focused course :

24

The total number of departments that offer courses :

158

A list of departments that offer sustainability courses :

Biology
Biological Complexity
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Computer Science
Economics
Electrical Engineering
Entrepreneurship & Small Business
Environmental Studies
Epidemiology and Community Health
Fashion Design & Fashion Merchandising
Graphic Design
Integrative Life Sciences
Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Interior Design
Life Sciences Engineering
Marketing
Mechanical Engineering
Nuclear Engineering
Physics
Psychology
Sustainable Communities Institute

Urban and Regional Planning

Urban and Regional Studies

The website URL where the publicly available sustainability course inventory that includes a list of departments that offer sustainability courses is available :

A copy of the sustainability course inventory :

Sustainability Learning Outcomes

Responsible Party

Clifford Fox

Assistant Director

Center for Environmental Studies

Criteria

Institution's students graduate from programs that include sustainability as a required learning outcome or include multiple sustainability learning outcomes.

For this credit, learning outcomes at the course level count if the course is required to earn the degree. This credit includes graduate as well as undergraduate programs. For this credit, "programs" include majors, minors, concentrations, certificates, and other academic designations. Programs that include co-curricular aspects may count as long as there is an academic component of the program.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The number of graduates covered by the sustainability learning outcomes :

63

Total number of graduates :

6744

A list of degree programs that have sustainability learning outcomes :

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies

Master of Science in Environmental Studies

Master of Environmental Studies

The website URL where the publicly available sustainability course inventory that includes a list of degree programs that have specified sustainability learning outcomes is available :

A copy of the sustainability course inventory :

A list or sample of the sustainability learning outcomes associated with the degree programs :

1. The following sustainability learning objectives were approved in the fall 2011 meeting to guide the sustainability academics effort at VCU. Classes that meet three or more of these objectives will be considered sustainability focused.:

- a. The student will identify the linkages between human and natural systems across multiple scales.
- b. The student will be able to do at least three of the following:
 - i. Gather, evaluate and process sustainability information.
 - ii. Use communication skills as a part of on-going dialogue on sustainability.
 - iii. Use problem-solving skills related to ethical sustainability questions.
 - iv. Use problem-solving skills related to environmental sustainability questions.
 - v. Use problem-solving skills related to economic sustainability questions.
 - vi. Use problem-solving skills related to social and political sustainability questions.
 - vii. Use problem-solving skills related to managerial sustainability questions.

Undergraduate Program in Sustainability

Responsible Party

Clifford Fox

Assistant Director

Center for Environmental Studies

Criteria

Institution offers at least one sustainability-focused undergraduate major, degree program, or equivalent.

The degree program does not have to include sustainability in its name to count for this credit. Environmental Studies programs, for example, count as long as the program covers the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability. A program that focuses exclusively on environmental or social issues, however, would not be sufficient to earn this credit.

Concentrations within a major (e.g. a concentration on sustainable business within the business major) do not count for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer an undergraduate degree program that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

The name of the sustainability-focused, undergraduate degree program (1st program) :

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies

The website URL for the program (1st program) :

http://www.vcu.edu/cesweb/ugrad_bses.html

The name of the sustainability-focused, undergraduate degree program (2nd program) :

Urban & Regional Studies

The website URL for the program (2nd program) :

<http://www.has.vcu.edu/usp/>

The name of the sustainability-focused, undergraduate degree program (3rd program) :

The website URL for the program (3rd program) :

The name and website URLs of all other sustainability-focused, undergraduate degree program(s) :

[STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

Graduate Program in Sustainability

Responsible Party

Clifford Fox

Assistant Director

Center for Environmental Studies

Criteria

Institution offers at least one sustainability-focused degree program or equivalent for graduate students.

The degree program does not have to include sustainability in its name to count for this credit. Environmental Studies programs, for example, count for this credit as long as the program covers the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability. A program that focuses exclusively on environmental or social issues, however, would not be sufficient to earn this credit.

Concentrations within a degree program (e.g. a concentration on sustainable business within an MBA program) do not count for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer a graduate degree program that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

The name of the sustainability-focused, graduate-level degree program (1st program) :

Master of Environmental Studies

The website URL for the program (1st program) :

http://www.vcu.edu/cesweb/grad_mev.html

The name of the sustainability-focused, graduate-level degree program (2nd program) :

Master of Science in Environmental Studies

The website URL for the program (2nd program) :

http://www.vcu.edu/cesweb/grad_mses.html

The name of the sustainability-focused, graduate-level degree program (3rd program) :

Master of Urban and Regional Planning

The website URL for the program (3rd program) :

<http://www.has.vcu.edu/usp/>

The name and website URLs of all other sustainability-focused, graduate-level degree program(s) :

Sustainability Immersive Experience

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution offers at least one immersive, sustainability-focused educational study program. The program(s) may take place off-campus, overseas, or on-campus.

For this credit, the program meets one or both of the following criteria:

- it concentrates on sustainability, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions or
- it examines an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens.

Immersive programs offered in partnership with outside entities may count for this credit. Programs offered exclusively by outside entities do not count for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer a program that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description of the sustainability-focused immersive experience(s) offered by the institution :

The VCU Office of Sustainability offers internships (Campus Sustainability Internship) that serve to advance the student's knowledge of sustainability practices and implementation.

The website URL where information about the immersive experience is available :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/>

Sustainability Literacy Assessment

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution conducts an assessment of the sustainability literacy of its students. The sustainability literacy assessment focuses on knowledge of sustainability topics, not values or beliefs.

Part 2

Institution conducts a follow-up assessment of the same cohort group using the same instrument.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution conducted a sustainability literacy assessment? :

No

Did the assessment include a baseline evaluation of students and then a follow-up evaluation of the same cohort? :

A copy of the questions included in the sustainability literacy assessment :

A copy of the questions included in the sustainability literacy assessment :

A brief description of how the assessment was developed :

A brief description of how the assessment was administered :

A brief summary of results from the assessment :

The website URL where information about the literacy assessment is available :

Incentives for Developing Sustainability Courses

Responsible Party

Clifford Fox

Assistant Director

Center for Environmental Studies

Criteria

Institution has an ongoing program or programs that offer incentives for faculty in multiple disciplines or departments to develop new sustainability courses and/or incorporate sustainability into existing courses or departments. The program aims to increase student learning of sustainability.

Incentives may include release time, funding for professional development, and trainings offered by the institution.

Incentives for expanding sustainability offerings in academic, non-credit, and/or continuing education courses count for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a program that meets the criteria outlined above? :

No

A brief description of the program(s) :

A brief description of the incentives that faculty members who participate in the program(s) receive :

The website URL where information about the program is available :

Research

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are conducting research related to or focused on sustainability. Conducting research is a major function of many colleges and universities. By researching sustainability issues and refining theories and concepts, higher education institutions can continue to help the world understand sustainability challenges and develop new technologies, strategies, and approaches to address those challenges.

Credit
Sustainability Research Identification
Faculty Engaged in Sustainability Research
Departments Engaged in Sustainability Research
Sustainability Research Incentives
Interdisciplinary Research in Tenure and Promotion

Sustainability Research Identification

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has developed a definition of sustainability research. The definition was developed by a committee comprised of at least three faculty members from different departments who conduct research. The committee may include students, staff, and other stakeholders as well. The definition does not have to be formally adopted.

Part 2

Institution has identified its sustainability research activities and initiatives. This research inventory should include all research centers, laboratories, departments, and faculty members whose research focuses on or is related to sustainability.

Part 3

Institution makes its sustainability research inventory publicly available online.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution developed a definition of sustainability research? :

Yes

A copy of the institution's definition of sustainability research :

Sustainability is the goal of maintaining a good quality of life for those who presently experience it, while expanding that quality of life to those who lack it; understanding and respecting the needs of future generations and the limits of natural systems within which quality human lives are necessarily embedded and dependent.

Has the institution identified its sustainability research activities and initiatives? :

No

A brief description of the methodology the institution followed to complete the inventory :

Does the institution make its sustainability research inventory publicly available online? :

No

The website URL where the sustainability research inventory is posted (required if claiming Part 3 of the credit) :

Faculty Engaged in Sustainability Research

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution's faculty members conduct research on sustainability topics.

Any level of sustainability research by a faculty member is sufficient to be included for this credit. In other words, a faculty member who conducts both sustainability research and other research may be included.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The number of faculty members engaged in sustainability research :

67

The total number of faculty members engaged in research :

766

Names and department affiliations of faculty engaged in sustainability research :

John E. Anderson - Environmental Studies

Gary Atkinson – Electrical Engineering

Jayasimha Atulasimha – Mechanical Engineering

Helen Ruth-Aspaas - Urban & Regional Planning

Bonnie Brown - Department of Biology

Paul Bukaveckas - Environmental Studies

Kevin A. Caillouet - Environmental Studies

Everett Carpenter - Inorganic & Materials Chemistry

Daniel Carr – Biology

Xueming Chen – Urban & Regional Planning

Jennifer Ciminelli - Environmental Studies

Vickie S. Connors - Environmental Studies

Jody Davis – Psychology

Peter L. deFur - Environmental Studies

Rodney J. Dyer - VCU Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences

Hani El-Kaderi – Inorganic & Materials Chemistry

Linda Fernandez - Environmental Studies & Economics

Stephen Fong – Chemical Engineering

Gregory Garman - Environmental Studies

Christopher Gough - Biology
Megan Gough - Urban & Regional Planning
Kimberly Guthrie – Fashion Design & Fashion Merchandising
Purusottam Jena - Physics
Vojislav Kecman – Computer Science
Shiv Kanna – Physics
Sama Bilbao y Leon – Nuclear Engineering
Jason Levy - Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness
Jamie Mahoney – Graphic Design
S. Leigh McCallister - Environmental Studies
Stephen P. McIninch - Environmental Studies
Jim McLeskey - Chemical Engineering
Karla Mossi – Mechanical Engineering
Ramana Pidaparti - Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
Damian Pitt - Urban & Regional Planning
Wang Qian - Physics
Sun Qiang – Physics
Rose Regni - Fashion Design & Fashion Merchandising
Ulises Reveles - Physics
Vijay A. Satyal - Environmental Studies
Avrum Shriar - Urban & Regional Studies
Arif Sikder - Environmental Studies
Leonard A. Smock - VCU Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences
I-Shian Suen – Urban & Regional Studies
Vishnu Sundaresan – Mechanical Engineering
Linda Tee - Fashion Design & Fashion Merchandising
Robert E. Ulanowicz - Environmental Studies
R. Leonard Vance - Environmental Studies
Robert Ventura - Interior Design
Catherine Viverette - Environmental Studies
Bryan D. Watts - Environmental Studies
Camden Whitehead - Interior Design
Van Wood - School of Business
Kenneth Wynne – Chemical Engineering
Don Young - Biological Complexity
Wei Zhang - Electrical and Computer Engineering
Regina Bundy – VCU School of Education: Teaching and Learning
Mohammad G. Rabbani, Ph.D. – VCU Department of Chemistry
Shiv Khanna – VCU Department of Physics
Benjamin Evans – VCU Center on Human Needs
Steven Woolf – VCU Center on Human Needs
Amber Haley – VCU Center on Human Needs
Emily Zimmerman – VCU Center on Human Needs
Deirdre Condit – Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs
John Powers – History
Christina Lindholm – School of the Arts
Randolph Barker – Business Management
Faye Prichard – Education

The website URL where the sustainability research inventory that includes the names and department affiliations of faculty engaged in sustainability research is posted :

A copy of the sustainability research inventory that includes the names and department affiliations of faculty engaged in sustainability research :

Brief descriptions of up to 4 recent notable accomplishments by faculty engaged in sustainability research, including names and department affiliations :

The website URL where information about sustainability research is available :

Departments Engaged in Sustainability Research

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution's academic departments include faculty members who conduct sustainability research.

Any level of sustainability research by a faculty member in a department is sufficient for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The total number of academic departments that conduct research :

82

The number of academic departments in which at least one faculty member engages in sustainability research :

31

A list of academic departments in which at least one faculty member engages in sustainability research :

Biology
Biological Complexity
Business Management
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Computer Science
Economics
Education
Electrical Engineering
Entrepreneurship & Small Business
Environmental Studies
Epidemiology and Community Health
Fashion Design & Fashion Merchandising
Graphic Design
Integrative Life Sciences
History
Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Interior Design
Life Sciences Engineering
Marketing

Mechanical Engineering
Nuclear Engineering
Physics
Psychology
School of the Arts
Sustainable Communities Institute
Urban and Regional Planning
Urban and Regional Studies
VCU School of Education: Teaching and Learning
VCU Center on Human Needs
Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

The website URL where the sustainability research inventory that includes the departments engaged in sustainability research is posted :

A copy of the sustainability research inventory that includes the departments engaged in sustainability research :

Sustainability Research Incentives

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has an ongoing program to encourage students in multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct research in sustainability. The program provides students with incentives to research sustainability. Such incentives may include, but are not limited to, fellowships, financial support, and mentorships.

Part 2

Institution has an ongoing program to encourage faculty from multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct research in sustainability topics. The program provides faculty with incentives to research sustainability. Such incentives may include, but are not limited to, fellowships, financial support, and faculty development workshops.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a program to encourage student sustainability research that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's program(s) to encourage student research in sustainability :

Virginia Commonwealth University's Council for Community Engagement awards one-year grants of up to \$20,000 to university-community programs, which support interdisciplinary projects to enhance and increase university engagement with the greater Richmond community and will contribute to the research and teaching of VCU units. Community engagement grants create opportunities for VCU students to do research in sustainability. The grants are awarded based on criteria including community-identified need, strength of university-community partnership, and alignment with at least one VCU Quest for Distinction Theme, one being sustainability.

The website URL where information about the student research program is available :

<http://www.community.vcu.edu/>

Does the institution have a program to encourage faculty sustainability research that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's program(s) to encourage faculty research in sustainability :

Virginia Commonwealth University's Council for Community Engagement awards one-year grants of up to \$20,000 to university-community programs, which support interdisciplinary projects to enhance and increase university engagement with the greater Richmond community and will contribute to the research and teaching of VCU units. Community engagement grants create opportunities for VCU faculty to do research in sustainability. The grants are awarded based on criteria including community-identified need, strength of university-community partnership, and alignment with at least one VCU Quest for Distinction Theme, one being sustainability.

The website URL where information about the faculty research program is available :

<http://www.community.vcu.edu/>

Interdisciplinary Research in Tenure and Promotion

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution gives positive recognition to interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research during faculty promotion and tenure decisions.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution's treatment of interdisciplinary research meet the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description or a copy of the institution's policy regarding interdisciplinary research :

Candidates for promotion and tenure must meet or exceed the basic standards for effective teaching. They must be competent classroom teachers and academic advisors. They must demonstrate mastery of their subject matter and be adept at communicating this understanding to their students. Most fundamentally, their students should learn. Their success in teaching should be documented by the following indicators including, specialized teaching; for example non-classroom based teaching, such as interdisciplinary teaching.

Candidates for promotion, tenure, or promotion and tenure should be continuously and productively engaged in scholarly activity. Through his or her scholarly activity, the candidate should make a substantive contribution to the discipline that reflects high standards of quality in creativity, scholarship, and professional competence. The quality and significance of scholarly activity will be affirmed by peer evaluations and letters of evaluation from experts, particularly those outside of the University.

The nature of a given candidate's contribution will vary in terms of experience, level of development, and the demands of particular fields and disciplines. Nevertheless, there are several general criteria for evaluating scholarly activity including educational research, including the development of innovative teaching methods incorporating technology into education and novel interdisciplinary courses.

VCU's Strategic Plan, Quest for Distinction, has included increasing interdisciplinary collaborations that bring new perspectives to complex problems and mobilize creative energies that advance innovation and solve global challenges.

The website URL where information about the treatment of interdisciplinary research is available :

<http://www.has.vcu.edu/research/tenure/index.html>

Operations

Buildings

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are taking steps to improve the sustainability performance of their buildings. Buildings are generally the largest user of energy and the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions on campuses. Buildings also use significant amounts of potable water. Institutions can design, build, and maintain buildings in ways that provide a safe and healthy indoor environment for inhabitants while simultaneously mitigating the building's impact on the outdoor environment.

Credit
Building Operations and Maintenance
Building Design and Construction
Indoor Air Quality

Building Operations and Maintenance

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution owns and operates buildings that are:

1) Certified under the LEED® for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Green Building Rating System,

and/or

2) Operated and maintained in accordance with sustainable operations and maintenance guidelines and policies that cover the following:

- Impacts on the surrounding site
 - Energy consumption
 - Usage of environmentally preferable materials
 - Indoor environmental quality
 - Water consumption
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Total building space that meets "Eligible Buildings Criteria" :

10363815 *Square Feet*

Building space that is maintained in accordance with sustainable building operations and maintenance guidelines or policies but is NOT certified under LEED for Existing Buildings: O&M :

922104 *Square Feet*

Building space that is LEED for Existing Buildings: O&M Certified :

0 *Square Feet*

Building space that is LEED for Existing Buildings: O&M Silver certified :

0 *Square Feet*

Building space that is LEED for Existing Buildings: O&M Gold certified :

0 *Square Feet*

Building space that is LEED for Existing Buildings: O&M Platinum certified :

STARS Reporting Tool | AASHE | Sierra Magazine

The website URL where a copy of the institution's guidelines or policies for sustainable building operations and maintenance is available :

An electronic copy of the guidelines or policies :

[IEQp3 Green cleaning policy VCU 5-25.pdf](#)

The date(s) the policies or guidelines were adopted :

April 1, 2011

A brief description of how the institution ensures compliance with sustainable building operation and maintenance guidelines and policies :

Physical Plant Department staff received LEED Green Associates Training plus a module in LEED GBOM. VCU's inaugural LEED EBOM project will be the Walter L. Rice Education Building with buildings to be selected on both campuses to follow. The Green Building Services Manager position was created and filled in July 2010 to oversee LEED EBOM projects as well as further LEED GBOM training of PPD staff. All occupants at the VCU Rice Center must adhere to the policies and plans for LEED EBOM.

