



Sustainable Living Hub



OHIO  
UNIVERSITY

Food  
Grounds  
Student Life  
Transportation

# Food

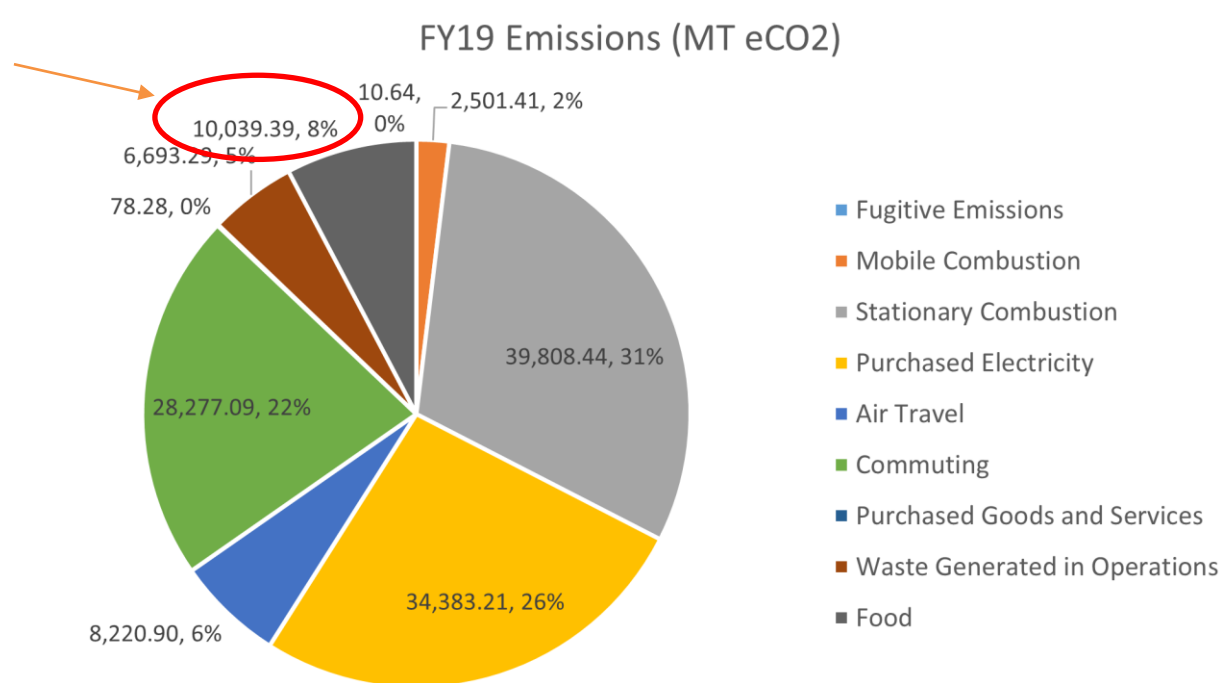
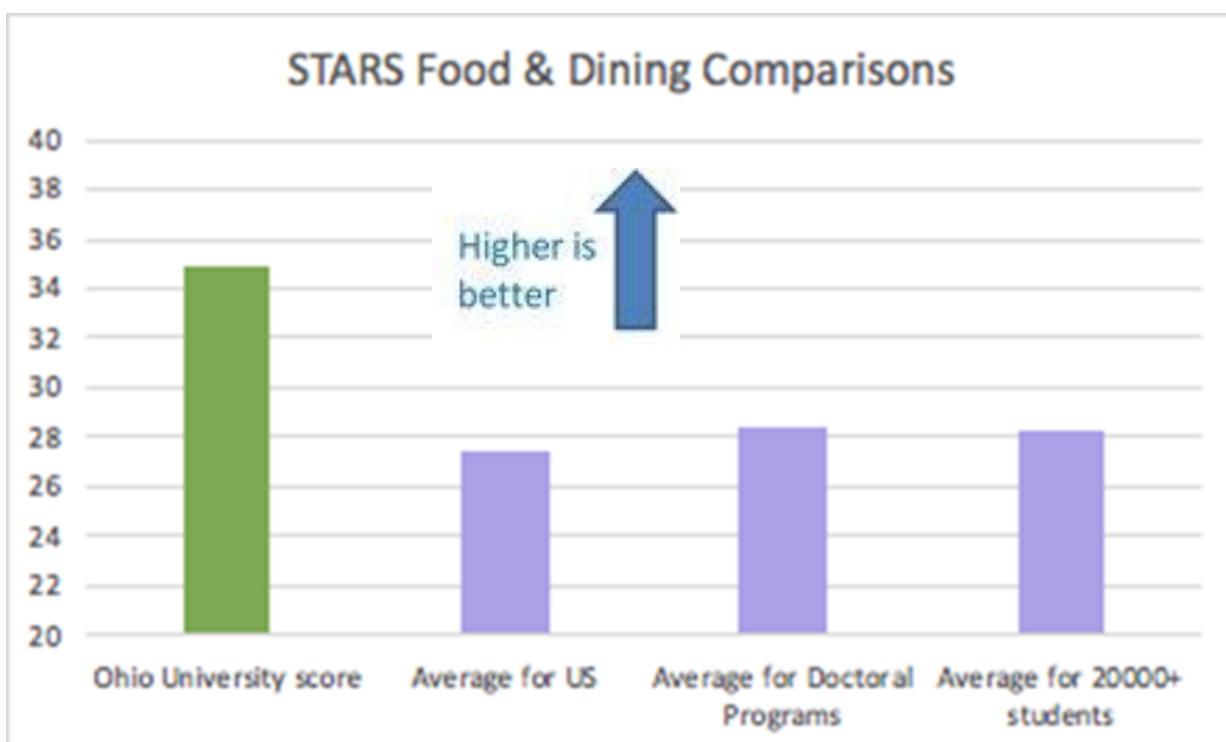
## Hub: Living

