

Core Components

Administrative Support
Curriculum
Engagement
Research

Administrative Support

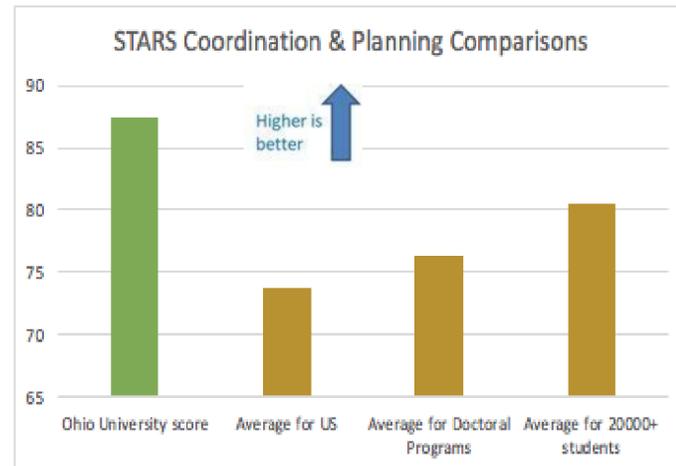
Core

Aspiration: Create a community-driven, award-winning AASHE STARS¹ Gold Sustainability program at OHIO



Where we are now

- ✓ Benchmark 6: Institute annual sustainability profile tracking and assessment process. **Target met; tracking & assessment process exists.**
- ✓ Benchmark 10: Integrate sustainability goals and objectives into capital campaign. **Target not met; no capital campaign has started since plan was created.**



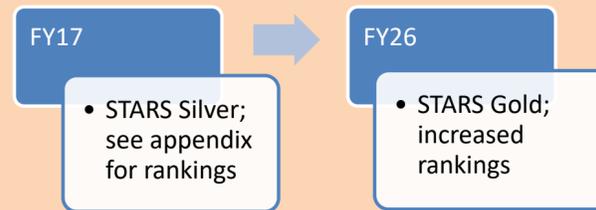
Carbon Emissions from Office of Sustainability staff (estimated)

Type of employee	# of staff (FTE)	Emissions (MT e-CO ₂)
Staff	2	8.7
Student	7	30.5
Faculty	0.3	1.3
Total	9.3	40.5

Fun fact: Ohio University students, faculty and staff emit an average of 4.35 MTe-CO₂ per full time equivalent (FTE) per year.

Moving forward

Goal 1: Achieve recognition for innovative and robust sustainability planning, coordination and governance (Metric: AASHE STARS¹ rating; Sustainability rankings)



Potential strategies

- Transform OHIO Sustainability into model engagement ecosystems utilizing the Sustainability Hubs
- Apply for national sustainability rankings and awards
- Plan and implement compelling sustainability events; encourage green events in campus/community
- Increase marketing of sustainability events; initiatives and achievements to OHIO campuses; communities and alumni
- Track and third-party verify carbon, nitrogen, and air pollutant emissions through internationally accepted reporting protocols
- Maintain reporting for all other internal and external sustainability commitments

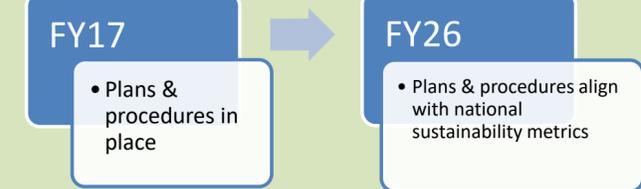
Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies	Costs of Goal #1 Strategies
Reputation (Presidential commitment fulfillment)	Staff time (O&M)
Reduction opportunities (emissions, O&M, etc.)	
Social (engagement, D&I, etc.)	

Notes and Definitions

¹AASHE STARS Gold is a rating from the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System \(STARS\)](#). Gold is the second highest rating; as of 2019 only 4 institutions have the highest rating, Platinum.