The names and certification levels of all buildings that are certified under LEED for Existing Buildings: O&M :

The names of all buildings operated and maintained in accordance with similar sustainable operations and maintenance guidelines and policies :

Walter L. Rice Education Building

W.J. Baxter Perkinson, Jr. School of Dentistry Building

Jonah L. Larrick Student Center

Molecular Medicine Research Building

Monroe Park Campus Cary Street Recreation Center

School of Engineering - Health and Life Sciences Laboratory Institute for Engineering and Medicine

Robert Blackwell Smith Building

Snead Hall - School of Business

School of Engineering East Hall

Cary and Belvidere Residential College

Building Design and Construction

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution-owned buildings that were constructed or underwent major renovations in the past three years are:

1) Certified under the LEED® for New Construction and Major Renovations, LEED for Commercial Interiors, and/or LEED for Core and Shell Green Building Rating Systems,

and/or

2) Designed and built in accordance with green building guidelines and policies that cover the following topics:

- Impacts on the surrounding site
 - Energy consumption
 - Usage of environmentally preferable materials
 - Indoor environmental quality
 - Water consumption
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

New building space that meets "Eligible Buildings Criteria" :

439018 *Square Feet*

New building space that was designed and constructed in accordance with green building policies or guidelines but not LEED certified :

0 *Square Feet*

New building space that is LEED Certified :

24728 *Square Feet*

New building space that is LEED Silver certified :

231309 *Square Feet*

New building space that is LEED Gold certified :

178205 *Square Feet*

New building space that is LEED Platinum certified :

4776 Square Feet

The website URL where a copy of the institution's guidelines or policies for green building is available :

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/PolicyOffice/ExecutiveOrders/2010/EO-19.cfm>

An electronic copy of the guidelines or policies :

The date(s) the policies or guidelines were adopted :

July 1, 2010

A brief description of how the institution ensures compliance with green building design and construction guidelines and policies :

All public universities in Virginia must comply with Executive Order 19, which states that, "All new or renovated buildings described above, should conform to LEED silver or Green Globes two-globe standards, unless special circumstances, including significant additional cost, support exemption from such standards and the Director of the DGS finds that construction to the standards would be impracticable."

The names of all buildings that are certified under the LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations, LEED for Commercial Interiors, and/or LEED for Core and Shell Green Building Rating Systems :

The names of all buildings designed and constructed in accordance with green building guidelines and policies but not LEED certified :

Indoor Air Quality

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has adopted an indoor air quality management policy, plan, and/or practices that include regular auditing or monitoring and a mechanism for occupants to register complaints. Policies and plans adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g. state government or the university system) may count for this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Occupied building space covered by an indoor air quality plan, policy, and/or practices that include regular auditing or monitoring and a mechanism for occupants to register complaints :

29709 Square Feet

Total occupied building space :

10802833 Square Feet

A brief description of the institution's indoor air quality plan, policy, and/or practices :

The goal of VCU's Indoor Air Quality policy is to enhance indoor air quality (IAQ) by optimizing practices to prevent the development of indoor air quality problems in buildings, correcting indoor air quality problems when they occur and maintaining the well-being of the occupants. CO2 monitors are installed at the VCU Rice Center and the Egyptian Building.

The website URL where information about the institution's indoor air quality initiatives is available :

Climate

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are measuring and reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Global warming is expected to have myriad negative impacts throughout the world, including increased frequency and potency of extreme weather events, sea level rise, species extinction, water shortages, declining agricultural production, and spread of diseases. The impacts are expected to be particularly pronounced for poor communities and countries.

Credit
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction
Air Travel Emissions
Local Offsets Program

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has conducted a GHG emissions inventory covering its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. The GHG emissions inventory is publicly available, either through the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment reporting site, the institution's website, or another public website.

Part 2

Institution has conducted a GHG emissions inventory covering Scope 3 emissions. The GHG emissions inventory is publicly available, either through the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment reporting site, the institution's website, or another public website.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The website URL where the GHG emissions inventory is posted :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/pdf/FY11.pdf>

Does the inventory include all Scope 1 and 2 emissions? :

Yes

Does the inventory include emissions from air travel? :

Yes

Does the inventory include emissions from commuting? :

Yes

Does the inventory include embodied emissions from food purchases? :

No

Does the inventory include embodied emissions from other purchased products? :

Yes

Does the inventory include emissions from solid waste disposal? :

Yes

Does the inventory include another Scope 3 emissions source not covered above? :

Yes

If yes, please specify :

Wastewater

Does the inventory include a second Scope 3 emissions source not covered above? :

Yes

If yes, please specify :

Refrigerants (HFC-134A, HCFC-22, R-123)

Does the inventory include a third Scope 3 emissions source not covered above? :

Yes

If yes, please specify :

Bedding for research animals

Does the inventory include a fourth Scope 3 emissions source not covered above? :

If yes, please specify :

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution reduced its net Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions per weighted campus user compared to a 2005 baseline.

For this credit, off-site, institution-catalyzed carbon offsets (i.e. those popularly known as “local offsets”) count in full. Purchased carbon offsets that have been verified by a third party may count towards a portion of the reduction. Purchased offsets that have not been third-party verified do not count.

To conduct a GHG emissions inventory, campuses may use any methodology and/or calculator that is consistent with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol's Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standards.

The baseline GHG emissions inventory should include the same emissions sources as the performance year emissions inventory.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Scope 1 and 2 gross GHG emissions, 2005 :

85502 Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalent

Off-site, institution-catalyzed carbon offsets generated, 2005 :

0 Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalent

Third-party verified carbon offsets purchased, 2005 :

0 Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalent

On-campus residents, 2005 :

4706

Non-residential/commuter full-time students, faculty, and staff members, 2005 :

23884

Non-residential/commuter part-time students, faculty, and staff members, 2005 :

10453

Scope 1 and 2 gross GHG emissions, performance year :

104998 *Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalent*

Off-site, institution-catalyzed offsets generated, performance year :

0 *Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalent*

Carbon offsets purchased, performance year :

2049.23 *Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalent*

List the start and end dates of the GHG emissions performance year :

FY 2010-2011

On-campus residents, performance year :

4986

Non-residential/commuter full-time students, faculty, and staff members, performance year :

29203

Non-residential/commuter part-time students, faculty, and staff members, performance year :

8842

Time period for weighted campus user (list the consecutive 12 month period that most closely overlaps with GHG performance year) :

FY 2010-2011

Air Travel Emissions

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have policies and/or programs in place to reduce emissions from air travel? :

No

A brief description of the policies and/or programs :

The website URL where information about the policies and/or programs is available :

Local Offsets Program

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a local offsets program through which the institution seeks to offset its greenhouse gas emissions by implementing projects that reduce GHG emissions in the local community? :

No

A brief description of the program :

The website URL where information about the program is available :

Dining Services

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are supporting a sustainable food system. Modern industrial food production often has deleterious environmental impacts. Pesticides and fertilizers used in agriculture can contaminate ground and surface water, which has potentially dangerous impacts on wildlife and human health. Furthermore, the often long-distance transportation of food to institutions produces greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution. Additionally, farm workers are often paid substandard wages, subjected to harsh working conditions, and exposed to dangerous pesticides. Institutions can use their food purchases to support their local economies; encourage safe, environmentally-friendly farming methods; and help alleviate poverty for farmers.

Please note that while dining services can also play an important role in conserving energy and water, reducing waste, and purchasing environmentally preferable materials other than food, STARS measures these impacts across the institution instead of by department; therefore, the benefits of these actions are captured in the Energy, Water, Waste, and Purchasing subcategories, respectively.

Credit
Food and Beverage Purchasing
Trayless Dining
Vegan Dining
Trans-Fats
Guidelines for Franchisees
Pre-Consumer Food Waste Composting
PostConsumer Food Waste Composting
Food Donation
Recycled Content Napkins
Reusable Container Discounts
Reusable To-Go Containers

Food and Beverage Purchasing

Responsible Party

Tamara Highsmith

Dining Sales & Services Manager

Business Services

Criteria

This credit includes food and beverage purchases for on-campus dining services operated by the institution or the institution's primary on-site contractor. Institution purchases food and beverages that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Grown and processed within 250 miles of the institution
- Third-party certified (USDA Certified Organic, Marine Stewardship Council Blue Ecolabel, Food Alliance, Fair Trade, Certified Humane Raised and Handled)

Food and beverage purchases that meet multiple criteria listed above should not be double-counted.

This credit includes food and beverage purchases for on-campus dining operations and catering services operated by the institution or the institution's primary dining services contractor (e.g. Aramark, Bon Appétit Management Company, Chartwells, Sodexo). On-site franchises, convenience stores, vending machines, or concessions are excluded from this credit unless they are operated by the institution or the institution's primary on-site contractor..

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Percentage of food expenditures that meet one or more of the criteria for this credit (0 - 100) :

82

A brief description of the sustainable food and beverage purchasing program :

“At ARAMARK, we are committed to protecting and improving the environment. We work to reduce our environmental footprint while offering expertise and practical solutions to thousands of client locations to help them reduce their environmental impacts. Throughout our company, we develop and implement programs that promote sustainability through environmental friendly products and practices, sustainable food and local purchasing options, energy and water conservation efforts, and waste management. Aramark strives to offer clients and customers fresh whole foods that are raised, grown, harvested, and produced locally and in a sustainable manner whenever possible. And they partner with suppliers to increase the availability of such foods. ARAMARK buys only seafood that is on the Monterey Bay Aquarium list and has literature about sustainable food systems in Market 810. Last year 85% of VCU's produce came from within 250 miles.”

The Website URL where information about the institution's sustainable food and beverage purchasing efforts is available :

<http://www.aramark.com/SocialResponsibility/EnvironmentalStewardship/>

Responsible Party

Tamara Highsmith

Dining Sales & Services Manager

Business Services

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a trayless dining program in which trays are removed from or not available in dining halls?

:

Yes

A brief description of the trayless dining program :

100% of meals served on campus are trayless since 2008.

List the year the program was started :

Sept. 1, 2009

The overall percentage of meals served on campus that are trayless :

The percentage of meal plan meals served on campus that are trayless :

The percentage of retail facility meals served on campus that are trayless :

The percentage of conference meals served on campus that are trayless :

The website URL where information about the program is available :

Responsible Party

Tamara Highsmith

Dining Sales & Services Manager

Business Services

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer diverse, complete-protein vegan dining options during every meal? :

Yes

A brief description of the vegan dining program :

In the main student-dining center, Market 810, there is a standing vegan section that serves daily breakfast, lunch and dinner. This selection includes a fresh salad bar with vegan proteins, as well as hot entrees using tofu or tempeh. The in-house pastry chef also regularly makes vegan desserts. VCU Dining Services also offers gluten-free foods.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Trans-Fats

Responsible Party

Tamara Highsmith

Dining Sales & Services Manager

Business Services

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use frying oil that does not include trans-fats and seek to avoid foods that include trans-fats in its dining operations? :

Yes

A brief description of the trans-fats avoidance program, policy, or practice :

Since 2008 we have used trans fat free fryer oil in all of our dining operations. Our salad oil is a ZTF product also.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

<http://www.aramark.com/Content3.aspx?id=420&terms=trans%20fat>

Guidelines for Franchisees

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution adopted sustainability policies or guidelines for food service franchisees operating on campus? :

Yes

A brief description of the guidelines for franchisees :

Dining Services requires franchises to use recycled-content napkins and to order bulk condiments to cut-down on the packaging.

The website URL where information about the guidelines is available :

Pre-Consumer Food Waste Composting

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a pre-consumer food waste composting program? :

Yes

A brief description of the pre-consumer food waste composting program :

VCU started composting on the Monroe Park Campus's main dining center, Shafer Court Dining Center. Approximately 3,000 pounds of compost per week will be picked up and transported to an off-site composting facility.

The overall percentage of meals for which pre-consumer scraps are composted :

The percentage of meal plan meals for which pre-consumer scraps are composted :

The percentage of retail facility meals for which pre-consumer scraps are composted :

The percentage of conference meals for which pre-consumer scraps are composted :

The website URL where information about the composting program is available :

PostConsumer Food Waste Composting

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a postconsumer food waste composting program? :

Yes

A brief description of the postconsumer food waste composting program :

ARAMARK has contracted with Natural Organic Process Enterprises, LLC (NOPE) to pick up organic waste generated at Shafer Court Dining Center twice weekly – approximately 3,000 pounds per week. The organic waste will be delivered to the McGill composting facility located in Waverly, VA. McGill specializes in composting biodegradable materials from industrial, municipal and agribusiness sources. McGill has been selling premium compost products for over 20 years. ARAMARK has contracted with NOPE until June, 2013.

The percentage of overall meals for which postconsumer composting is available :

The percentage of meal plan meals for which postconsumer composting is available :

The percentage of retail facilities for which postconsumer composting is available :

The percentage of conference meals for which postconsumer composting is available :

The website URL where information about the composting program is available :

Food Donation

Responsible Party

Tamara Highsmith

Dining Sales & Services Manager

Business Services

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution donate leftover or surplus food? :

Yes

A brief description of the food donation program :

ARAMARK donates prior to major academic breaks and at the end of every semester as well as ~ 500 pounds each semester as part of a student waste education initiative.

The website URL where information about the food donation program is available :

Recycled Content Napkins

Responsible Party

Tamara Highsmith

Dining Sales & Services Manager

Business Services

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use recycled content napkins in its dining service operations? :

Yes

A brief description of the purchasing behavior :

All napkins are compostable and 100% post-consumer recycled content.

The website URL where information about the purchasing is available :

Reusable Container Discounts

Responsible Party

Tamara Highsmith

Dining Sales & Services Manager

Business Services

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does campus dining operations offer discounts to customers who use reusable mugs instead of disposable cups in to-go food service operations? :

Yes

A brief description of the reusable mug program :

Upon opening a new location, Dining Services gave all residential students a reusable mug with a discount privilege. Also used is a mug designed by students and when used, this mug is provided with a discount.

Amount of the discount offered for using reusable mugs :

Description of other reusable food- or beverage-related programs (e.g. incentives for use of reusable bags, dishware, to-go containers) :

The website URL where information about the reusable mug discount program is available :

Reusable To-Go Containers

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does campus dining operations provide reusable containers for to-go food that are returned for cleaning and reuse? :

No

A brief description of the reusable to-go container program :

The website URL where information about the reusable to-go container program is available :

Energy

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are reducing their energy consumption through conservation and efficiency, and switching to cleaner and renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, and low-impact hydropower. For most institutions, energy consumption is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, which cause global warming. Global warming is expected to have myriad negative impacts throughout the world, including increased frequency and potency of extreme weather events, sea level rise, species extinction, water shortages, declining agricultural production, and spread of diseases. The impacts are expected to be particularly pronounced for poor communities and countries. In addition to causing global warming, energy generation from fossil fuels, especially coal, produces air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, dioxins, arsenic, cadmium and lead. These pollutants contribute to acid rain as well as health problems such as heart and respiratory diseases and cancer. Coal mining and oil and gas drilling can also damage environmentally and/or culturally significant ecosystems. Nuclear power creates highly toxic and long-lasting radioactive waste. Large-scale hydropower floods habitat and disrupts fish migration.

Implementing conservation measures and switching to renewable sources of energy can help institutions save money and protect them from utility rate volatility. Renewable energy may be generated locally and allow campuses to support local economic development. Furthermore, institutions can help shape markets by creating demand for cleaner, renewable sources of energy.

Credit
Building Energy Consumption
Clean and Renewable Energy
Timers for Temperature Control
Lighting Sensors
LED Lighting
Vending Machine Sensors
Energy Management System
Energy Metering

Building Energy Consumption

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has reduced its total building energy consumption per gross square foot of building space compared to a 2005 baseline.

To aggregate energy consumption data from multiple sources, figures should be converted into MMBtu (one million British thermal units – a standard measure of energy) using the following equivalents:

1 kWh = 0.003412 MMBtu

1 MWh = 3.412 MMBtu

1 therm = 0.1 MMBtu

1 kBtu = 0.001 MMBtu

1 ton-hour = 0.012 MMBtu

1 MJ = 0.000948 MMBtu

Submission Note:

Upon reviewing our submission and the methodology for calculating the scores found in OP Credit 7, Building Energy Consumption, I found what I would consider two inadequacies. First, there is no methodology for normalizing the score based on either monthly or annual temperature changes (heating degree days and cooling degree days). In our case the swing of cooling degree days between the base year of 2005 and the performance year 2011 was significant; rising from 1571 CDD in 2005 to 2047 CDD in 2011, an increase of 23%. This directly affects the energy consumed to cool our facilities.