*Aspiration: OHIO campus members will choose to consume mindful neighborhood foods<sup>2</sup>*



### Where we are now

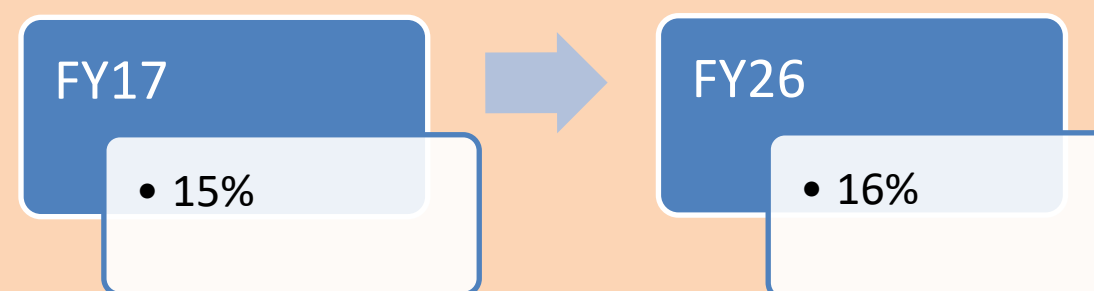
- ✓ Benchmark 14 : Increase purchase of local food  
**Target exceeded. 12% increase as opposed to 2% proposed.**
- ✓ Benchmark 30 : Provide information to diners regarding sustainability-attributes of food options  
**Target met.**



Emissions from Food are an underestimate for FY19, but are at least 8% of total campus emissions

### Moving forward

**Goal 1:** Support the local<sup>1</sup> food economy with preference to "neighborhood food"<sup>2</sup> products (Metric: % local food spend)



#### Proposed strategies:

- Create baselines and develop goals for "neighborhood food" purchasing and food business spend in FY20
- Develop or maintain sustainability initiatives which advance the goals and strategies of Culinary Services
- Continue Farm to OHIO Working Group
- Promote 30 Mile Meal specials in Latitude 39
- Utilize FoodPro data labeling and analysis

