CSUCI STARS Gold

Summary of FY 2021-22 Sustainability Rating
What is STARS?

• **STARS is the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System** – a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure sustainability performance

• Institutions earn points toward a STARS Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum Rating, or earn the STARS Reporter designation, representing significant sustainability leadership
The STARS Report measures sustainability performance in:

- 5 categories
- 17 subcategories
- 113 credits
17 STARS Subcategories

- Curriculum
- Research
- Campus Engagement
- Public Engagement
- Air & Climate
- Buildings
- Energy
- Food & Dining
- Grounds
- Purchasing
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water
- Coordination & Planning
- Diversity & Affordability
- Investment & Finance
- Wellbeing & Work
CSUCI STARS Ratings

CSUCI first earned a silver rating in 2011. The campus progressed to a gold rating in 2014 and has since maintained that level.

CSUCI’s most recent report reflects programs and operations during the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

This report scored 69.72%, resulting in renewal of a gold STARS rating.
• STARS is used by the Chancellor’s Office and Board of Trustees to assess sustainability performance throughout the CSU.

• CSUCI is the 8th highest scoring CSU in the STARS program as of July 2023.
CI performs evenly across the four main categories, indicating a balanced approach to sustainability across campus.

CI surpasses the CSU average scores in the Operations and Planning & Administration categories based on reports submitted before July 2023.
CSUCI’s Performance by Subcategory
CSUCI’s 5 highest scoring subcategories are:

- **Grounds**  3.93/4
- **Coordination & Planning**  8/9
- **Purchasing**  5.23/6
- **Water**  6.5/8
- **Air & Climate**  8.74/11
The areas with the greatest room for improvement include:

- **Food & Dining**  2.9/8
- **Buildings**  3.25/8
- **Wellbeing & Work**  3.12/7
- **Investment & Finance**  3.45/6
- **Public Engagement**  11.85/20
- **Curriculum**  23.79/40
Proposed Actions

The following section features three proposed actions within each category that can enhance sustainability on campus and contribute to better scores in future STARS reports. Recommendations have been limited to three actions per category to maintain a focused approach to improvement, highlighting the most attainable actions and areas with the most room for advancement.
Proposed Actions: Academics

- Offer incentives for students/faculty to conduct sustainability research
- Develop a sustainability-focused graduate program
- Conduct a Sustainability Literacy Assessment for students
Proposed Actions: Engagement

- Improve tracking of community service hours performed
- Create a peer-to-peer program for employees to learn about sustainability (i.e. Green Teams)
- Conduct campus sustainability culture assessment every three years or more
Proposed Actions: Operations

- Certify new construction and major renovations under green building standard, such as LEED
- Increase percentage of “sustainable” foods purchased for campus dining (third party certified)
- Increase percentage of recycled content and FSC certification in paper purchases
Proposed Actions: Planning & Administration

- Include student and faculty representatives on the Finance and Investment Committee
- Increase percentage of employees earning a living wage
- Publish more detailed investment portfolio report
Proposed Actions: Innovation & Leadership

- Designate sustainability courses in the course catalog
- Participate in the LGBTQ-Friendly Campus Pride Index
- Pursue Voter Friendly Campus designation
Summary of Proposed Actions

**Academics**
- Integrate sustainability throughout the curriculum
- Develop a graduate program with sustainability integration
- Conduct a Sustainability Literacy Assessment for students

**Engagement**
- Improve tracking of community service hours performed
- Create a peer-to-peer program for faculty/staff to learn about sustainability (i.e. “Green” Teams)
- Conduct campus sustainability culture assessment

**Operations**
- Certify new construction and major renovations under green building standard, such as LEED
- Increase percentage of “sustainable” foods purchased for campus dining (third party certified)
- Increase percentage of recycled content and FSC certification in paper purchases

**Planning & Administration**
- Include student and faculty representatives on the Finance and Investment Committee
- Increase percentage of employees earning a living wage
- Publish more detailed investment portfolio report

**Innovation & Leadership**
- Designate sustainability courses in the course catalog
- Participate in the LGBTQ-Friendly Campus Pride Index
- Pursue Voter Friendly Campus designation
To learn more about sustainability at CSUCI, visit [www.csuci.edu/fs/sustainability](http://www.csuci.edu/fs/sustainability) or email SustainableCI@csuci.edu

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