Second, there is no means to normalize for student population. In our case as a growing University student growth has outpaced the growth of our facilities meaning that our buildings are being used more intensely raising our BTU per square foot.

If either of these two normalizations had been applied to our energy consumption, our reduction in energy consumption would be better represented.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Total building energy consumption, 2005 :

774818.79 MMBtu

Building space, 2005 :

STARS Reporting Tool | AASHE | Sierra Magazine

8802833 *Gross Square Feet*

Total building energy consumption, performance year :

983615.68 *MMBtu*

Building space, performance year :

10802833 *Gross Square Feet*

List the start and end dates of the energy consumption performance year :

FY 2010- 2011

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

Criteria

Institution supports the development and use of clean and renewable energy sources using any one or combination of the following options.

Option 1: Generating electricity from clean and renewable energy sources on campus and retaining or retiring the rights to the environmental attributes of such electricity. (In other words, if the institution has sold Renewable Energy Credits for the clean and renewable energy it generated, it may not claim such energy here). The on-site renewable energy generating devices may be owned and/or maintained by another party as long as the institution has contractual rights to the associated environmental attributes.

Option 2: Using renewable sources for non-electric, on-site energy generation, such as biomass for heating.

Option 3: Catalyzing the development of off-site clean and renewable energy sources (e.g. an off-campus wind farm that was designed and built to supply electricity to the institution) and retaining the environmental attributes of that energy.

Option 4: Purchasing the environmental attributes of electricity in the form of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or other similar renewable energy products that are either Green-e Energy certified or meet Green-e Energy's technical requirements and are verified as such by a third party, or purchasing renewable electricity through the institution's electric utility through a certified green power purchasing option.

Option 5: Using cogeneration technologies to generate electricity more efficiently. Note: generating electricity using cogeneration technology and a renewable fuel, such as biomass, is considered Option 1 and should not be counted twice.

Since this credit is intended to recognize institutions that are generating new sources of clean and renewable energy, neither the electric grid mix for the region in which the institution is located nor the grid mix reported by the electric utility that serves the institution count for this credit.

Technologies that reduce the amount of energy used but do not generate renewable energy do not count for this credit. For example, daylighting, passive solar design, and ground-source heat pumps are not counted in this credit. The benefits of such strategies are captured by *OP Credit 5: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions* and *OP Credit 7: Building Energy Consumption*.

Transportation fuels, which are covered by *OP Credit 14: Campus Fleet*, are not included in this credit.

To aggregate energy consumption data from multiple sources, figures should be converted into MMBtu (one million British thermal units – a standard measure of energy) using the following equivalents:

1 kWh = 0.003412 MMBtu

1 MWh = 3.412 MMBtu

1 therm = 0.1 MMBtu

1 kBtu = 0.001 MMBtu

1 ton-hour = 0.012 MMBtu

1 MJ = 0.000948 MMBTU

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Option 1: Total clean and renewable electricity generated on site during the performance year and for which the institution retains or has retired the associated environmental attributes :

16.66 MMBtu

Option 2: Non-electric renewable energy generated :

2127 MMBtu

Option 3: Total clean and renewable electricity generated by off-site projects that the institution catalyzed and for which the institution retains or has retired the associated environmental attributes :

0 MMBtu

Option 4: Total RECs and other similar renewable energy products that the institution purchased during the performance year that are Green-e certified or meet the Green-e standard's technical requirements and are third party verified :

10140 MMBtu

Option 5: Total electricity generated with cogeneration technology using non-renewable fuel sources :

0 MMBtu

Total energy consumed during the performance year :

983615.68 MMBtu

A brief description of on-site renewable electricity generating devices :

The MCV Campus Steam Plant has a 6.6 KW solar panel array on the south-facing side of the plant's stack.

A brief description of on-site renewable non-electric energy devices :

A 50 gallon Solar Thermal hot water heater supplies water to Ginter House and a 750 gallon Solar Thermal hot water heater supplies 40% of the water to Shafer Court Dining Center, the main dining hall for the Monroe Park Campus.

A brief description of off-site, institution-catalyzed, renewable electricity generating devices :

A brief description of RECs or other similar renewable energy products purchased during the previous year, including contract timeframes :

The RECs were purchased from Clean Source for the WJ Baxter Perkinson building in November 2009 for a 2 year period, totaling 2,971,800 kWh.

A brief description of cogeneration technologies deployed :

The website URL where information about the institution's renewable energy sources is available :

<http://www.energy.vcu.edu/>

Timers for Temperature Control

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use timers to regulate temperatures based on occupancy hours in at least one building? :

Yes

A brief description of the technology used :

We have timers for hot water and HVAC in most buildings.

The percentage of building space (square footage) with timers for temperature control :

The website URL where information about the practice is available :

<http://www.energy.vcu.edu/>

Lighting Sensors

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use motion, infrared, and/or light sensors to reduce energy use for lighting in at least one building? :

Yes

A brief description of the technology used :

There are more than 200 occupancy sensors that turn off office lights when areas are unoccupied.

The percentage of building space with lighting sensors :

The website URL where information about the institution's use of the technology is available :

<http://www.energy.vcu.edu/>

LED Lighting

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology in at least one lighting application? LED applications in exit signs and remote controls do not count for this credit. :

Yes

A brief description of the technology used :

There is LED lighting in the Virginia Mechanics Institute Building renovation, Cary & Belvidere Residence Hall and all LED lighting in the PPD Administration Building.

The percentage of building space with LED lighting :

The percentage of parking deck space with LED lighting :

The percentage of outdoor space that uses LED lighting :

The percentage of building space with efficient, non-LED lighting (compact fluorescent, automatic daylight shutoff, or other energy-saving features) :

The website URL where information about the institution's use of the technology is available :

<http://www.energy.vcu.edu/>

Vending Machine Sensors

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution installed vending machine motion sensors for at least one vending machine? :

No

A brief description of the technology used :

The percentage of vending machines with sensors :

The website URL where information about the institution's use of the technology is available :

Energy Management System

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use a centralized energy management system that allows it to track energy consumption and performance in multiple buildings in a central location? :

Yes

A brief description of the management system :

VCU uses EnergyCAP Energy Management System. This system helps to track interval data and meter readings, calculate cost avoidance, eliminate billing errors, pinpoint wasteful facilities, streamline energy accounting, budgeting, accruals, and bill payment, generate analysis reports, graphs, and benchmarks and track greenhouse gas emissions.

The percentage of building space monitored with a centralized energy management system :

A description of what systems are shut down during unoccupied periods :

The website URL where information about the institution's use of the technology is available :

Energy Metering

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution meter all energy consumption (electricity, natural gas, purchased steam, etc.) for at least one building? :

Yes

A brief description of the metering system :

100% of building space is metered for electricity, natural gas, steam, and water.

The percentage of building space with energy metering :

The website URL where information about the metering system is available :

<http://www.energy.vcu.edu/>

Grounds

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that plan and maintain their grounds with sustainability in mind. Beautiful and welcoming campus grounds can be planned, planted, and maintained in any region while minimizing the use of toxic chemicals, protecting wildlife habitat, and conserving water and resources.

Credit
Integrated Pest Management
Native Plants
Wildlife Habitat
Tree Campus USA
Snow and Ice Removal
Landscape Waste Composting

Integrated Pest Management

Responsible Party

Paul Thrift
Superintendent of Grounds
Grounds

Criteria

Institution's grounds are developed and maintained in accordance with an integrated pest management plan that adheres to the following four-tiered approach:

- 1) Set action thresholds
 - 2) Monitor and identify pests
 - 3) Prevention
 - 4) Control
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The size of the campus grounds :

719 Acres

The size of campus grounds that are maintained in accordance with a four-tiered IPM plan :

493 Acres

A brief description of the IPM plan(s) :

The Exterior Integrated Pest Management Plan is used at the Walter L. Rice Education Building located on the Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Use of this plan is limited to the Walter L. Rice Education Building and the surrounding landscape area within the designated LEED boundary. The objective of this plan is to minimize the impact of site management practices on the local ecosystem.

The website URL where information about the IPM plan(s) is available :

Native Plants

Responsible Party

Paul Thrift

Superintendent of Grounds
Grounds

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution prioritize the use of native plant species in landscaping? :

Yes

A brief description of the native plant program, policy, or practice :

VCU chooses plants whose cultural requirements are matched to site conditions. This includes native plants when possible. VCU avoids planting non-native invasive species. VCU strives to increase biodiversity. Many factors influence plant selection including aesthetics, maintenance requirements, space availability, susceptibility to disease, etc.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Wildlife Habitat

Responsible Party

Paul Thrift
Superintendent of Grounds
Grounds

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have programs in place to protect and/or create wildlife habitat on institution-owned land? :

Yes

A brief description of the wildlife habitat program, policy, or practice :

There is wildlife habitat at the VCU Rice Center. Center staff and students work closely with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge and the Presquile National Wildlife Refuge to achieve wildlife management objectives, better understanding of the ecology of the refuge habitats and education of the public about the natural world.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

<http://www.vcu.edu/rice/natural/refuges.html>

Responsible Party

Paul Thrift
Superintendent of Grounds
Grounds

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Is the institution recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA program? :

No

A brief description of the institution's Tree Campus USA program :

VCU will submit Tree Campus USA application by December 2012. Arbor Day will not announce application status until January 2013.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Snow and Ice Removal

Responsible Party

Paul Thrift
Superintendent of Grounds
Grounds

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution implemented technologies or strategies to reduce the environmental impacts of snow and ice removal? :

Yes

A brief description of the snow and ice removal program, policy, or practice :

The VCU Rice Center uses environmentally friendly options for snow and ice removal. VCU is also exploring alternative options for the main campus.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Landscape Waste Composting

Responsible Party

Paul Thrift

Superintendent of Grounds
Grounds

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution compost or mulch waste from grounds keeping, including grass trimmings? :

Yes

A brief description of the composting or mulching program :

VCU composts leaves and woody debris. VCU does not compost grass clippings because lawn mowers mulch the clippings. The grounds crew picks up the composting materials and transports them back to the recycling center drop-off location. The composting materials are then picked up by ACE Recycling and transported to the City's composting center.

The percentage of landscape waste that is mulched or composted onsite :

The percentage of landscape waste that is mulched or composted off-site :

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Purchasing

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are using their purchasing power to help build a sustainable economy. Collectively, colleges and universities spend many billions of dollars on goods and services annually. Each purchasing decision represents an opportunity for institutions to choose environmentally and socially preferable products and services and support companies with strong commitments to sustainability.

Credit
Computer Purchasing
Cleaning Products Purchasing
Office Paper Purchasing
Vendor Code of Conduct
Historically Underutilized Businesses
Local Businesses

Computer Purchasing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has an institution-wide stated preference to purchase Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Silver or higher products. This can take the form of purchasing policies, guidelines, or directives. This credit does not include specialized computers for which no EPEAT certified products are available. Policies and directives adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g. state government or the university system) may count for this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

Part 2

Institution purchases Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Silver and/or Gold registered products for standard desktop and notebook/laptop computers and monitors. This credit does not include specialized computers for which no EPEAT certified products are available.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have an institution-wide stated preference to purchase EPEAT Silver or higher computers and monitors? :

Yes

The website URL where the EPEAT policy, directive, or guidelines are posted :

<http://www.ts.vcu.edu/GreenComputingGuide.pdf>

A brief description of steps the institution has taken to ensure that the purchasing policy, directives, or guidelines are followed :

All computers purchased at the university must be purchased through procurement. VCU Procurement states that Contractors are required to ensure that equipment offered for sale meets the latest EPEAT registration requirements before it is delivered.

Does the institution wish to pursue points for Part 2 of this credit (expenditures on EPEAT computers)? :

No

Expenditures on EPEAT Gold desktop and laptop computers and monitors :

Expenditures on EPEAT Silver desktop and laptop computers and monitors :

Total expenditures on desktop and laptop computers and monitors :

Cleaning Products Purchasing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has an institution-wide stated preference to purchase Green Seal™ or EcoLogo™ certified cleaning products. The stated preference can take the form of purchasing policies, guidelines, or directives to purchase green cleaning products. Policies and directives adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g. state government or the university system) may count for this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

Part 2

Institution's main cleaning or housekeeping department(s) and/or contractor(s) purchase Green Seal or EcoLogo certified cleaning products. This credit does not include cleaning products for which no Green Seal or EcoLogo certified products are available.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have an institution-wide stated preference to purchase Green Seal (tm) or EcoLogo (tm) certified cleaning products? :

Yes

The website URL where the green cleaning product purchasing policy, directive, or guidelines are posted :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/>

A brief description of steps the institution has taken to ensure that the purchasing policy, directives, or guidelines are followed :

The guidelines are in the Custodial Service Agreement that both of housekeeping service providers are required to adhere to. The guidelines state that if Green Seal or EcoLogo products are available, they must be used.

Does the institution wish to pursue points for Part 2 of this credit (expenditures on cleaning products)? :

Yes

Expenditures on Green Seal and/or EcoLogo certified cleaning products :

268920.92 US/Canadian \$

Total expenditures on cleaning products :

268920.92 *US/Canadian \$*

A copy of the sections of the cleaning contract(s) that reference certified green products :

[Green cleaning reference.pdf](#)

Office Paper Purchasing

Responsible Party

Edward Gibbs

Director of Procurement and Payment Services
Procurement Services

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has an institution-wide stated preference to purchase recycled content office paper. This can take the form of purchasing policies, guidelines, or directives to purchase recycled content office paper. Policies and directives adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g. state government or the university system) may count for this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

Part 2

Institution purchases recycled content office paper.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have an institution-wide stated preference to purchase recycled content office paper? :

Yes

The URL where the recycled paper policy, directive, or guidelines are posted :

http://www.vcu.edu/procurement/purchasing/pdf_docs/Chap_6a.pdf

A brief description of steps the institution has taken to ensure that the purchasing policy, directives, or guidelines are followed :

Recycled paper must be purchased except where equipment limitations preclude such use.

Does the institution wish to pursue points for Part 2 of this credit (expenditures on recycled paper)? :

Yes

Expenditures on 10-29 percent recycled-content office paper :

18279 US/Canadian \$

Expenditures on 30-49 percent recycled-content office paper :

112907 US/Canadian \$

Expenditures on 50-69 percent recycled-content office paper :

7417 *US/Canadian \$*

Expenditures on 70-89 percent recycled-content office paper (required if claiming points for Part 2) :

0 *US/Canadian \$*

Expenditures on 90-100 percent recycled-content office paper :

6099 *US/Canadian \$*

Total expenditures on office paper :

169027 *US/Canadian \$*

Vendor Code of Conduct

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has and acts on a vendor code of conduct or equivalent policy that sets expectations about the social and environmental responsibility of vendors with whom the institution does business. Policies adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g. state government or the university system) may count for this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have and act on a vendor code of conduct or equivalent policy that sets expectations about the social and environmental responsibility of vendors with whom the institution does business? :

Yes

The website URL where the vendor code of conduct or equivalent policy is posted :

http://www.vcu.edu/procurement/purchasing/pdf_docs/Chap_6a.pdf

A copy of the vendor code of conduct or equivalent policy :

A brief description of programs and strategies institution has implemented to ensure the code is followed, including a brief description of instances when vendor code of conduct has changed purchasing behavior within the last five years, if applicable :

VCU Purchasing strongly encourages departments to be pro-active in identifying opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of everyday business activities. Departments should purchase recycled and environmentally preferable products to the maximum extent practicable.

For major contract purchases, the buyers require vendors to provide information for evaluation purposes on the firm's sustainability initiatives and recommendations to reduce the environmental impact and create efficiencies.

Historically Underutilized Businesses

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution seek to support historically underutilized businesses, minority-owned businesses, and women owned-businesses? :

Yes

A brief description of how the institution meets the criteria :

It is the policy of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) to contribute to the establishment, preservation, and strengthening of small businesses and businesses owned by women and minorities (SWaM) and to encourage their participation in State procurement activities. VCU encourages Contractors to provide for the participation of small businesses and businesses owned by women and minorities through partnerships, joint ventures, subcontracts or other contractual opportunities. VCU's Construction Management Department has a minority-owned business participation goal of 20% for each project.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Local Businesses

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution give preference to local products and businesses in its purchasing decisions? Local food purchases, which are covered in OP Credit 6: Food Purchasing, are not included in this credit. :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

In the case of a tie bid, preference is given to goods and services produced in Virginia or provided by Virginia vendors, if such choice is available.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Transportation

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are moving toward sustainable transportation systems. Transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants that contribute to health problems such as heart and respiratory diseases and cancer. Due to disproportionate exposure, these health impacts are frequently more pronounced in low-income communities next to major transportation corridors. In addition, the extraction, production, and global distribution of fuels for transportation can damage environmentally and/or culturally significant ecosystems and may financially benefit hostile and/or oppressive governments.

At the same time, campuses can reap benefits from modeling sustainable transportation systems. Bicycling and walking provide human health benefits and mitigate the need for large areas of paved surface, which can help campuses to better manage storm water. Institutions may realize cost savings and help support local economies by reducing their dependency on petroleum-based fuels for transportation.