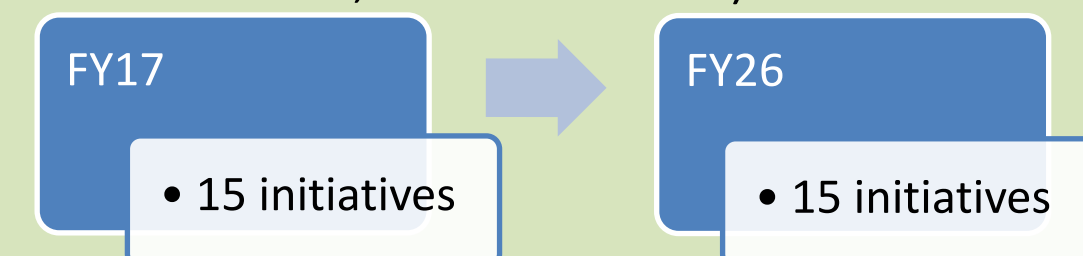
Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies	Costs of Goal #1 Strategies
Community engagement & economic activity	Staff time (O&M)
Emissions reduction	Labor costs
Reputation <sup>3</sup>	Certification costs (externality)
Soil regeneration (externality)	Business modification costs (externality)
Human health benefits <sup>4</sup>	



The Ohio Student Farm high tunnel, photo credit: Ohio University/ Rob Hardin

### Moving forward

**Goal 2:** Promote mindful foods choices; collaborate with communities to provide education on impacts of food choices (Metric: implement 15 of 15 AASHE STARS initiatives at OHIO; see attached list)



#### Proposed strategies:

- Create Culinary Services operating guidelines which outline sustainability priorities, goals and strategies (including AASHE STARS initiatives)
- Embark on marketing and educational campaigns for mindful food choices
- Continue high impact, low cost, community-engaged programs (CSA, Discovery Kitchen) as well as other programs which promote mindful food choices
- Create food programming impact database & annual report

Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies	Costs of Goal #2 Strgs.
Reputation <sup>3</sup>	Staff time (O&M)
Informed & improved consumer choices	
Emissions reduction	
Community engagement & economic activity	

#### Notes and Definitions

<sup>1</sup>"Local" food as defined by AASHE STARS  
<sup>2</sup>"Neighborhood foods" are defined as "Grown or processed within a 100-mile radius from the Athens campus with preference given to sources that are closer to campus OR within that 100-mile radius, grown or processed within the Ohio Appalachian counties as defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission". Food/ food products as defined by AASHE  
<sup>3</sup>Reputational benefits include student attraction and retention, OHIO's reputation as a national leader in food health.  
<sup>4</sup>In addition to the benefits of healthier campus members, there are potential insurance spend benefits





# Food

## Hub: Living

*Aspiration: OHIO campus members will choose to consume mindful neighborhood foods<sup>1</sup>*



### AASHE STARS initiatives to implement and/or maintain

Host a farmers' market, community supported agriculture (CSA) or fishery program, or urban agriculture project, or support such a program in the local community

Host a sustainability-themed food outlet on-site, either independently or in partnership with a contractor or retailer

Support disadvantaged businesses, social enterprises, and/or local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through its food and beverage purchasing

Host low impact dining events or promote plant-forward options

Have a vegan dining program that makes diverse, complete-protein vegan options available to every member of the campus community at every meal

Inform customers about low impact food choices and sustainability practices through labelling and signage in dining halls

Participate in a competition or commitment program and/or use a food waste prevention system to track and improve its food management practices

Implement trayless dining (in which trays are removed from/not available in dining halls) and/or modified menus/portions to reduce post-consumer food waste

Donate food that would otherwise go to waste to feed people

Divert food materials from the landfill, incinerator or sewer for animal feed or industrial uses