Moving forward

Goal 2: Build resiliency into processes and infrastructure (Metric: existence of resiliency plans and procedures)



Potential strategies

- Review best practices for resiliency & sustainability integration at other institutions
- Create recommendations for Chief Facilities Officer

Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies	Costs of Goal #2 Strategies
Resiliency/risk reduction	Staff time (O&M)
Emission reductions	
O&M reductions	
Reputation	

Goal 3: Create funding mechanisms for sustainability initiatives outside of General Funds (Metric: \$/year)



Potential strategies

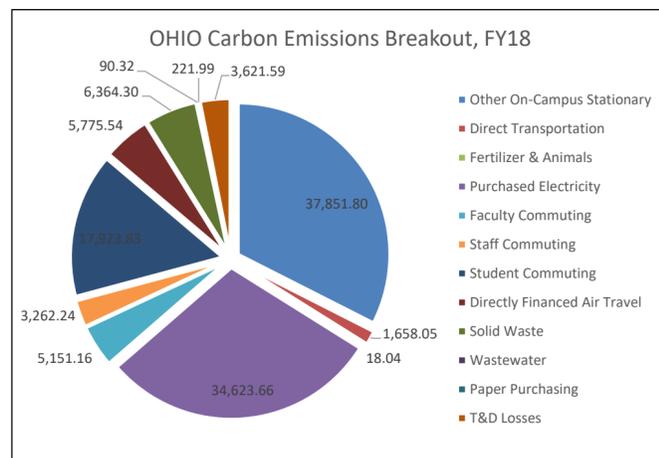
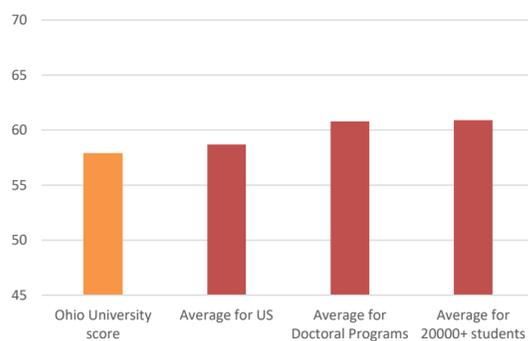
- Collaborate with Advancement to develop a philanthropic case for sustainability; continue to promote sustainability in annual giving materials
- Apply for grant funding
- Create sustainability revolving loan fund

Benefits of Goal #3 Strategies	Costs of Goal #3 Strategies
Source of capital funds	Staff time (O&M)
Carbon emissions reductions	
Reputational/enrollment benefits	

Where we are now

- ✓ Benchmark 8: Improve sustainability literacy of students, faculty and staff. **In progress; literacy is improving, according to surveys.**
- ✓ Benchmark 9: Increase enrollment in sustainability-themed courses, majors and programs **Target of 5% increase since Dec 2011 easily met.**
- ✓ Benchmark 11: Provide undergraduate students with a sustainability-focused major, degree program or equivalent. **Target achieved.**

STARS Curriculum Comparisons



All OHIO carbon emissions are related to curriculum in one way or another.

Moving forward

Goal 1: Increase opportunities for formal, experiential, and community-engaged sustainability learning experiences (Metric: See subgoals)

Subgoals and Targets	FY17	FY26
Undergraduates enrolled in sustainability majors ¹	44	75
Graduate students enrolled in sustainability majors ¹	42	60
Students enrolled in sustainability certificate programs ¹	74	100
OHIO course offerings including sustainability ²	2.3%	7.5%
Students taking course with sustainability learning outcomes ³	7%	25%
Students involved in Sustainability Project Laboratory ⁴ curricular and co-curricular projects	0	200

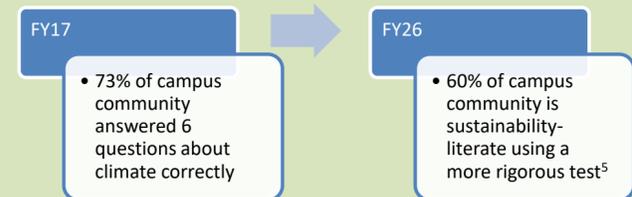
Proposed strategies for Goal 1:

- Create incentives and training program for sustainability course development
- Develop sustainability learning outcomes to embed in general education, colleges, departments, experiential learning program, community engagement (C-courses) and honors programs
- Showcase and expand sustainability components of existing programs, majors, certificate programs, co- and cross-curricular experiential learning and community engagement experiences
- Incorporate sustainability into immersive study experiences
- Explore sustainability course designation

Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies	Costs of Goal #1 Strategies
Enhanced academic quality	Faculty/staff time
Reputation	
Proactive environmental behavior	

Moving forward

Goal 2: Assess and strengthen sustainability culture and literacy (Metric: performance on a literacy survey or test⁵)



Proposed strategies for Goal 2:

- Adopt standard literacy survey such as [Sulitest](#)
- Engage with Libraries to create online curricular sustainability resources
- Create strong OHIO sustainability network through the Sustainability Hub programs

Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies	Costs of Goal #2 Strategies
Enhanced academic quality	Staff time (O&M)
Reputation (enrollment)	
Proactive environmental behavior	

Notes and Definitions

¹Sustainability majors at OHIO include Urban Planning & Sustainability and HTC Environmental Studies (undergraduate), and Environmental Studies (graduate). Certificate programs include Environmental Studies and Environmental Studies-Sustainability.

²Course offerings including sustainability are defined by AASHE in the [AC1 section](#) of the Technical Manual.

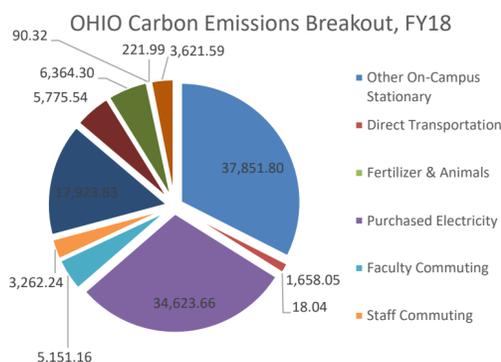
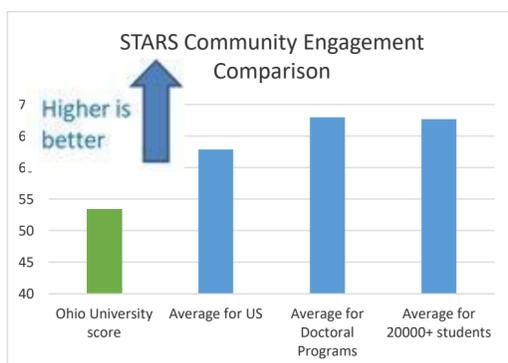
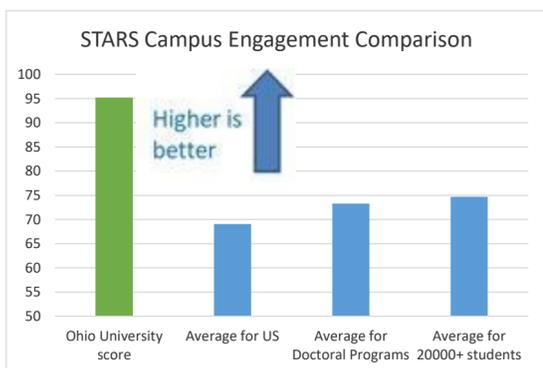
³Sustainability learning outcomes are defined by AASHE in the [AC2 section](#) of the Technical Manual. More details are in the appendix.

⁴See [Sustainability Project Laboratory](#) webpage.

⁵In FY17, sustainability literacy was defined as being able to correctly answer 6 simple questions about the climate. For FY26, the target will be using a more rigorous literacy test.

Where we are now

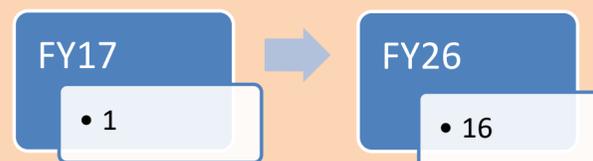
- ✓ Benchmark 8: Improve sustainability literacy of students, faculty and staff. **Target met and strategies in progress.**
- ✓ Benchmark 33: Encourage residency in City of Athens for Athens campus employees. **Target partially met, but benchmark will be abandoned in new plan.**



All carbon emissions are related to engagement in one way or another.