Credit
Campus Fleet
Student Commute Modal Split
Employee Commute Modal Split
Bicycle Sharing
Facilities for Bicyclists
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
Mass Transit Programs
Condensed Work Week
Telecommuting
Carpool/Vanpool Matching
Cash-out of Parking
Carpool Discount
Local Housing
Prohibiting Idling
Car Sharing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution supports alternative fuel and power technology by including in its motorized vehicle fleet (cars, trucks, tractors, buses) vehicles that are:

1. Gasoline-electric hybrid
2. Diesel-electric hybrid
3. Plug-in hybrid
4. 100 percent electric
5. Fueled with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)
6. Hydrogen fueled
7. Fueled with B20 or higher biofuel for more than 6 months of the year; and/or
8. Fueled with E85 or higher ethanol for more than 6 months of the year.

For this credit, the institution's motorized fleet includes all institution-owned and operated vehicles that are used for transporting people and/or goods. Heavy construction equipment (e.g. excavators and pavers) and maintenance equipment (e.g. lawn-mowers and leaf blowers) are not included in this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Gasoline-electric, non-plug-in hybrid vehicles in the institution's fleet :

2

Diesel-electric, non-plug-in hybrid vehicles in the institution's fleet :

0

Plug-in hybrid vehicles in the institution's fleet :

0

100 percent electric vehicles in the institution's fleet :

4

Vehicles in the institution's fleet that are fueled with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) :

1

Hydrogen fueled vehicles in the institution's fleet :

0

Vehicles in the institution's fleet that are fueled with B20 or higher biofuel for more than 6 months of the year :

0

Vehicles in the institution's fleet that are fueled with E85 or higher ethanol for more than 6 months of the year :

55

Total number of vehicles in the institution's fleet, including all of the above :

251

Student Commute Modal Split

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution's students commute to and from campus using more sustainable options such as walking, bicycling, vanpooling or carpooling, taking public transportation, riding motorcycles or scooters, riding a campus shuttle, or a combination of these options. Students who live on campus should be included in the calculation based on how they get to and from their classes.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The percentage (0-100) of institution's students who use more sustainable commuting options :

53

The percentage (0-100) of institution's students who commute with only the driver in the vehicle (excluding motorcycles and scooters) as their primary method of transportation :

47

The percentage (0-100) of institution's students who walk, bicycle, or use other non-motorized means as their primary method of transportation. Please note that this may include on-campus residents :

44

The percentage (0-100) of institution's students who vanpool or carpool as their primary method of transportation :

3

The percentage (0-100) of institution's students who take a campus shuttle or public transportation as their primary method of transportation :

6

The percentage (0-100) of institution's students who use a motorcycle, scooter or moped as their primary method of transportation :

0

The website URL where information about alternative transportation is available :

Employee Commute Modal Split

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution's employees (faculty, staff, and administrators) commute to and from campus using more sustainable options such as walking, bicycling, vanpooling or carpooling, taking public transportation, riding motorcycles or scooters, riding a campus shuttle, or a combination of these options. Employees who live on campus should be included in the calculation based on how they get to and from their workplace.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The percentage (0-100) of institution's employees that use more sustainable commuting options :

17

The percentage (0-100) of institution's employees who commute with only the driver in the vehicle (excluding motorcycles and scooters) as their primary method of transportation :

83

The percentage (0-100) of institution's employees who walk, bicycle, or use other non-motorized means as their primary method of transportation. Please note that this may include on-campus residents :

0

The percentage (0-100) of institution's employees who vanpool or carpool as their primary method of transportation :

8

The percentage (0-100) of institution's employees who take a campus shuttle or public transportation as their primary method of transportation :

9

The percentage (0-100) of institution's employees who use a motorcycle, scooter, or moped as their primary method of transportation :

The website URL where information about alternative transportation is available :

Bicycle Sharing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a bicycle-sharing program or participate in a local bicycle-sharing program? :

Yes

A brief description of the program, including an indication of its scope (e.g., the number of bicycles the program makes available, participation levels, etc.) :

VCU has a bike-loan program for students to use bicycles daily at no charge. There are 4 bikes located at the library on each campus.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Facilities for Bicyclists

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have indoor and secure bike storage, shower facilities, and lockers for bicycle commuters in at least one building? :

Yes

A brief description of the facilities :

The Cary St. Gym Facility and the Jonah L. Larrick Student Center are both located near covered, secure bike storage. They both have lockers and showers for students that bike to campus.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution developed a bicycle plan? :

Yes

A brief description of the plan :

VCU completed a State of Cycling Study, which consisted of an infrastructure inventory of both campuses. A student survey was administered to understand student demand for bike infrastructure and programs. Based on the student need, we have implemented more bike infrastructure and programs including Mobility Hubs, bike racks, and a bike policy in development.

The website URL where information about the plan is available :

<http://blog.vcu.edu/vcugoesgreen/2010/08/the-state-of-cycling-at-vcu.html>

Mass Transit Programs

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer free or reduced price transit passes and/or operate a free campus shuttle? :

Yes

A brief description of the program(s), (s), including availability, participation levels, and specifics about discounts or subsidies offered (including pre-tax options) :

Full time undergraduate and graduate students are permitted to ride all of the Greater Richmond Transit Authority's (GRTC) buses for free. The VCU Employee Transit Program provides participants with six \$25 bus passes quarterly (\$600 worth of GRTC bus passes per year) for any GRTC bus. Participation in the program allows participants to pay \$25 per 24 pay periods through pre-tax payroll deductions. The program also consists of the following accommodations: The VCU Campus Connector provides transportation service between the Monroe Park campus and the MCV Campus for all students, faculty, and staff.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

<http://www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcupark/Transit.htm>

Condensed Work Week

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer a condensed work week option for employees? The institution does not have to offer the option to all employees in order to earn this credit. :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

Management reserves the right to establish and adjust the work schedules of employees in the agency, being mindful of the hours of public need. Alternative work schedules may include, but are not limited to, four 10-hour days, rotational shifts, flexible hours, and job sharing.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

http://www.dhrm.state.va.us/hrpolicy/web/pol1_25.html

Telecommuting

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer a telecommute program for employees? :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

A work arrangement in which the employee is approved to perform his/her job duties away from the usual place of work. Although many University positions do not lend themselves to telecommuting, some positions may be suitable for offsite hours on a long-term or short-term basis. The manager must evaluate individual jobs for telecommuting suitability and employees for performance and reliability before approving the arrangement.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

<http://www.hr.vcu.edu/policies/Current%20Policies/Telecommute.pdf>

Carpool/Vanpool Matching

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution participate in a carpool/vanpool matching program? :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

ZimRide is a private car sharing network for VCU students, faculty, and staff. It is an easy way to share your ride or find a ride. ZimRide can be used for any type of trip from daily commutes to road trips.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

<http://zimride.vcu.edu/>

Cash-out of Parking

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution allow commuters to cash out of parking spaces (i.e., it pays employees who do not drive to work)?

:

No

A brief description of the program :

The website URL where information about the program is available :

Carpool Discount

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer reduced parking fees for car and van poolers? :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

High vehicle occupancy represents the most efficient consumption of parking resources; therefore, VCU provides incentives that include free parking, access to free exit coupons for secondary members annually, free emergency rides home, and preferred parking assignments.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

Local Housing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have incentives or programs to encourage employees to live close to campus? :

No

A brief description of the incentives or programs :

The website URL where information about the incentives or programs is available :

Prohibiting Idling

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution adopted a policy prohibiting idling? :

Yes

A brief description of the policy :

The Commonwealth of Virginia law states that public service vehicles should not be left running for more than three minutes when the vehicle is parked.

The website URL where information about the policy is available :

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+9VAC5-40-5670>

Car Sharing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution participate in a car sharing program, such as ZipCar or HourCar? :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

This program consists of four total vehicles (2 hybrid vehicles); Two ZipCars on each campus- Honda Civic, Honda Insight, Toyota Prius, Scion X. For a usage fee of \$8.00 per hour or \$66 per day and after an annual membership fee of \$35 faculty, staff, students and administrators are able to participate in VCU's car sharing program. ZipCar expects 50 to 100 new members per month and will add more cars to the program as utilization warrants.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

<http://www.zipcar.com/vcu>

Waste

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are moving toward zero waste by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting. These actions mitigate the need to extract virgin materials, such as trees and metals. It generally takes less energy and water to make a product with recycled material than with virgin resources. Reducing waste generation also reduces the flow of waste to incinerators and landfills which produce greenhouse gas emissions, can contaminate air and groundwater supplies, and tend to have disproportionate negative impacts on low-income communities. Waste reduction and diversion also save institutions costly landfill and hauling service fees. In addition, waste reduction campaigns can engage the entire campus community in contributing to a tangible sustainability goal.

Credit
Waste Reduction
Waste Diversion
Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion
Electronic Waste Recycling Program
Hazardous Waste Management
Materials Exchange
Limiting Printing
Materials Online
Chemical Reuse Inventory
Move-In Waste Reduction
Move-Out Waste Reduction

Waste Reduction

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

Criteria

Institution has implemented source reduction strategies to reduce total waste generation (garbage, recycling, and compost) per weighted campus user compared to a 2005 baseline.

Total waste generation includes all materials recycled, composted, and disposed of as trash except construction, demolition, electronic, hazardous, special (e.g. coal ash), universal and non-regulated chemical waste, which are covered in *OP Credit 19: Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion*, *OP Credit 20: Electronic Waste Recycling Program*, and *OP Credit 21: Hazardous Materials Management*.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Weight of materials recycled, 2005 baseline year :

793.25 Tons

Weight of materials composted, 2005 baseline year :

0 Tons

Weight of materials disposed as garbage, 2005 baseline year :

3418.29 Tons

Weight of materials recycled, performance year :

1170.46 Tons

Weight of materials composted, performance year :

62.78 Tons

Weight of materials disposed as garbage, performance year :

2798.84 Tons

List the start and end dates of the waste reduction performance year :

Jan 2011- Dec 2011

On-campus residents, 2005 :

[STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

4706

Non-residential/commuter full-time students, faculty, and staff members, 2005 :

23884

Non-residential/commuter part-time students, faculty, and staff members, 2005 :

10453

On-campus residents, performance year :

4986

Non-residential/commuter full-time students, faculty, and staff members, performance year :

29203

Non-residential/commuter part-time students, faculty, and staff members, performance year :

8842

Time period for weighted campus user (list the consecutive 12 month period that most closely overlaps with waste reduction performance year) :

FY 2010-2011

Indication of whether institution has a stated commitment to waste-reduction goals, such as zero waste :

A brief description of the plan of action to achieve waste reduction goals :

The website URL where information about the institution's waste reduction initiatives is available :

<http://www.vcu.edu/recycling/>

Waste Diversion

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

Criteria

Institution diverts materials from the landfill or incinerator by recycling, composting, reusing, donating, or re-selling.

This credit does not include construction, demolition, electronic, hazardous, special (e.g. coal ash), universal and non-regulated chemical waste, which are covered in *OP Credit 19: Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion*, *OP Credit 20: Electronic Waste Recycling Program*, and *OP Credit 21: Hazardous Materials Management*.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Materials recycled, composted, reused, donated, re-sold, or otherwise diverted :

2067.92 Tons

Materials disposed in a solid waste landfill or incinerator :

2992.27 Tons

A brief description of programs, policies, infrastructure investments, outreach efforts, and/or other factors that contributed to the diversion rate :

VCU has recycling bins placed around campus, Big Belly Solar Trash Compactors and a larger recycling center for students to drop off. VCU promotes recycling through special events such as: America Recycles Day, November 15th each year, RecycleMania 8-week event from the end of January the end of March. Earth Day, April, 22nd, (Earth Week at VCU). Recycling posters and bins are placed in the Residence Halls. Recycling Guidelines are distributed to Faculty and Staff offices. Our website for general information.

www.vcu.edu/recycling

Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

Criteria

Institution diverts non-hazardous construction and demolition waste from the landfill and/or incinerator.

Soil and organic debris from excavating or clearing the site do not count for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Amount of construction and demolition materials recycled, donated, or otherwise recovered :

2373.42 Tons

Amount of construction and demolition materials landfilled or incinerated :

170.36 Tons

A brief description of programs, policies, infrastructure investments, outreach efforts, and/or other factors that contribute to the diversion rate for construction and demolition waste :

Construction contracts specify that they must recycle all applicable materials through a qualified construction and demolition recycling facility. The contractors handle all of the construction and demolition recycling and report the weights to VCU.

Electronic Waste Recycling Program

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has a program in place to recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish all electronic waste generated by the institution. Institution takes measures to ensure that the electronic waste is recycled responsibly.

Part 2

Institution has a program in place to recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish electronic waste generated by students. Institution takes measures to ensure that the electronic waste is recycled responsibly.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a program in place to recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish all electronic waste generated by the institution and take measures to ensure that the electronic waste is recycled responsibly? :

Yes

Does the institution have a program in place to recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish electronic waste generated by students and take measures to ensure that the electronic waste is recycled responsibly? :

Yes

A brief description of steps taken to ensure that e-waste is recycled responsibly, workers' basic safety is protected, and environmental standards are met :

All of the E-Waste on campus is collected by the recycling team. The E-Waste is stored in the surplus property warehouse until the certified E-Waste recycling company picks it up.

A brief description of the electronic waste recycling program for institution-generated materials :

Computers, hard drives, keyboards, monitors, fax machines, printers, scanners and microwaves can all be recycled through the E-Waste recycling program. Departments need to surplus these items prior to them be accepted for recycling and the recycling team will come and pick up the materials.

A brief description of the electronic waste recycling program for student-generated materials :

Student-generated materials are collected for free at E-Waste recycling events throughout the academic year.

The website URL where information about the e-waste recycling program is available :

<http://www.vcu.edu/recycling/index.html>

Hazardous Waste Management

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

Criteria

Institution has strategies in place to safely dispose of all hazardous, special (e.g. coal ash), universal, and non-regulated chemical waste and seeks to minimize the presence of these materials on campus.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have strategies in place to safely dispose of all hazardous, special (e.g. coal ash), universal, and non-regulated chemical waste and seek to minimize the presence of these materials on campus? :

Yes

A brief description of steps taken to reduce hazardous, special (e.g. coal ash), universal, and non-regulated chemical waste :

Reduce the amount of chemicals ordered to decrease chemical waste. Label all chemical waste containers appropriately. Consolidate compatible chemical waste. Do not let wastes accumulate. Do not abandon labs with chemical wastes left behind. Consult OHES if a new research project is going to begin that will generate large quantities of waste.

A brief description of how the institution safely disposes of hazardous, universal, and non-regulated chemical waste :

Protocols have been developed which instruct, in a step-by-step process, how chemical waste is to be disposed of on both campuses of the university. These protocols are listed in Section XIV (Medical Campus) and Section XV (Academic Campus) of the Environmental Health & Safety Program for Chemical Waste Management.

The website URL where information about hazardous materials management is available :

Materials Exchange

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a surplus department or formal office supplies exchange program that facilitates reuse of materials? :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

VCU Surplus Property is responsible for evaluating University property that is excess to the needs of faculty and staff to determine if it has potential resale value or should be scrapped. The Surplus Property Manager will then make arrangements with the requester to properly dispose of the excess/surplus property.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

Limiting Printing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution limit free printing for students in all computer labs and libraries? :

Yes

A brief description of how printing is limited :

There is no free printing program. Students have to pay to print or they can email files to themselves for free or save their files to a disk.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Is the institution's default not to print course catalogs, course schedules, and directories, but instead make these materials available online? :

Yes

A brief description of the practice :

The course catalogs, course schedules, and directories are all available online.

The website URL where information about the practice is available :

<http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/vcucourses/>

Chemical Reuse Inventory

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution implemented a campus-wide inventory system to facilitate the reuse of laboratory chemicals? :

No

A brief description of the program :

The website URL where information about the practice is available :

Move-In Waste Reduction

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a program to reduce residence hall move-in waste? :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

The waste, such as cardboard boxes and extra water bottles, are collected and recycled.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

Move-Out Waste Reduction

Responsible Party

Steve Heinitz
Recycling Manager
Physical Plant

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a program to reduce residence hall move-out waste? :

Yes

A brief description of the program :

The recyclables, including clothing, shoes, furniture, microwaves, TV's, are donated to CARITAS (a local organization serving the homeless). The non-perishable food is donated to the Central Virginia Food Bank.

The website URL where information about the program is available :

Water

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are conserving water and making efforts to protect water quality. Pumping, delivering, and treating water is a major energy user, so institutions can help reduce energy consumption and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy generation by conserving water. Likewise, conservation and effective stormwater management are important in maintaining and protecting finite groundwater supplies. Water conservation and effective stormwater management also reduce the need for effluent discharge into local surface water supplies, which helps improve the health of local water ecosystems.

Credit
Water Consumption
Stormwater Management
Waterless Urinals
Building Water Metering
Non-Potable Water Usage
Xeriscaping
Weather-Informed Irrigation

Water Consumption

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has reduced its total water consumption per weighted campus user compared to a 2005 baseline.