Have a pre-consumer composting program

Have a post-consumer composting program

Utilize reusable service ware for "dine in" meals

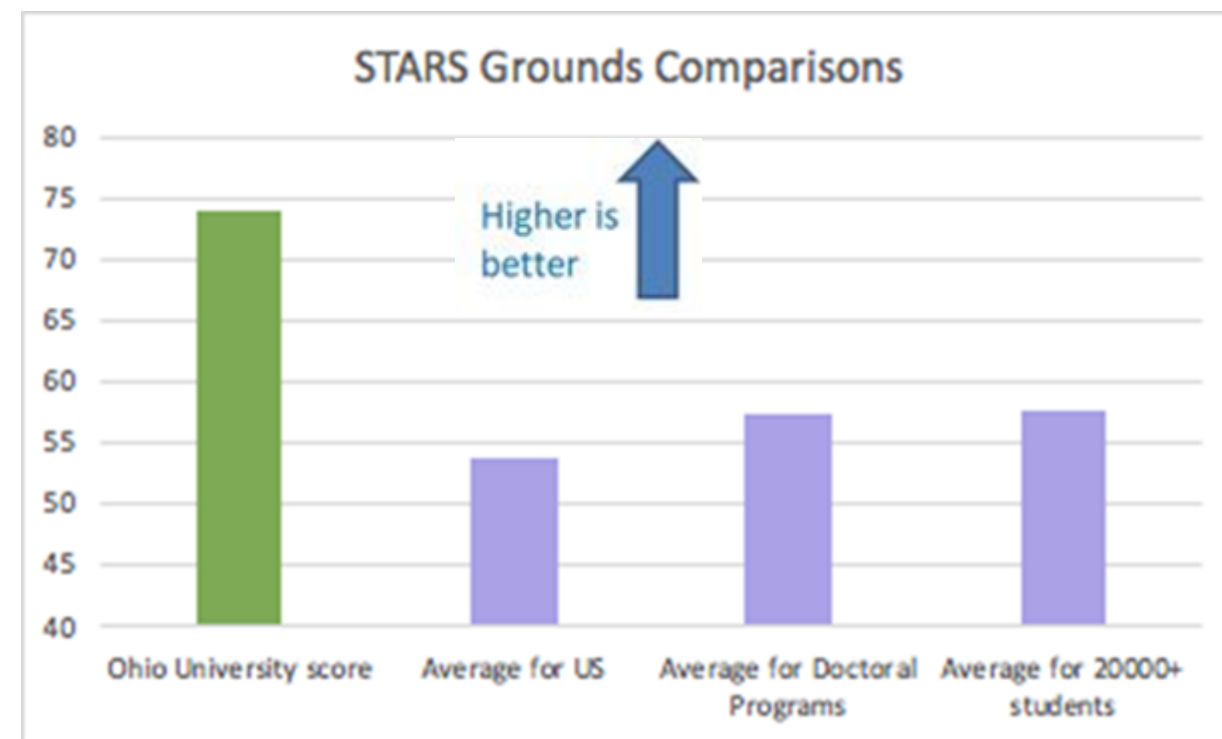
Provide reusable and/or third party certified compostable containers and service ware for "to-go" meals (in conjunction with an on-site composting program)

Offer discounts or other incentives to customers who use reusable containers instead of disposable or compostable containers in "to-go" food service operations