Moving forward

Goal 1: Create, enhance and track transformative sustainability engagement ecosystems (Metric: number of ecosystems created/enhanced)



Proposed Strategies:

- Sustainability Project Laboratory
- Sustainability Hub initiatives
- Center for Campus & Community Engagement, Experiential Learning, Honors Programs, and Office of Sustainability collaborations on sustainability experiential learning projects
- Ohio Sustainability Professionals Consortium participation

Benefits of Goal #1	Costs of Goal #1
Community building	Capital costs, for some
Reputation (enrollment)	Operating costs, for some
Proactive environmental behavior	

(Goal both requires employee time and saves employee time)

Notes and Definitions

¹Engagement ecosystems are initiative-driven working groups which ideally include members of all the following: OHIO faculty, OHIO staff, the local community and the OHIO student body

²As defined by AASHE STARS [Technical Manual EN-14](#).

Moving forward

Goal 2: Continue offering opportunities for alumni, campus and community members to learn about or contribute to sustainability initiatives (Metric: opportunities available)

Opportunities	FY17	FY26
Student Sustainability Educators	yes	yes
Sustainability in Orientations	yes	yes
Sustainability in Student Life	yes	yes
Sustainability Continuing Education (number of courses)	2	10
Community Service (percent of students)	24%	50%
Participation in Public Policy Advocacy for Sustainability ²	yes	yes
Community Sustainability Partnerships	yes	yes
Sustainability Outreach	yes	yes
Sustainability Professional Development	yes	yes

Proposed Strategies:

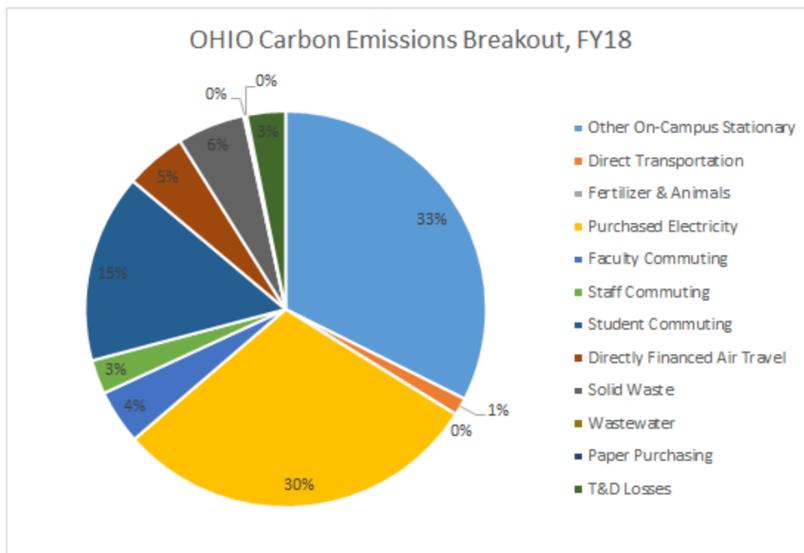
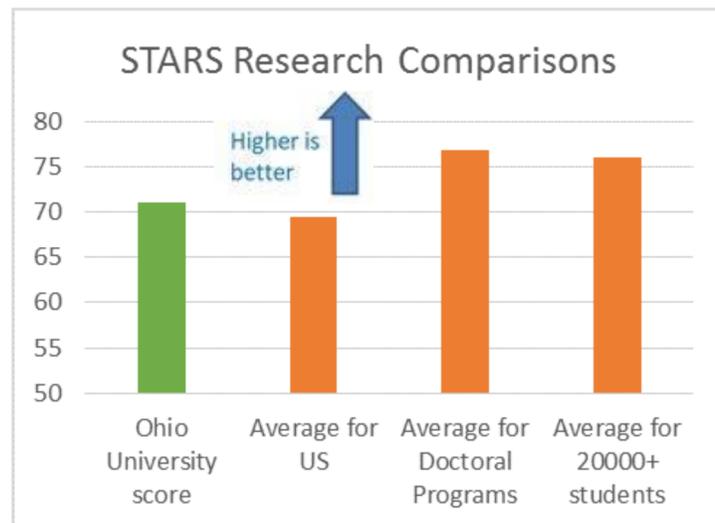
- Create Sustainability Badge Course for Employees
- Expand Sustainability Alumni Network for Alumni
- Expand Sustainability Tracking & Evaluation Program (STEP) for Employees