Total water consumption includes both potable and non-potable water.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Water consumption, 2005 baseline year :

306639000 Gallons

Water consumption, performance year :

364669000 Gallons

List the start and end dates of the water consumption performance year :

FY 2010 - 2011

On-campus residents, 2005 :

4706

Non-residential/commuter full-time students, faculty, and staff members, 2005 :

23884

Non-residential/commuter part-time students, faculty, and staff members, 2005 :

10453

On-campus residents, performance year :

4986

Non-residential/commuter full-time students, faculty, and staff members, performance year :

29203

Non-residential/commuter part-time students, faculty, and staff members, performance year :

Time period for weighted campus user (list the consecutive 12 month period that most closely overlaps with water consumption performance year) :

FY 2010 - 2011

Indication of whether institution has a stated commitment to water use reduction goals :

A brief description of the plan of action to achieve water use reduction goals :

The website URL where information about the institution's water conservation initiatives is available :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/initiatives/water.html>

Stormwater Management

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution has adopted a stormwater management policy, plan, and/or strategies that mitigate the stormwater runoff impacts of new construction, major renovation, and other projects that increase paved surface area on campus or otherwise significantly change the campus grounds.

The policy, plan, and/or strategies address both the quantity and quality (or contamination level) of stormwater runoff.

The policy, plan, and/or strategies cover the entire campus. While the specific strategies or practices adopted may vary depending on project type and location, this credit is reserved for institutions that mitigate stormwater runoff impacts consistently during new construction. Implementing a strategy or strategies for only one new development project is not sufficient for this credit.

Policies adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g. state government or the university system) may count for this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

Part 2

Institution has adopted a stormwater management policy, plan, or strategies that mitigate the stormwater runoff impacts of ongoing campus operations.

The policy, plan, or strategies address both the quantity and quality (or contamination level) of stormwater runoff.

Though specific practices adopted may vary across the campus, the policy, plan, and/or strategies cover the entire institution. Implementing strategies for only one building or area of campus is not sufficient for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a policy, plan, and/or strategies to reduce stormwater runoff from new development projects? :

Yes

Does the institution have a policy, plan, and/or strategies to reduce stormwater runoff from ongoing campus operations? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's stormwater management initiatives :

VCU has installed vegetated roofs, porous pavement, retention ponds, bayscaping, a rain garden, and a 2,500-square-foot bioretention area to control the quality and quantity of stormwater on campus.

The website URL where information about the institution's stormwater management initiatives, plan or policy is available :

<http://blogs.vcu.edu/vcugoesgreen/environmental-quality/>

Does the institution have a living or vegetated roof? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's living or vegetated roof :

The Molecular Medicine Research Building has a vegetated roof that captures rain water and is also an exterior sitting space. The VCU Rice Center has a vegetated roof that captures rain water and filters it before it is captured in cisterns. The Pollak Building on the Monroe Park Campus has a vegetated roof that is accessible to students.

Does the institution have porous paving? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's porous paving :

At the VCU Rice Center, plastic honeycomb grid, stoned topped has been installed.

Does the institution have retention ponds? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's retention ponds :

There are two retention ponds at the VCU Rice Center. The vegetated bio-retention cells clean the water before it percolates into the soil.

Does the institution have stone swales? :

No

A brief description of the institution's stone swales :

Does the institution have vegetated swales? :

No

A brief description of the institution's vegetated swales :

Does the institution employ any other technologies or strategies for stormwater management? :

Yes

A brief description of other technologies or strategies for stormwater management employed :

Rain water cisterns to collect and store roof rainwater for landscape irrigation, a 2,500-square-foot bio-retention area, a prefabricated retention basin to trap solid debris at peak stormwater runoff, and oversized manholes and storm sewer lines to slow peak stormwater runoff.

Waterless Urinals

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use at least one waterless urinal? :

Yes

A brief description of the technology employed :

There are waterless urinals installed in the W. Baxter Perkinson, Jr. Building.

The website URL where information about the technology is available :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/initiatives/water.html>

Building Water Metering

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have building-level water consumption meters for at least one building? :

Yes

A brief description of the water metering employed :

There are water consumption meters for most of the buildings owned and operated by VCU.

The percentage of building space with water metering :

The website URL where information about the practice is available :

Non-Potable Water Usage

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use non-potable water (e.g., harvested rainwater or graywater) for irrigation and/or other applications? :

Yes

A brief description of the source of non-potable water and how it is used :

Rainwater is collected and stored in a 12,000 gallon cistern and is used for landscape irrigation at the Cary Street Gym on the Monroe Park Campus. Rainwater is also captured for irrigation at the VCU Rice Center.

The percentage of irrigation water usage from recovered, reclaimed or untreated sources :

The percentage of building space using water from recovered, reclaimed or untreated sources :

The percentage of water used in utility plants from recovered, reclaimed or untreated sources :

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

<http://blogs.vcu.edu/vcugoesgreen/2010/11/stormwater-management-plans-for-campus.html>

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use xeriscape landscaping techniques, including the selection of drought tolerant plants? :

Yes

A brief description of the program or practice :

Green Unity completed a two phase stormwater awareness and management project called "Gardens 4 Life". The first phase involved replacing existing evergreen vegetation in beds at the Trani Center for Life Sciences with indigenous plants (xeriscaping or "bayscaping" aka landscaping for the Chesapeake Bay). The second phase was the creation of a "rain garden," in the courtyard of the Grace E Harris Building. The rain garden is a landscaped depression surrounded by berms and filled with native plants. The plants filter and clean rainwater runoff from walkways and roofs, reducing pollution going into the Chesapeake Bay.

The website URL where information about the program or practice is available :

<http://blog.vcu.edu/vcugoesgreen/environmental-quality/>

Weather-Informed Irrigation

Responsible Party

Paul Thrift
Superintendent of Grounds
Grounds

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution use weather data or weather sensors to automatically adjust irrigation practices? :

Yes

A brief description of how weather data or sensors are used :

VCU has rain-sensors installed in some of the irrigation systems on campus.

The website URL where information about the practice is available :

Planning, Administration & Engagement

Coordination and Planning

This subcategory seeks to recognize colleges and universities that are institutionalizing sustainability by dedicating resources to sustainability coordination, incorporating sustainability into their primary campus plans, and developing plans to move towards sustainability. Staff and other resources help an institution organize, implement, and publicize sustainability initiatives. These resources provide the infrastructure that fosters sustainability within an institution. Strategic and physical campus plans guide an institution and its physical development. These important documents establish an institution's priorities and influence budgeting and decision making. Incorporating sustainability into these plans is an important step in making sustainability a campus priority and may help advocates implement sustainable changes. Sustainability plans and climate plans provide a road map for how to achieve sustainability goals.

Credit
Sustainability Coordination
Strategic Plan
Physical Campus Plan
Sustainability Plan
Climate Action Plan

Sustainability Coordination

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has a sustainability committee, office, and/or coordinator that are tasked by the administration or board of trustees to advise on and implement policies and programs related to sustainability on campus.

The committee, office, and/or coordinator focus on sustainability broadly (i.e. not just one sustainability issue, such as climate change) and cover the entire institution. A committee, office, or coordinator that focuses on just one department or school within the institution does not count for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a sustainability committee? :

Yes

The charter or mission statement of the committee or a brief description of the committee's purview and activities :

Sustainability is the goal of maintaining a good quality of life for those who presently experience it, while expanding that quality of life to those who lack it; understanding and respecting the needs of future generations and the limits of natural systems within which quality human lives are necessarily embedded and dependent.

Sustainability includes, but is not limited to:

* The recognition of threats to the climate system inherent within the continued introduction of carbon into the atmosphere by human activity, especially through carbon-based energy production and consumption, necessitating action to reduce human carbon footprints, both at the individual, community and institutional levels.

* The identification and reduction of negative impacts from human activity upon human health (e.g., air and water pollution, other exposures to hazardous substances — both long-term and immediate, stress impacts, etc.).

* The identification and reduction of negative impacts from human activity upon ecosystem health (e.g., lost habitat, biodiversity, ecosystem function, etc.).

* The recognition of the finite nature of our resource base; necessitating the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials, the identification and development of renewable resources, and increased efficiency in our use of all resources.

* On-going dialogue among experts, lay-people, leaders and citizens for the purpose of learning more about the nature of these challenges, both from a technical and a human value-based perspective.

Adopted by VCU Sustainability Committee, July 22, 2009

Members of the committee, including affiliations :

Chair 1 Dr. Beverly Warren - Interim Provost & VP for Academic Affairs
Chair 2 Dr. David Hanson - VP for Finance & Administration
Ms. Barbara Judy - Degree Audit & Edit Administrator
Dr. Catherine Howard - Vice-Provost Psychology, Assoc Prof
Dr. Lynn Pelco - Dir of Service-Learning Program Education, Prof
Mr. Camden Whitehead - Interior Design, Associate Professor
Dr. Van Wood - Marketing, Professor
Dr. Jacqueline McDonough - Teaching and Learning, Assistant Prof
Dr. Jody Davis - Social Psychology, Associate Professor
Dr. Meghan Gough - Urban Studies & Regional Planning, Assistant Prof
Dr. Jason Levy - Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness, Assoc Prof
Dr. Clifford Fox - Assistant Director of Center for Environmental Studies
Ms. Nicole Anderson Ellis - Focused Inquiry, Assistant Prof
Ms. Katharine Rosemond - Exec Dir of Health Sciences Resources & Planning
Dr. Mark Cooper - Chair of Dept of Patient Counseling
Ms. Leyla Peachy - Dept of Human & Molecular Genetics Lab/Research Spec
Mr. John Nantz - VCUHS Sustainability Manager/Stericycle
Ms. Katia Sears - Event Management Assist
Mr. Tom Diehl - Director of Recreational Sports
Mr. Paul Jez - Associate VP for Business Services and Treasurer
Ms. Diane Reynolds -Director of VCU Business Services
Ms. Tamara Highsmith - Manager of VCU Dining Sales & Services
Mr. Paul Walker - Manager of VCU Parking and Transportation
Mr. Brian Ohlinger - Associate VP for Facilities Management
Ms. Joyce Foster - Interior Design Project Manager
Mr. Carl Purdin - Assistant Director of Design Services
Mr. Russell Uzzle - University Planner
Mr. Ed Bennett - Executive Director of PPD/Deputy for FM
Mr. Carl Beckelheimer - Energy Manager
Mr. Jerry Helton - Director of Support Shop & Special Projects
Mr. Steve Heinitz - Recycling & Reuse Coordinator
Mr. Paul Thrift - Superintendent of Grounds
Mr. Jacek Ghosh - Director of Sustainability
Mr. Fayez Dajani - Green Building Services Manager
Ms. Parker Long - Sustainability Assistant
Ms. Jordan Starbuck - Sustainability Coordinator
Mr. Brantley Tyndall - Sustainability Assistant
Ms. Cynthia Andrews - Executive Director for Human Resources
Mr. Ed Gibbs - Director of Procurement & Payment
Ms. Betty Lowther (Alt) -Director of University Purchasing
Mr. Mark Willis - Chief Information Officer
Mr. Samuel Kennedy (Alt) - Assistant Director
Dr. Napoleon Peoples - Assoc Dean of Student Affairs/Dean, Student Affairs MCV
Ms. Allison Patel - Housing Manager
Ms. Leila Ungincius - Public Relations Specialist/Social Media Manager
Ms. Pamela Mason - Center for Environmental Studies, Program Support Tech
Mr. Michael Newsome - Assistant VP for Research
Mr. Benjamin Marshall Brown - Student, MCV Campus

Mr. Wyatt Carpenter - Student, MP Campus
Ms. Kaelyn Considine - Student, MP Campus
Ms. Rachel Elves - Student, MCV Campus
Mr. Mark Hill - Student, MP Campus
Ms. Melissa Lesh - Student, MP Campus
Ms. Alex Little - Student, MP Campus
Ms. Melanie Savia - Student, MP Campus

The website URL where information about the sustainability committee is available :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/about/committee/members.html>

Does the institution have a sustainability office? :

Yes

A brief description of the sustainability office :

VCU recognizes the importance of sustainability for our quality of life today and for future generations, and protecting the limits of natural systems. In April 2008, VCU's president Emeritus Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, joining more than 600 college and university presidents in a commitment to neutralize greenhouse gases emitted on their campuses. As a signatory, VCU is working to reduce emissions in all areas of campus life — from educational programs and facilities to dining and residential life — as part of its plan to become climate-neutral by 2050.

The number of people employed in the sustainability office :

7

The website URL where information about the sustainability office is available :

<http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/index.html>

Does the institution have a sustainability coordinator? :

Yes

Sustainability coordinator's name :

Jacek Ghosh

Sustainability coordinator's position title :

Director of Sustainability

A brief description of the sustainability coordinator's position :

Staff VCU Sustainability Committee; lead campus efforts to meet requirements of ACUPCC; develop and maintain VCU Sustainability website; work with VCU Recycling to improve recycling; work with VCU Energy Manager and VCU Steam Plant Manager to reduce energy usage across the campuses; participate in Recyclemania and Earth Day; act as advisor and resource to students groups and other VCU departments on sustainability efforts; lead effort to develop and monitor VCU Climate Action Plan; review all construction projects
[STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

to ensure that the project is being designed to LEED Silver standards; develop signage/information package for all LEED certified buildings; engage organizations external to VCU to encourage their participation in sustainability activities; grantsmanship

The website URL where information about the sustainability coordinator is available :

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution's current, formally adopted strategic plan or equivalent guiding document includes sustainability at a high level. The plan covers the entire institution.

An amendment to the strategic plan may count for this credit, as long as the institution always presents the amendment with the original plan.

Neither a physical campus plan (which is covered in *PAE Credit 3: Physical Campus Plan*) nor an independent sustainability plan (which is covered in *PAE Credit 5: Sustainability Plan*) counts for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Year the strategic plan or equivalent was completed or adopted :

2011

Does the institution's strategic plan or equivalent guiding document include the environmental dimensions of sustainability at a high level? :

Yes

A brief description of how the strategic plan or amendment addresses the environmental dimensions of sustainability :

"VCU is working to reduce greenhouse emissions in all areas of campus life – from educational programs to green facilities to dining and residential life – as part of its plan to become climate-neutral by 2050." "A goal of the Quest for Distinction is to ensure that the Campus Master Plan adheres to LEED construction and best practices in sustainability."

Does the institution's strategic plan or equivalent guiding document include the social dimensions of sustainability at a high level? :

Yes

A brief description of how the strategic plan or amendment addresses the social dimensions of sustainability :

"A factor of influence in a community-engaged institution is the commitment to a core belief in the concepts of sustainability. VCU is committed to the core concepts of sustainability and will infuse those concepts in the stewardship of the university's resources, in [STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

research endeavors and in curricular offerings related to sustainability and environmental ethics.”

Does the institution's strategic plan or equivalent guiding document include the economic dimensions of sustainability at a high level? :

Yes

A brief description of how the strategic plan or amendment addresses the economic dimensions of sustainability :

“The strategic plan seeks to develop sustainability initiatives and provide students with funding for student-led sustainability projects.”

The website URL where information about the strategic plan is available :

<http://www.future.vcu.edu/>

Physical Campus Plan

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution's current plan for its physical campus (commonly referred to as the campus master plan) includes sustainability at a high level.

An amendment to the plan may count for this credit, as long as the institution always presents the amendment with the original plan.

Neither a strategic plan (which is covered in *PAE Credit 2: Strategic Plan*) nor an independent sustainability plan (which is covered in *PAE Credit 4: Sustainability Plan*) counts for this credit.

Plans developed at the system level are eligible for this credit. Likewise, multiple plans which together cover the institution's entire physical campus are eligible for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution's physical campus plan include sustainability at a high level? :

No

A brief description of how the physical campus plan or amendment includes sustainability :

VCU Campus Master Plan is currently being updated during FY 2011-2012

The year the physical campus plan was developed or adopted :

The website URL where the physical campus plan is available :

Sustainability Plan

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has a sustainability plan that was developed with input from faculty, staff, and students. The plan includes measurable goals with corresponding strategies and timeframes to achieve the goals. The plan need not be formally adopted.

The plan covers multiple sustainability topics and issues. Plans focused exclusively on climate change, which are covered by *PAE Credit 5: Climate Plan*, are not eligible for this credit.

Strategic or master plans that cover sustainability may count for this credit if they meet the other criteria outlined above.

Submission Note:

This plan is included in as the Climate Plan and as the Sustainability Plan because it does not focus solely on climate change and green house gas reductions, but also focuses on educational opportunities, sustainability research, and sustainability related community engagement opportunities.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a sustainability plan that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description of how multiple stakeholder groups were involved in developing the plan :

VCU's Sustainability Committee was involved in developing the plan. The Sustainability Committee has faculty, staff and student representatives from both campuses and an array of departments.

A brief description of the plan's measurable goals :

The plans goals include increasing the number of sustainability related educational offerings including classes and training. Ensuring compliance with green purchasing policies. Increasing student and community outreach and involvement in sustainability initiatives. Creating incentives to increase the amount of research with significant sustainability components or a sustainability focus.

A brief description of how progress in meeting the plan's goals is measured :

The progress is measured in the number of educational offerings, including classes and training, that the university offers. The percentage of the university that is compliant in the green purchasing policy. The number of sustainability focused research opportunities.

The website URL where more information about the sustainability plan is available :

<http://acupcc.aashe.org/cap/627>

The year the plan was developed or last updated :

2010

Climate Action Plan

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has a formal plan to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions. The plan includes a measurable, numerical goal or goals and a corresponding date or dates by which the institution aims to achieve its goal(s). The plan has been adopted by the institution's administration.