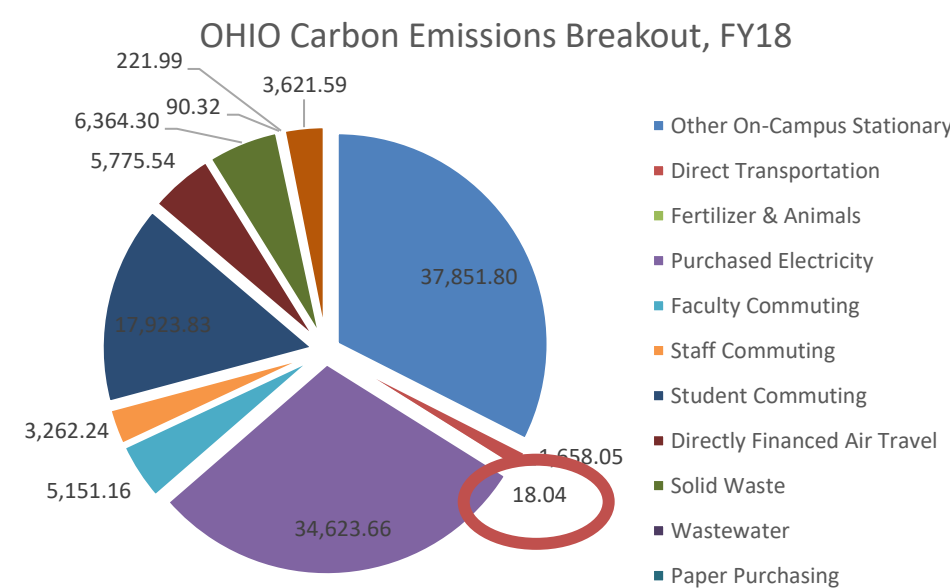
### Where we are now

- ✓ Benchmark 13 : Prohibit the installation of permanent irrigation systems that rely on potable water **Target met. Prohibition exists.**
- ✓ Benchmark 17 : Institute storm water management plan **Target met.**
- ✓ Benchmark 26 : Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) **Target met. IPM Plan written and approved.**



### Carbon Emissions for Grounds Category

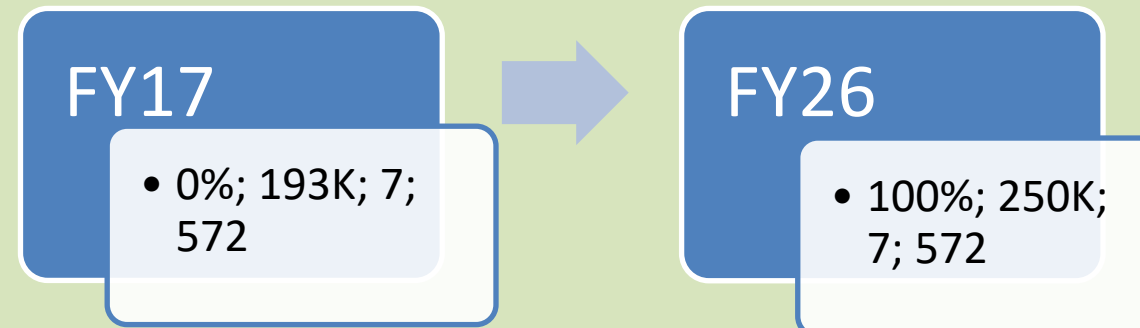
Grounds-related emissions are from Fertilizers and "Direct Transportation" from Grounds vehicles.



**Notes:**  
<sup>1</sup>Data provided by Susan Calhoun, Landscape Coordinator, Fall 2020.  
<sup>2</sup>Data provided by Matt Trainer, Data & GIS Specialist, Voinovich School, Fall 2020.

### Moving forward

**Goal 1: Create and maintain healthy, natural, biodiverse and beautiful landscapes that can act as the foundation for sustainability-oriented experiential learning opportunities** (Metric: percent of acres managed in accordance with [Integrated Pest Management](#) (IPM) plan; ft<sup>2</sup> of naturalized/pollinator space<sup>1</sup>; # of innovative sustainability grounds practices; acres of green space<sup>2</sup>)