Benefits of Goal #2	Costs of Goal #2
Reputation	Staff time
Social justice benefits	Capital cost (supplies)
Proactive environmental behavior	

(Volunteers save time, while planning uses employee time)

Where we are now

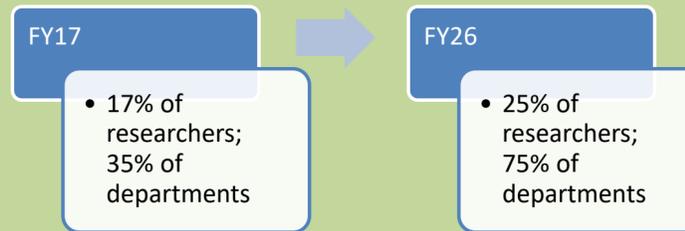
- ✓ Benchmark 1: Strengthen sustainable research activities. **In progress (% is increasing for faculty and departments who conduct sustainability research)**
- ✓ Benchmark 35: Define and track sustainability research activities. **Target met. Definition and tracking in place.**



Research contributes to emissions in all categories reported by Ohio University

Moving forward

Goal 1: Increase research focused on sustainability¹ or carbon neutrality (Metric: Percent of active researchers and research departments with applicable research)



Proposed strategies:

- Encourage use of the Sustainability Project Laboratory throughout the University
- Increase interest and participation in sustainability-focused research opportunities by featuring such research in Hub Seminars, newsletters, reports and award applications
- Develop new sustainability research collaborations through Hub Coordinators
- Provide incentives and support for sustainability research (see Goal 2)
- Investigate methods of collecting research data to improve accuracy of metrics.

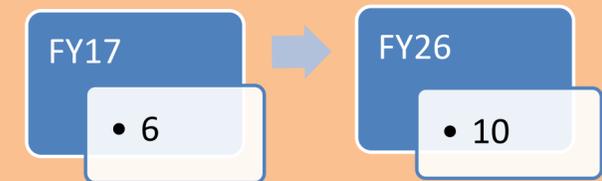
Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies	Costs of Goal #1 Strategies
Fulfillment of core mission	Staff time
Reduction in environmental impacts from research	
Decrease in operating expenses	

Notes and Definitions

¹As defined by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in section A9 of their STARS Technical Manual.
²Open Access resources promote social justice and equity in research. They are particularly relevant in supporting sustainability researchers.

Moving forward

Goal 2: Provide incentives and support to researchers who conduct sustainability engagement ecosystem research with triple bottom line benefits (Metric: Percent of programs, grants, awards or tools supporting sustainability engagement ecosystem research)



Proposed strategies

- Create sustainability revolving loan mini-grants program
- Develop library guides for sustainability researchers
- Support development and use of Open Access² resources for sustainability research
- Develop training programs for researchers on incorporating sustainability and the triple bottom line into their research
- Enhance Sustainability Project Laboratory database to support sustainability research project formulation
- Continue Student Expo Sustainability awards
- Publicize Experiential Learning funding opportunities for undergraduate sustainability researchers and faculty/staff who serve them
- Monitor and circulate sustainability-focused external grant opportunities; provide letters of support for grant applications for sustainability researchers

Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies	Costs of Goal #2 Strategies
Fulfillment of core mission	Staff time
Reduction in environmental impacts from research	
Decrease in operating expenses	