A formal sustainability plan (i.e. a plan that has been adopted by the administration) counts for this credit if it includes climate change goals, strategies, and corresponding timeframes. Such a plan may also count toward *PAE Credit 4: Sustainability Plan*.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a plan to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief summary of the climate plan's long-term goals :

VCU plans to be climate neutral by 2050

A brief summary of the climate plan's short-term goals :

30% reduction in emissions by 2025 (relative to baseline emissions in 2008)

Year the climate plan was formally adopted or approved :

2010

An indication of whether institution has made a commitment to reduce GHG emissions a specific amount by a target year :

List which emissions (scope 1, 2, and/or 3) are included in its GHG emissions commitment :

The reduction level (percentage) institution has committed to :

The baseline year the institution used in its GHG emissions commitment :

The baseline emissions level institution used in its GHG emissions commitment :

The target year the institution specified in its GHG emissions commitment :

The website URL where information about the climate plan is available :

<http://rs.acupcc.org/cap/627/>

Diversity and Affordability

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are working to advance diversity and affordability on campus. In order to build a sustainable society, diverse groups will need to be able to come together and work collaboratively to address sustainability challenges. People of color and low-income communities tend to suffer disproportionate exposure to environmental problems. This environmental injustice happens as a result of unequal and segregated communities. To achieve environmental and social justice, society must work to address discrimination and promote equality. The historical legacy and persistence of discrimination based on racial, gender, religious, and other differences makes a proactive approach to promoting a culture of inclusiveness an important component of creating an equitable society. Higher education opens doors to opportunities that can help create a more equitable world, and those doors must be open through affordable programs accessible to all regardless of race, gender, religion, socio-economic status and other differences. In addition, a diverse student body, faculty, and staff provide rich resources for learning and collaboration.

Credit
Diversity and Equity Coordination
Measuring Campus Diversity Culture
Support Programs for Underrepresented Groups
Support Programs for Future Faculty
Affordability and Access Programs
Gender Neutral Housing
Employee Training Opportunities
Student Training Opportunities

Diversity and Equity Coordination

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has a diversity and equity committee, office, and/or coordinator that are tasked by the administration or board of trustees to advise on and implement policies, programs, and trainings related to diversity and equity on campus.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a diversity and equity committee? :

Yes

The charter or mission statement of the committee or a brief description of the committee's purview and activities :

The University Equity and Diversity Committee, which is advisory in nature, is charged with monitoring, reviewing, and recommending to the Provost changes to policies and practices that affect the University's ability to provide equal opportunity and treatment, and to provide a supportive, non-hostile environment for its diverse populations of students, staff, and faculty. An additional role of the UEDC is to provide advice and feedback on the implementation of the Five Year Diversity Plan.

Members of the committee, including job titles and affiliations :

Kevin W. Allison, Humanities & Sciences, Dean's Office
Jan Altman, Student Affairs, University Counseling
Frank R. Baskind, Provost's Office, Ombudsman
Reetika Bhardwaj, GSA, GSA rep
Asif Bhavnagri, SGA Monroe Park, SGA rep
Martin Blaney II, SGA Medical Campus, SGA rep
Delores Collier, School of Nursing, Staff Senate rep
Ponjola Coney, School of Medicine
Carrie Connolly, Honors College, Student Affairs Coordinator
Elizabeth Cramer, Social Work
Angela Easley, School of Dentistry, alternate
Carlton G. Edwards, VCU Police
Lindsey Evans, GSA & Wilder School, GSA rep
Marie Gardner, School of Nursing
Cheryl Gonia, Social Work
Kevin A. Harris, Division of Health Sciences Diversity, AVP Health Science
Cathy Howard, Division of Community Engagement
[STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

Velma Jackson-Williams, Provost's Office, Institutional Equality
Rebecca Jones, School of Business, Marketing
Linda Lee, School of the Arts, Fashion Design
Scott Oates, Director of Assessment
Luiz Ozaki, Life Sciences
Kelli Parmley, Academic Affairs, Center for Institutional Effectiveness
Mitenkumar Patel, SGA Monroe Park, SGA rep
Napoleon Peoples, Student Affairs & ES
Cristina Ramirez, University Libraries/ LGBT subcommittee, ULS & LGBT rep
Jennifer Rivers, School of Engineering, Student Services
Jill Rowe, Department of African American Studies, Faculty Senate rep
Charol Shakeshaft, School of Education
Bhavna Shroff, School of Dentistry, Professor of Orthodontics
Virginia Totaro, University College
Inez Tuck, Black Education Association Rep
Beverly Walker, Student Affairs + ES, OMSA
Susanna Wu-Pong, School of Pharmacy

The website URL where information about the diversity and equity committee is available :

<http://www.diversity.vcu.edu/committee/>

Does the institution have a diversity and equity office? :

Yes

A brief description of the diversity office :

The Office for Diversity, previously a part of the Office of Institutional Equity, was established in 2007 to assist with the development of the Five-Year Diversity Plan. The Office helps with development of diversity initiatives and oversees implementation of the University's Five-Year Diversity Plan. Information on all available faculty, staff, and administrative resources for diversity initiatives across the VCU and MCV campuses are available in the Office for Diversity.

The number of people employed in the diversity office :

5

The website URL where information about the diversity and equity office is available :

<http://www.diversity.vcu.edu/office/>

Does the institution have a diversity and equity coordinator? :

Yes

Diversity coordinator's name :

Velma Jackson-Williams

Diversity coordinator's position title :

Director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action and Diversity Services

A brief description of the diversity coordinator's position :

The assistant vice provost for Institutional Equity also is the director of the university's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action and Diversity Services. They develop and enforce policies that ensure equal opportunity and access to education and employment to all members of the university community, oversee the recruitment process for instructional and administrative full-time faculty, develops and implements the university's affirmative action program and diversity initiatives, houses the ADA coordinator, and oversees issues of sexual harassment and other forms of harassment and discrimination based on membership in a protected class (e.g., race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, political affiliation, veterans' status, sexual orientation or disability).

The website URL where information about the diversity and equity coordinator is available :

Measuring Campus Diversity Culture

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution assesses attitudes about diversity and equity on campus and uses the results to guide policy, programs, and initiatives.

Institution may measure its culture of diversity and equity using one assessment for the entire institution or using separate assessments that taken together cover the entire institution.

Assessments conducted during the previous five years are eligible for this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution assessed attitudes about diversity and equity on campus in a way that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description of the assessment(s) :

The report was prepared for the Qualitative Analysis of the Climate Survey Subcommittee of the VCU Equity and Diversity Committee. The Campus Climate Survey included three open-ended questions. A subcommittee of the Equity and Diversity Committee hired a qualitative research consultant who assisted with analysis of responses to these questions.

Year the assessment was last administered :

2006

A brief description of how the results of the assessment(s) are used in shaping policy, programs, and initiatives :

One of the questions asked was "Please provide any suggestions you have about what can be done to improve diversity at VCU". The suggestions made were all read and taken into account when drafting the Diversity Plan.

The website URL where information about the assessment(s) is available :

<http://www.diversity.vcu.edu/diversityplan/climatesurvey.html>

Support Programs for Underrepresented Groups

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has mentoring, counseling, peer support, affinity groups, academic support programs, or other programs in place to support underrepresented groups on campus.

Submission Note:

<http://www.vcu.edu/eoaa/pdfs/recruitstrat.pdf>

<http://www.vcu.edu/eoaa/index.html>

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have mentoring, counseling, peer support, affinity groups, academic support programs, or other programs in place to support underrepresented groups on campus? :

Yes

A brief description of the programs sponsored by the institution to support underrepresented groups within the student body :

OMSA sponsors two mentoring programs designed to support the academic, professional and cultural needs of VCU's freshmen and first year transfer students of color to increase retention and graduation rates. OMSA also offers students who need counseling, career and academic advising, and financial assistance direction to appropriate university services.

A brief description of the programs sponsored by the institution to support underrepresented groups within the faculty :

The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Services works to recruit a diverse faculty.

A brief description of the programs sponsored by the institution to support underrepresented groups within the staff :

The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Services develops and enforces policies which ensure equal opportunity and access to education and employment to all members of the University community.

The website URL where more information about the programs in each of the three categories is available :

<http://www.omsa.vcu.edu/programs.html>

Support Programs for Future Faculty

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution administers and/or participates in a program or programs to help build a diverse faculty throughout higher education.

Such programs could take any of the following forms:

- Teaching fellowships or other programs to support terminal degree students from underrepresented groups in gaining teaching experience. (The terminal degree students may be enrolled at another institution).
 - Mentoring, financial, and/or other support programs to prepare and encourage undergraduate or other non-terminal degree students to pursue further education and careers as faculty members.
 - Mentoring, financial, and/or other support programs for doctoral and post-doctoral students from underrepresented groups.
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution administer and/or participate in programs that meet the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's programs that help increase the diversity of higher education faculty :

The PFF Program at VCU offers a series of short courses and professional development opportunities for graduate students interested in pursuing careers in higher education. The series is modeled on the national Preparing Future Faculty Program created by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. PFF courses introduce graduate students to the roles and responsibilities of higher education; address teaching, learning and technology issues in the college classroom; and incorporate material on the academic job search and continued professional development. For those students who complete all course requirements, the capstone course is an internship/externship experience during which the student is mentored by a senior faculty member

The website URL where more information about the program(s) is available :

<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/>

Affordability and Access Programs

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has policies and programs in place to make it accessible and affordable to low-income students. Such policies and programs may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Policies and programs to minimize the cost of attendance for low-income students
- Programs to equip the institution's faculty and staff to better serve students from low-income backgrounds
- Programs to prepare students from low-income backgrounds for higher education such as the federal TRIO programs
- Scholarships for low-income students
- Programs to guide parents of low-income students through the higher education experience
- Targeted outreach to recruit students from low-income backgrounds
- Other admissions policies or programs
- Other financial aid policies or programs

Institutions are not required to have programs or policies in each of the above areas in order to earn this credit. They may pursue the policies and programs that are appropriate for their context.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have policies and programs in place to make it accessible and affordable to low-income students?

:

Yes

A brief description of the institution's participation in federal TRIO programs :

A brief description of the institution's policies and programs to minimize the cost of attendance for low-income students? :

VCU offers work-study jobs, grants, installment payment plans, loans, scholarships, and veteran benefits for low-income students.

A brief description of the institution's programs to equip the institution's faculty and staff to better serve students from low-income backgrounds :

VCU human resources offers diversity training to all faculty and staff. This training includes topics of age, class, race, ethnicity, gender, and more.

A brief description of the institution's programs to prepare students from low-income backgrounds for higher education :

Students that demonstrate need are chosen for the work-study program which allows students to work during the semester for funds.

A brief description of the institution's scholarships for low-income students :

Many of the departments offer need-based scholarships including Clinical Laboratory Sciences, School of Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, and Study Abroad, as well as others.

A brief description of the institution's programs to guide parents of low-income students through the higher education experience :

VCU admissions has a website dedicated to helping parents understand and learn how to finance college.

A brief description of the institution's targeted outreach to recruit students from low-income backgrounds :

Our Pathways to Success program is a college preparation series designed to share information with Richmond public high school students about the college selection process that will help them gain a better understanding of the opportunities available at VCU and other institutions of higher education. The program is held twice during an academic year, once in the fall and again in the spring.

We also host a program for Latino high school students and their families entitled Primeros Pasos or First Steps. It is a one-day program designed to motivate and encourage Latino high school students to attend college.

In addition to these programs we also host and welcome campus visit by various outreach organizations, including Project Discovery, AVID and Gear Up. Furthermore, we have established a partnership with the Center for Student Opportunity (CSO), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting higher education opportunities for first-generation and other undeserved college-bound students.

A brief description of the institution's other admissions policies and programs :

A brief description of the institution's other financial aid policies or programs :

VCU financial aid makes information to students available on grants, scholarships, work-study, veterans benefits and an installment payment plan.

A brief description of the institution's other policies and programs not covered above :

The website URL where information about programs in each of the areas listed above is available :

<http://www.enrollment.vcu.edu/>

Gender Neutral Housing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer housing options to accommodate the special needs of transgender and transitioning students (either as a matter of policy or as standard practice)? :

Yes

A brief description of the program, policy, or practice :

VCU offers options on a case by case basis, and attempt to accommodate each person who requests special housing.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

<http://www.housing.vcu.edu/contact.html>

Employee Training Opportunities

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution make cultural competence trainings and activities available to all employees? :

Yes

A brief description of the cultural competence trainings and activities :

VCU's Division of Community Engagement and School of World Studies have designed courses to address communication and cultural competency needs. The courses are tailored to address profession-specific needs, i.e., Spanish for medical professionals, Spanish for law enforcement professionals and understanding the Spanish culture.

The website URL where information about the trainings and activities are available :

<http://www.community.vcu.edu/programs/studies/listing.html>

Student Training Opportunities

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution make cultural competence trainings and activities available to all students? :

No

A brief description of the cultural competence trainings and activities :

The website URL where information about the trainings and activities are available :

Human Resources

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that have incorporated sustainability into their human resources programs and policies. This includes recognition for treating and remunerating their workers responsibly and fairly. An institution's people define its character and capacity to perform; and so, an institution's achievements can only be as strong as its community. An institution can bolster the strength of its community by making fair and responsible investments in its human capital. Such investments include offering benefits, wages, and other assistance that serve to respectfully and ethically compensate workers. Investment in human resources is integral to the achievement of a healthy and sustainable balance between human capital, natural capital, and financial capital.

In addition, this subcategory recognizes faculty and staff training and development programs in sustainability. Faculty and staff members' daily decisions impact an institution's sustainability performance. Equipping faculty and staff with the tools, knowledge, and motivation to adopt behavior changes that promote sustainability is an essential activity of a sustainable campus.

Credit
Sustainable Compensation
Employee Satisfaction Evaluation
Staff Professional Development in Sustainability
Sustainability in New Employee Orientation
Employee Sustainability Educators Program
Childcare
Employee Wellness Program
Socially Responsible Retirement Plan

Sustainable Compensation

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution evaluates, and updates as appropriate, its wages and benefits policies and its guidelines for contractors operating on campus to ensure that total compensation (wages plus benefits) for all on-campus workers is sufficient to enable these employees to meet their basic needs, as defined by the institution. This evaluation is completed at least once every three years.

Student workers are not covered by this credit.

While wages and total compensation set in the following ways may constitute sustainable compensation, institutions should conduct a basic needs assessment to ensure that the total compensation is adequate before claiming points for this credit:

- Paying prevailing wages for job type or classification
- Paying average or above average wages for the region or city where the institution is located
- Paying minimum wages or a set amount above the minimum wage

Policies and practices adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g. state government or the university system) may count for this credit as long as the policies apply to and are followed by the institution.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Total number of employees working on campus (including contractors) :

65000

Number of employees (including contractors) that the institution ensures earn sustainable compensation :

65000

A brief description of how the institution ensures that its lowest-paid workers (including contractors, if applicable) receive sustainable compensation :

Virginia law states that all employees must be paid at or above the federal minimum wage.

The most recent year total compensation for the institution's lowest-paid workers (including contractors, if applicable) was evaluated to ensure that it was sustainable :

2011

The website URL where information about the institution's compensation policies and practices is available :

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+40.1-28.10>

Employee Satisfaction Evaluation

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution conducts a survey or other evaluation that allows for anonymous feedback at least once every five years to measure employee satisfaction. The survey or equivalent may be conducted institution-wide or may be done by individual departments as long as all departments are covered by a survey. The institution has a mechanism in place to address issues raised by the evaluation.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution evaluate employee satisfaction in a way that meets the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's methodology for evaluating employee satisfaction :

In 2007 VCU administered a Climate Survey with the purpose of assessing the attitudes, behaviors, standards and perceptions associated with a climate that offers equal opportunities for students, faculty, and staff from all backgrounds and an environment free from discrimination.

The year the employee satisfaction evaluation was last administered :

2007

The website URL where information about the institution's employee satisfaction evaluation process is available :

<http://www.vcu.edu/eoaa/uedc.html>

Staff Professional Development in Sustainability

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution makes available training and/or other professional development opportunities in sustainability to all staff at least once per year.

Separate training opportunities for each department would count for this credit, as long as each staff member has an opportunity to learn about sustainability at least once per year.

It is not necessary that each staff member attend such trainings; the credit is based on making training *available* to all staff.

This credit applies to staff members only; it does not include faculty members.

The following training opportunities are not sufficient for this credit:

- Specialized training for a small group of staff
 - The opportunity to participate in an institutional sustainability committee or group
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution make training and professional development opportunities in sustainability available to all staff? :

Yes

A brief description of the sustainability trainings and professional development opportunities available to staff :

LEED Lunches are held monthly throughout the semester and are open to all staff and faculty. They cover a variety of topics, including consultants coming to present projects they have designed, product representatives presenting the "green" aspects of their products and internal sharing amongst employees on what we have learned and are working on.

The website URL where information about staff training opportunities in sustainability are available :

Sustainability in New Employee Orientation

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution covers sustainability topics in new employee orientation and/or in outreach and guidance materials distributed to new employees, including faculty and staff.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution cover sustainability topics in new employee orientation and/or in outreach and guidance materials distributed to new employees, including faculty and staff? :

No

A brief description of how sustainability is included in new employee orientation :

The website URL for the information about sustainability in new employee orientation :

Employee Sustainability Educators Program

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution administers or oversees an ongoing faculty/staff peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education program. In the program, employee sustainability educators are formally designated and receive formal training or participate in an institution-sponsored orientation. The institution offers financial or other support to the program.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Total number of people employed by the institution :

10594

Program name (1st program) :

Green Works Team

Number of employees served by the program (1st program) :

30

A brief description of how the employee educators are selected (1st program) :

All of the educators are self-selected for the program.

A brief description of the formal training that the employee educators receive (1st program) :

Virginia Commonwealth University Green Works Team is a simple and effective way for faculty and staff to “green” their workspace. Through the program, volunteers will take actions to help their department/building to operate in a more efficient, innovative and healthy way. The Office of Sustainability will sponsor and support the Green Works Team program with information, resources and training. The training will consist of 3 phases, each with their own topic, including Energy and Water Reduction, Alternative Transportation, and Recycling, Reducing and Purchasing.

A brief description of the staff and/or other financial support the institution provides to the program (1st program) :

Jacek Ghosh, Director of Sustainability, Jordan Starbuck, Sustainability Coordinator, and the Office of Sustainability all provide support for the program.

The website URL where information about the program is available (1st program) :

Program name (2nd program) :

Number of employees served by the program (2nd program) :

A brief description of how the employee educators are selected (2nd program) :

A brief description of the formal training that the employee educators receive (2nd program) :

A brief description of the financial or other support the institution provides to the program (2nd program) :

The website URL where information about the program is available (2nd program) :

Program name(s) (all other programs) :

Number of employees served by the program(s) (all other programs) :

A brief description of how the employee educators are selected (all other programs) :

A brief description of the formal training that the employee educators receive (all other programs) :

A brief description of the staff and/or other financial support the institution provides to the program(s) (all other programs) :

The website URL where information about the program(s) is available (all other programs) :

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have an on-site child care facility, partner with a local facility, and/or provide subsidies or financial support to help meet the child care needs of students, faculty, and staff? :

Yes

A brief description of the child care program, policy, or practice :

VCU offers discounted rates at childcare centers for VCU employees.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

http://www.hr.vcu.edu/images/pdfs_docs/WL-DiscountBooklet.pdf

Employee Wellness Program

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have an employee assistance or wellness program that provides counseling, referral, and well-being services to employees? :

Yes

A brief description of the employee wellness program, policy, or practice :

The program seeks to improve the physical, mental, emotional, and social health and well-being of VCU faculty and staff, reduce and prevent health risks and build – and expand on – current programs. The program offers physical, nutritional, recreational and social, financial and career, and mental and emotional wellness resources.

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

<http://www.hr.vcu.edu/wellness/health.html>

Socially Responsible Retirement Plan

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer a socially responsible investment option for retirement plans? :

Yes

A brief description of the socially responsible investment option for retirement plans :

VCU offers a socially responsible retirement plan for all employees through TIAA-CREF, Social Choice Equity (TICRX).

The website URL where information about the program, policy, or practice is available :

http://www.tiaa-cref.org/public/performance/mutual_funds/profiles/59.html

Investment

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that make investment decisions that promote sustainability. Most institutions invest some of their assets in order to generate income. Together, colleges and universities invest hundreds of billions of dollars. Schools with transparent and democratic investment processes promote accountability and engagement by the campus and community. Furthermore, institutions can support sustainability by investing in companies and funds that, in addition to providing a strong rate of return, are committed to social and environmental responsibility. Investing in these industries also supports the development of sustainable products and services. Finally, campuses can engage with the businesses in which they are invested in order to promote sustainable practices.

Throughout this subcategory, the term “sustainable investment” is inclusive of socially responsible, environmentally responsible, ethical, impact, and mission-related investment.

Credit
Committee on Investor Responsibility
Shareholder Advocacy
Positive Sustainability Investments
Student-Managed Sustainable Investment Fund
Sustainable Investment Policy
Investment Disclosure

Committee on Investor Responsibility

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has a formally established and active CIR or similar body that makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees on socially and environmentally responsible investment opportunities across asset classes, including proxy voting. The body has multi-stakeholder representation, which means its membership includes faculty, staff, and students and may include alumni, trustees, and/or other parties.

Institutions for which investments are handled by the university system and/or a separate foundation of the institution should report on the investment policies and activities of those entities.

A general committee that oversees the institution's investments does not count for this credit unless social and environmental responsibility is an explicit part of its mission and/or agenda.

This credit applies to institutions with endowments of US \$1 million or larger. Institutions with endowments totaling less than US \$1 million may choose to omit this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a committee on investor responsibility or similar body that meets the criteria for this credit?

:
No

The charter or mission statement of the CIR or other body, which reflects social and environmental concerns, or a brief description of how the CIR is tasked to address social and environmental concerns :

Members of the CIR, including affiliations :

Recent examples (within the past 3 years) of CIR actions :

The website URL where information about the committee is available :

Shareholder Advocacy

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

There are two possible approaches to earning this credit.

1) Institution filed or co-filed one or more shareholder resolutions that address sustainability or submitted one or more letters about social or environmental responsibility to a company in which it holds investments, during the previous three years.

and/or

2) Institution has conducted a negative screening of its entire investment pool within the last three years. This could take the form of prohibiting investment in an industry (e.g. tobacco or weapons manufacturing) or participating in a divestment effort (e.g. companies operating in South Africa during apartheid). The negative screen includes selling all but \$2,000 or less of the affected direct holdings and writing a letter to all fund managers encouraging them to remove affected holdings as well.

Institutions for which investments are handled by the university system and/or a separate foundation of the institution should report on the shareholder advocacy activities of those entities.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution filed or co-filed one or more shareholder resolutions that address sustainability during the past three years? :

No

Has the institution submitted one or more letters about social or environmental responsibility to a company in which it holds investments during the previous three years? :

No

Has the institution conducted a negative screening of its entire investment pool within the last three years? :

No

A brief description of how the institution (or its foundation) has engaged in shareholder advocacy that promotes sustainability during the previous 3 years. :

The website URL where information about the negative screen, divestment effort, and/or direct engagement with

companies in which the institution holds investments is available :

Positive Sustainability Investments

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution invests in any of the following:

- Sustainable industries, such as renewable energy or sustainable forestry
- Businesses selected for exemplary sustainability performances
- Sustainability investment funds, such as a renewable energy investment fund
- Community development financial institutions (CDFI)
- Socially responsible mutual funds with positive screens.

Investment in a socially responsible mutual fund with only negative screens (i.e. one that excludes egregious offenders or certain industries, such as tobacco or weapons manufacturing) does not count for this credit.

Institutions for which investments are handled by the university system and/or a separate foundation of the institution should report on the investment policies and activities of those entities.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Total value of the investment pool :

Value of holdings in sustainable industries, such as renewable energy or sustainable forestry :

Value of holdings in businesses selected for exemplary sustainability performances :

Value of holdings in sustainability investment funds, such as a renewable energy investment fund :

Value of holdings in community development financial institutions (CDFIs) :

Value of holdings in socially responsible mutual funds with positive screens :

A brief description of the companies, funds, and/or institutions referenced above :

The website URL where information about the institution's sustainability investment activities is available :

Student-Managed Sustainable Investment Fund

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"--- " indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a student-managed sustainable investment fund through which students are able to develop socially and/or environmentally responsible investment skills and experience with governance? :

No

A brief description of the student-managed sustainable investment fund :

The website URL where information about the fund is available :

Sustainable Investment Policy

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution have a policy, practice or directive to consider the social and/or environmental impacts of investment decisions, in addition to financial considerations? :

No

A brief description of the sustainable investment policy :

The website URL where information about the policy is available :

Investment Disclosure

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution make a snapshot of its investment holdings, including the amount invested in each fund and/or company and proxy voting records, available to the public? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's investment disclosure practices :

A copy of all of VCU's investment holdings is available on the VCU Foundation website.

The website URL where information about investment disclosure available :

http://www.vcurealestate.org/pdfs/VCU_holdings_12-31-10.pdf

Public Engagement

This subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that give back to their communities through community service, engagement, and partnerships. Volunteerism and the sense of compassion that community service helps develop are fundamental to achieving sustainability. From tutoring children to removing invasive species to volunteering at a food bank, students, faculty, and staff can make tangible contributions that address sustainability challenges through community service. Community engagement can help students develop leadership skills while deepening their understandings of practical, real-world problems. Institutions can contribute to their communities by harnessing their financial and academic resources to address community needs. For example, faculty research and courses can focus on how to address community problems. In addition, colleges and universities can offer incentives for their graduates to pursue careers that fill community needs, and schools can use their prominence to advocate for sustainability outside of their institutions.

Credit
Community Sustainability Partnerships
Inter-Campus Collaboration on Sustainability
Sustainability in Continuing Education
Community Service Participation
Community Service Hours
Sustainability Policy Advocacy
Trademark Licensing
Graduation Pledge
Community Service on Transcripts
Farmers' Market

Community Sustainability Partnerships

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution has formal partnership(s) with the local community, including school districts, government agencies, non-profit organizations, or other entities, to work together to advance sustainability within the community.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution participate in community sustainability partnerships that meet the criteria for this credit? :

Yes

A brief description of the institution's sustainability partnerships with the local community :

VCU is a member of James River Green Building Council, Virginia Sustainable Business Network, AASHE, ACUPCC, USGBC and a stakeholder in Richmond Get Ready. VCU Sustainability is on the VCU Council for Community Engagement and the City of Richmond Sustainability Advisory Plan.

The website URL where information about sustainability partnerships is available :

Inter-Campus Collaboration on Sustainability

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution collaborates with other colleges and universities to support and help build the campus sustainability community.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution collaborate with other colleges and universities to support and help build the campus sustainability community? :

Yes

A brief summary of papers, guides, presentations, and other resources the institution has developed to share their sustainability experience with other institutions :

University of British Columbia shared their experiences and insights in implementing their eco-reps program with VCU as it developed its Green Works Team. VCU has shared information on its RFP for its Climate Action Plan, VCU Sustainability Committee structure, Bike Share, Anaerobic Digester, and VCU Rice Center with other interested universities.

The names of local, state, regional, national, and other campus sustainability organizations or consortia in which the institution participates and/or is a member :

VCU is a member of James River Green Building Council, Virginia Sustainable Business Network, AASHE, ACUPCC, USGBC and a stakeholder in Richmond Get Ready. VCU Sustainability is on the VCU Council for Community Engagement and the City of Richmond Sustainability Advisory Plan.

A brief summary of additional ways the institution collaborates with other campuses to advance sustainability :

VCU is willing and does share information on its sustainability initiatives with any school or business that is seeking to advance their sustainability.

The website URL where information about cross-campus collaboration is available :

Sustainability in Continuing Education

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution offers continuing education courses that are focused on or related to sustainability.

Courses that can be taken for academic credit are not included in this credit. They are covered by the *Curriculum* subcategory.

Part 2

Institution has a sustainability-related certificate program through its continuing education or extension department.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer continuing education courses that are focused on or related to sustainability? :

Yes

Number of sustainability continuing education courses offered :

2

Total number of continuing education courses offered :

220

Does the institution have a sustainability-related certificate program through its continuing education or extension department? :

Yes

A brief description of the certificate program :

The VCU School of Business Foundation – Center for Corporate Education Certificate in Sustainability Program (CSP) – 2010 will give participants a real understanding of sustainability as a significant force in business success in the 21st century. The program will provide a practical, broad-based view of what sustainability is, what being sustainable means and what the macro issues are, followed by an examination of how the issues will impact business, what challenges they present and what opportunities they create. The program will include an exploration of organizations that are changing to meet both the challenges and opportunities that arise. Participants will work on conceptualizing approaches that can benefit their businesses.

Year the certificate program was created :

2010

The website URL where information about sustainability in continuing education courses is available :

<http://www.business.vcu.edu/ciba/1914.html>

Community Service Participation

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution engages its student body in community service, as measured by the percentage of students who participate in community service.

Institutions may exclude non-credit, continuing education, and/or part-time students from this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The number of students engaged in community service :

14653

Total number of students, which may exclude part-time, continuing education and/or non-credit students :

28654

The website URL where information about the institution's community service initiatives is available :

<http://www.community.vcu.edu/>

Community Service Hours

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution engages students in community service, as measured by average hours contributed per full-time student per year.

Institutions may exclude non-credit, continuing education, and/or part-time students from this credit.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The number of student community service hours contributed during a one-year period :

408642

Total number of students, which may exclude part-time, continuing education and/or non-credit students :

28654

The website URL where information about the institution's community service initiatives is available :

<http://www.community.vcu.edu/>

Sustainability Policy Advocacy

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution advocates for federal, state, or local public policies that support campus sustainability or that otherwise advance sustainability.

The policy advocacy must be done by the institution, not by students or a student group.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Has the institution advocated for federal, state, and/or local public policies that support campus sustainability or that otherwise advance sustainability? :

Yes

A brief description of how the institution engages in public policy advocacy for sustainability, including the issues, bills, and ordinances for or against which the institution has advocated :

VCU has participated in the City of Richmond Road Map to Sustainability and in Virginia Clean Cities development of model by-laws regarding EV charging stations in Virginia.

The website URL where information about the institution's advocacy efforts are available :

Trademark Licensing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Part 1

Institution is a member of the Fair Labor Association or Worker Rights Consortium.

Part 2

Institution has signed on to participate in the Designated Suppliers Program.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Is the institution a member of the Worker Rights Consortium? :

No

Is the institution a member of the Fair Labor Association? :

No

Has the institution expressed intention to participate in the Designated Suppliers Program? :

No

The website URL where information about the institution's participation in the WRC, FLA, and/or DSP is available :

Graduation Pledge

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution administer a graduation pledge through which students pledge to consider social and environmental responsibility in future job and other decisions? :

No

A brief description of the graduation pledge program :

The website URL where information about the graduation pledge program is available :

Community Service on Transcripts

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution include community service achievements on student transcripts? :

Yes

A brief description of the practice :

VCU includes Service-Learning courses on transcripts, where each service learning course equates to a minimum of 20 community service hours.

The website URL where information about the practice is available :

Farmers' Market

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution host a farmers' market for the community? :

Yes

A brief description of the farmers' market :

Yes, during Sustainability sponsored events, including Farm to Family Bus, Tricycle Gardens, and individual vendors.

<http://www.farmtofamilyonline.com/>

The website URL where information about the market is available :

<http://tricyclegardens.org/>

Innovation

Innovation

These credits recognize institutions that are seeking innovative solutions to sustainability challenges and demonstrating sustainability leadership in ways that are not otherwise captured by STARS.

Credit
Innovation 1
Innovation 2
Innovation 3
Innovation 4

Innovation 1

Responsible Party

Paul Thrift

Superintendent of Grounds
Grounds

Criteria

- 1) Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, groundbreaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit.
 - 2) In general, innovation credits should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as Tier One credits.
 - 3) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome should have occurred within the past three years.
 - 4) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already done; planned activities do not count.
 - 5) An institution can only claim a particular activity as an innovation credit once. When re-submitting for a STARS rating, an innovation credit that the institution submitted previously cannot be re-submitted.
 - 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. For example, three innovative waste reduction programs in research laboratories could be listed together under a single innovation credit for Greening Laboratories. 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.
 - 9) Outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region or school type are eligible for innovation credits.
 - 10) When the innovation is part of a partnership, the summary provided must clearly describe the institution's role in the innovation.
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

A brief description of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome :

VCU has implemented innovative stormwater management initiatives on both campuses. VCU has three vegetated roofs, one on each campus and one at our off-campus environmental research center, the VCU Rice Center. On the main Monroe Park Campus, VCU have installed an "engineered" stormwater bio-retention area on the south side of the School of Business/School of Engineering Building. The area is approximately 70'x45' and is undercut by approximately 7', then backfilled with two bottom layers of gravel, a layer of sand with filter fabric, then filled to grade with topsoil. The area is no more than one foot lower than the surrounding area and was planted with grass so it is unlikely that anyone recognizes that it is there. Bayscaping, landscaping that benefits the Chesapeake Bay, has been installed

[STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

along the walkway to the Trani Life Sciences Building and is also planted at the Harris Hall Rain Garden. These stormwater management initiatives collectively help to reduce the amount of contaminants and sediments in the runoff that flows directly into the James River. Two 6,000-gallon cisterns have also been installed outside of the Cary Street Gym, which allows VCU to capture rainwater and use it for irrigation in the surrounding landscape. The Rice Center also has cisterns to capture rainwater, which is then used to flush the toilets in the building.

A letter of affirmation from an individual with relevant expertise :

[Stormwater Letter.pdf](#)

The website URL where information about the innovation is available :

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

- 1) Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, groundbreaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit.
 - 2) In general, innovation credits should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as Tier One credits.
 - 3) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome should have occurred within the past three years.
 - 4) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already done; planned activities do not count.
 - 5) An institution can only claim a particular activity as an innovation credit once. When re-submitting for a STARS rating, an innovation credit that the institution submitted previously cannot be re-submitted.
 - 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. For example, three innovative waste reduction programs in research laboratories could be listed together under a single innovation credit for Greening Laboratories. 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.
 - 9) Outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region or school type are eligible for innovation credits.
 - 10) When the innovation is part of a partnership, the summary provided must clearly describe the institution's role in the innovation.
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

A brief description of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome :

The VCU Rice Center, Virginia first LEED-certified platinum building, has used innovative measures to reduce its potable water demand, overall water use and generation of wastewater. All wastewater passes through a pre-engineered, on-site wastewater treatment system that results in a clear and odorless effluent infiltrated into a nearby wooded dispersal area.

The building also promotes efficient water use through dual-flush and power assist toilets that operate with rainwater collected in a series of cisterns. This has reduced the potable water use by 45 percent below mandated baseline requirements.

A letter of affirmation from an individual with relevant expertise :

[Water sustainability statement.pdf](#)

The website URL where information about the innovation is available :

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

Criteria

- 1) Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, groundbreaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit.
 - 2) In general, innovation credits should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as Tier One credits.
 - 3) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome should have occurred within the past three years.
 - 4) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already done; planned activities do not count.
 - 5) An institution can only claim a particular activity as an innovation credit once. When re-submitting for a STARS rating, an innovation credit that the institution submitted previously cannot be re-submitted.
 - 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. For example, three innovative waste reduction programs in research laboratories could be listed together under a single innovation credit for Greening Laboratories. 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.
 - 9) Outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region or school type are eligible for innovation credits.
 - 10) When the innovation is part of a partnership, the summary provided must clearly describe the institution's role in the innovation.
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

A brief description of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome :

VCU has installed four L2 Electric Vehicle charging stations, doubling the total number of electric vehicle charging stations in Virginia. There are two charging stations on each campus, located in a parking deck, with the Monroe Park charging stations open to the public. VCU is also planning to install an L3 Electric Vehicle Charging Station, which will be the one of the first public L3 charging stations in Virginia.

A letter of affirmation from an individual with relevant expertise :

[Electric Vehicle Letter.pdf](#)

The website URL where information about the innovation is available :

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

- 1) Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, groundbreaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit.
 - 2) In general, innovation credits should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as Tier One credits.
 - 3) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome should have occurred within the past three years.
 - 4) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already done; planned activities do not count.
 - 5) An institution can only claim a particular activity as an innovation credit once. When re-submitting for a STARS rating, an innovation credit that the institution submitted previously cannot be re-submitted.
 - 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. For example, three innovative waste reduction programs in research laboratories could be listed together under a single innovation credit for Greening Laboratories. 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.
 - 9) Outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region or school type are eligible for innovation credits.
 - 10) When the innovation is part of a partnership, the summary provided must clearly describe the institution's role in the innovation.
-

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

A brief description of the innovative policy, practice, program, or outcome :

VCU has implemented a series of innovative behavior change initiatives, including the Sustainability Pledge, VCU Green Map, Green Works Team, and annual Sustainability events. To date, the Sustainability Pledge has been taken by 1,756 students, faculty, and staff members at VCU. The VCU Green Map is an innovative tool for members of the VCU and surrounding community to locate sustainability assets on both campuses, including LEED Buildings, biking infrastructure, locally-sourced foods, and more. VCU also schedules numerous Sustainability Events throughout the year including Campus Sustainability Day, RecycleMaina, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Great Bike Round-Up, and America Recycle's Day. These events all incorporate educating students on sustainability at VCU with [STARS Reporting Tool](#) | [AASHE](#) | [Sierra Magazine](#)

appropriate information as well as Segway tours of our sustainable assets on the university's two campuses.

A letter of affirmation from an individual with relevant expertise :

[Behavior Change Letter.pdf](#)

The website URL where information about the innovation is available :

Supplemental

Supplemental Data

The supplemental section includes reporting fields that are not part of STARS, but that have been requested by campus survey organizations (the Sustainable Endowments Institute, The Princeton Review, and Sierra magazine). Institutions that wish to share their data with one or more of these organizations should complete the fields in full or contact the relevant organization(s) for guidance regarding minimum reporting requirements.

Credit
New Student Orientation
Food Education
Food and Beverage Purchases
Confinement-Free Food Purchases
Vegetarian-Fed Food Purchases
Hormone-Free Food Purchases
Seafood Purchases
Dishware
Energy Initiatives
Energy Use by Type
Procurement
Bike Sharing
Water Initiatives
Endowment
Sustainability Staffing

New Student Orientation

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides details about how it incorporates sustainability into new student orientation.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does new student orientation include presentations, speakers, or skits that address sustainability and take place in large venues that most or all first-year students attend? :

No

Provide a brief description of the presentations, speakers or skits :

Does new student orientation incorporate sustainability information into presentations (e.g., made by Residential Advisors to individual dorm floors)? :

Yes

Provide a brief description of the presentations :

The RA's offer some insight into sustainability efforts during their first floor meeting (Welcome Week). They inform students of the recycling efforts in our halls and where they can deposit any recyclable items. This year we will also be talking about the Energy Dashboard which the residence halls has been hooked up to this semester. We will likely conduct some competitions throughout next year.

Does new student orientation actively engage students in activities that raise awareness about sustainability, highlight how sustainability plays out on campus, or allows students to take part in a productive green activity? :

No

Provide a brief description of the activities :

Does the institution make new student orientation more sustainable via efforts such as a zero-waste meal or carbon offsets? :

No

Provide a brief description of the efforts :

Does the institution incorporate sustainability into new student orientation in other ways? :

Yes

Provide a brief description :

The Office of Sustainability hands out "Think Green Guides: A Guide to Green Living at VCU" at new student orientation.

Food Education

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides education about eco-positive food and gardening techniques.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Are students educated in an academic class about how to make eco-positive food choices? :

Yes

Provide a brief description :

Students are taught the climate implications of a diet rich in meat, the lengthy food shipping processes, and the problems with sustaining the food needs for the American population. Classes include Environmental Pollution, Earth Systems, and Sustainable Societies: Africa.

Are students educated in dining facilities about how to make eco-positive food choices? :

Yes

Provide a brief description :

There is signage throughout VCU dining centers that highlight green initiatives in Dining Services. These include information on choosing food that is local and seasonal. The dining centers are also VA Green Certified, trayless, and serve local and seasonal food. Each semester we run a waste week promotion, educating students on the impact of their choices on the waste stream. We incent their performance with a pound-for-pound, in-kind donation to the local food bank!

Are students educated during orientation about how to make eco-positive food choices? :

No

Provide a brief description :

Are students educated in other venues about how to make eco-positive food choices? :

No

Provide a brief description :

Is there a program by which students are encouraged to and/or taught how to grow their own food? :

Yes

Provide a brief description of the program :

VCU has just installed our first community garden. The goal of this garden is to provide space for gardening to urban students, to donate to local food banks, and to encourage student, faculty and staff to grow their own food. The garden hosts workshops to help the community learn to garden.

Food and Beverage Purchases

Criteria

Institution provides details of its food and beverage purchases.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The percentage of food and beverage expenditures that were processed within 100 miles of the institution by a company that is not publicly traded :

The percentage of food and beverage expenditures that were grown within 100 miles of the institution :

List what tool your institution is using to track this information (e.g. Center for Environmental Farming Systems or CBORD) :

List items procured for dining services from on-campus organic garden(s) :

The percentage of total food and beverage expenditures spent by dining services to procure items from on-campus organic garden(s) :

0

List all Fair Trade certified items purchased :

Confinement-Free Food Purchases

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides details of its confinement-free animal product purchases.

Submission Note:

No confinement-free purchases are made.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Type of cage-free / free-range eggs purchased :

Percentage purchased :

Comments :

Type of confinement-free product purchased (1st product) :

Percentage purchased (1st product) :

Comments (1st product) :

Type of confinement-free product purchased (2nd product) :

Percentage purchased (2nd product) :

Comments (2nd product) :

Type of confinement-free product purchased (3rd product) :

Percentage purchased (3rd product) :

Comments (3rd product) :

Type of confinement-free product purchased (4th product) :

Percentage purchased (4th product) :

Comments (4th product) :

Vegetarian-Fed Food Purchases

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides details of its vegetarian-fed animal product purchases.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Type of vegetarian-fed product purchased (1st product) :

Percentage purchased (1st product) :

Comments (1st product) :

Type of vegetarian-fed product purchased (2nd product) :

Percentage purchased (2nd product) :

Comments (2nd product) :

Type of vegetarian-fed product purchased (3rd product) :

Percentage purchased (3rd product) :

Comments (3rd product) :

Type of vegetarian-fed product purchased (4th product) :

Percentage purchased (4th product) :

Comments (4th product) :

Type of vegetarian-fed product purchased (5th product) :

Percentage purchased (5th product) :

Comments (5th product) :

Hormone-Free Food Purchases

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides details of its hormone-free animal product purchases.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Type of hormone-free product purchased (1st product) :

Percentage purchased (1st product) :

Comments (1st product) :

Type of hormone-free product purchased (2nd product) :

Percentage purchased (2nd product) :

Comments (2nd product) :

Type of hormone-free product purchased (3rd product) :

Percentage purchased (3rd product) :

Comments (3rd product) :

Type of hormone-free product purchased (4th product) :

Percentage purchased (4th product) :

Comments (4th product) :

Type of hormone-free product purchased (5th product) :

Percentage purchased (5th product) :

Comments (5th product) :

Seafood Purchases

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides details of seafood products purchased that meet Marine Stewardship Council Blue Ecolabel standards and/or Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guidelines.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Type of seafood product purchased that meets Marine Stewardship Council Blue Ecolabel standards and/or Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guidelines (1st product) :

Scallops

Percentage purchased (1st product) :

80

Standard used (1st product) :

Seafood Watch guidelines

Comments (1st product) :

Type of seafood product purchased that meets Marine Stewardship Council Blue Ecolabel standards and/or Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guidelines (2nd product) :

Shrimp

Percentage purchased (2nd product) :

80

Standard used (2nd product) :

Seafood Watch guidelines

Comments (2nd product) :

Type of seafood product purchased that meets Marine Stewardship Council Blue Ecolabel standards and/or Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guidelines (3rd product) :

Crab legs

Percentage purchased (3rd product) :

80

Standard used (3rd product) :

Seafood Watch guidelines

Comments (3rd product) :

Type of seafood product purchased that meets Marine Stewardship Council Blue Ecolabel standards and/or Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guidelines (4th product) :

Percentage purchased (4th product) :

Standard used (4th product) :

Comments (4th product) :

Type of seafood product purchased that meets Marine Stewardship Council Blue Ecolabel standards and/or Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guidelines (5th product) :

Percentage purchased (5th product) :

Standard used (5th product) :

Comments (5th product) :

Dishware

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh

Director of Sustainability

VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides details of the dishware its provides at its dining services locations.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Does the institution offer reusable dishware at its dining services locations? :

Yes

Does the institution offer plastic dishware at its dining services locations? :

Yes

Does the institution offer polystyrene (Styrofoam) dishware at its dining services locations? :

Yes

Does the institution offer post-consumer recycled content dishware at its dining services locations? :

Yes

Does the institution offer biodegradable / compostable dishware at its dining services locations? :

Yes

Does the institution offer other types of dishware at its dining services locations? :

No

Provide a brief description. :

VCU Dining Service's Dining Halls all use reusable dishware and have plastic dishware for carry-out. Biodegradable dishware is used during specific events. Styrofoam dishware is used in some of the franchises on campus.

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

Criteria

Institution provides details about its energy initiatives.

Submission Note:

The buildings that have undergone energy retrofits or renovations within the past three years:

- 1) The Solar PV project which included; Broad Street Deck, N Deck, the tracker at the School of Engineering, the tracker at Larrick, the tracker at the PPD Administration Building and Shafer Court Dining thermal installation.
- 2) Lighting upgrade to the Cabell Library
- 3) Lighting upgrade to Tompkins McCaw Library
- 4) Wind Turbine on Pollak
- 5) Retro Commissioning at the School of Engineering West

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The percentage of total building space square footage that has undergone energy retrofits or renovations within the past three years :

14.23

The percentage of overall energy consumption reduced as a result of retrofits and renovations completed within the past three years :

0

The percentage of electricity consumption reduced as a result of retrofits and renovations completed within the past three years :

0

The percentage of thermal energy consumption reduced as a result of retrofits and renovations completed within the past three years :

0

The combined gross square footage of all buildings that were constructed or underwent renovations in the past three years that are ENERGY STAR labeled :

14195

The names of all buildings that were constructed or underwent renovations in the past three years that are ENERGY STAR labeled :

President's House

The combined gross square footage of all buildings that are ENERGY STAR labeled :

23086

The names of all buildings that are ENERGY STAR labeled :

President's House

Physical Plant Department Administration Building

Energy Use by Type

Responsible Party

Carl Beckelheimer

Energy Engineer

Physical Plant

Criteria

Institution reports its energy use by type.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The percentage of total electricity use from coal. :

43.70

The percentage of total electricity use from wind. :

0

The percentage of total electricity use from biomass. :

0

The percentage of total electricity use from natural gas. :

12.80

The percentage of total electricity use from solar PV. :

0

The percentage of total electricity use from geothermal. :

0

The percentage of total electricity use from nuclear. :

38.40

The percentage of total electricity use from hydro. :

1.40

The percentage of total electricity use from other. :

3.70

Provide a brief description. :

Pumped storage, other renewables, and petroleum

The percentage of total energy used for heating buildings from coal. :

0

The percentage of total energy used for heating buildings from biomass. :

0

The percentage of total energy used for heating buildings from electricity. :

1

The percentage of total energy used for heating buildings from natural gas. :

46

The percentage of total energy used for heating buildings from geothermal. :

0

The percentage of total energy used for heating buildings from fuel oil. :

0

The percentage of total energy used for heating buildings from other. :

53

Provide a brief description. :

Other is purchased steam

If cogeneration, please explain. :

Procurement

Responsible Party

Edward Gibbs

Director of Procurement and Payment Services
Procurement Services

Criteria

Institution provides details about its procurement efforts.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The percentage of institutionally purchased appliances that are ENERGY STAR rated (of eligible appliance categories) :

100

Does the institution have a policy to purchase ENERGY STAR appliances whenever possible? :

Yes

The percentage of expenditures on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified office paper (US/Canadian dollars) :

100

Does the institution's vendor code or policy require vendors to use less packaging? :

Yes

Bike Sharing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution reports the number of bicycles available through bike sharing programs.

Submission Note:

A bike-loan program was launched at the libraries with 4 bikes at each library.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The number of bicycles available through bike sharing programs :

8

Water Initiatives

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides details about its water initiatives.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

Is there is a ban or restriction on selling or distributing bottled water on campus? :

No

Provide a brief description of any bottled water ban or restriction :

Does the institution meter any of its non-potable water usage? :

No

The percentage of urinals on campus that are waterless :

0

Endowment

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution provides details about its endowment.

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The institution's total endowment market value as of the close of the most recent fiscal year :

349700000 US/Canadian \$

Date as of :

June 30, 2011

Does the institution offer donors the option of directing gifts to an investment fund that considers environmental/sustainability factors? :

No

If yes, or if currently under consideration, provide a brief description :

Has the institution made investments in on-campus energy and/or water efficiency projects through the endowment (as an endowment investment and not a payout or using operating budget funds) :

No

Size of capital commitments made within past 3 years :

0 US/Canadian \$

Provide a brief description :

Does institution lack the ability to vote proxies on environmental and social resolutions, as the entire equity holdings of the endowment are invested in mutual funds (e.g. CommonFund, Fidelity, Vanguard)? :

No

Does the institution lack the ability to vote proxies on corporate governance resolutions, as the entire equity holdings of the endowment are invested in mutual funds (e.g. CommonFund, Fidelity, Vanguard)? :

No

Do investment managers handle the details of proxy voting on environmental and social resolutions? :

No

Do investment managers handle the details of proxy voting on corporate governance resolutions? :

No

Are investment managers provided with general guidelines that determine proxy votes on environmental and social resolutions? :

No

Are investment managers provided with general guidelines that determine proxy votes on corporate governance resolutions? :

No

Are investment managers provided with specific guidelines that determine proxy votes on environmental and social resolutions? :

No

Are investment managers provided with specific guidelines that determine proxy votes on corporate governance resolutions? :

No

Does a single administrator determine proxy votes on environmental and social resolutions? :

No

Does a single administrator determines proxy votes on corporate governance resolutions? :

No

Does a committee of administrators and/or trustees deliberate and make decisions on proxy votes on environmental and social resolutions? :

No

Does a committee of administrators and/or trustees deliberate and make decisions on proxy votes on corporate governance resolutions? :

No

Does a committee that includes student representatives deliberate and make recommendations or decisions on proxy

votes on environmental and social resolutions? :

No

Does a committee that includes student representatives deliberate and make recommendations or decisions on proxy votes on corporate governance resolutions? :

No

Is institution community feedback incorporated into proxy voting decisions on environmental and social resolutions through town hall meetings or a website? :

No

Is institution community feedback incorporated into proxy voting decisions on corporate governance resolutions through town hall meetings or a website? :

No

Sustainability Staffing

Responsible Party

Jacek Ghosh
Director of Sustainability
VCU Sustainability

Criteria

Institution reports the amount of weekly time worked by people employed in the sustainability office, if applicable (in full-time equivalent).

"---" indicates that no data was submitted for this field

The amount of weekly time worked by people employed in the sustainability office (in full-time equivalent) :

165

FTE staff on payroll :

4

FTE student intern/fellow :

1