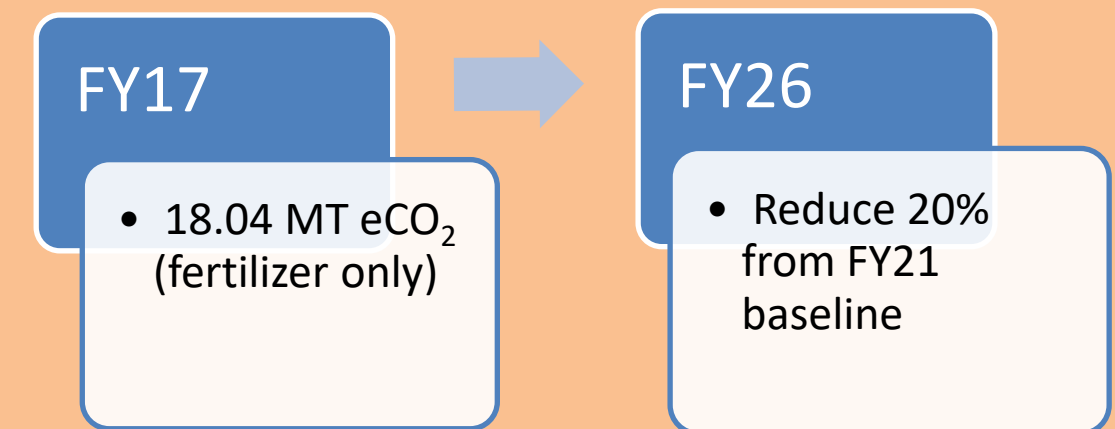
#### Potential Strategies

- Develop and publish a Sustainable Tree and Landscape Management Plan
- Develop organic land care standard and determine acres managed in accordance with it
- Consider biodiversity in ecosystem management planning
- Maintain Baker Edible Garden, Child Development Center (CDC) Garden and green roofs
- Add bat and bluebird boxes in appropriate locations
- Implement Bee Campus USA Program
- Increase square feet of pollinator/naturalized areas
- Consider using goats for weed management
- Implement mini & micro-clover pilot programs
- Update Tree Care Standards in University Design & Construction Standards
- Maintain protected space on the Ridges

Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies	Costs of Goal #1 Strategies
Community engagement	Staff time
Emissions reduction	O&M costs
Reputation	

### Moving forward

**Goal 2: Reduce carbon emissions from grounds-related activities** (Metric: MT e-CO<sub>2</sub>)



#### Potential Strategies

- Purchase electric lawn care vehicles and tools
- Reduce fertilizer use
- Offer continuing education for Grounds staff
- Develop no-idle policies that are appropriate for Grounds staff

Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies	Costs of Goal #2 Strategies
O&M savings	Capital costs
Emissions reduction	O&M costs

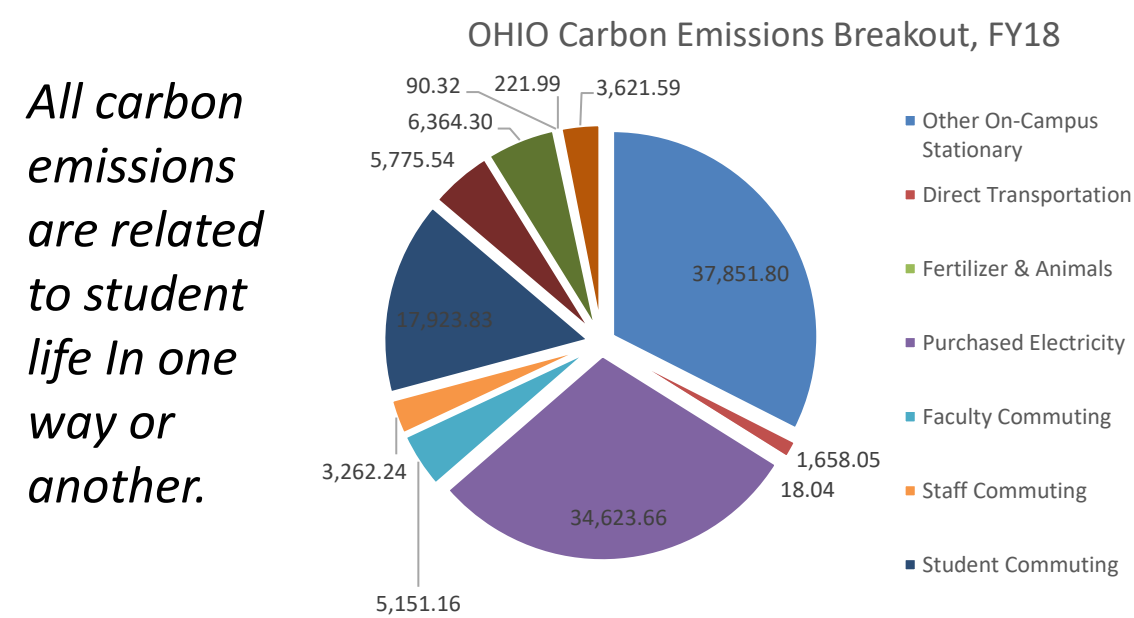
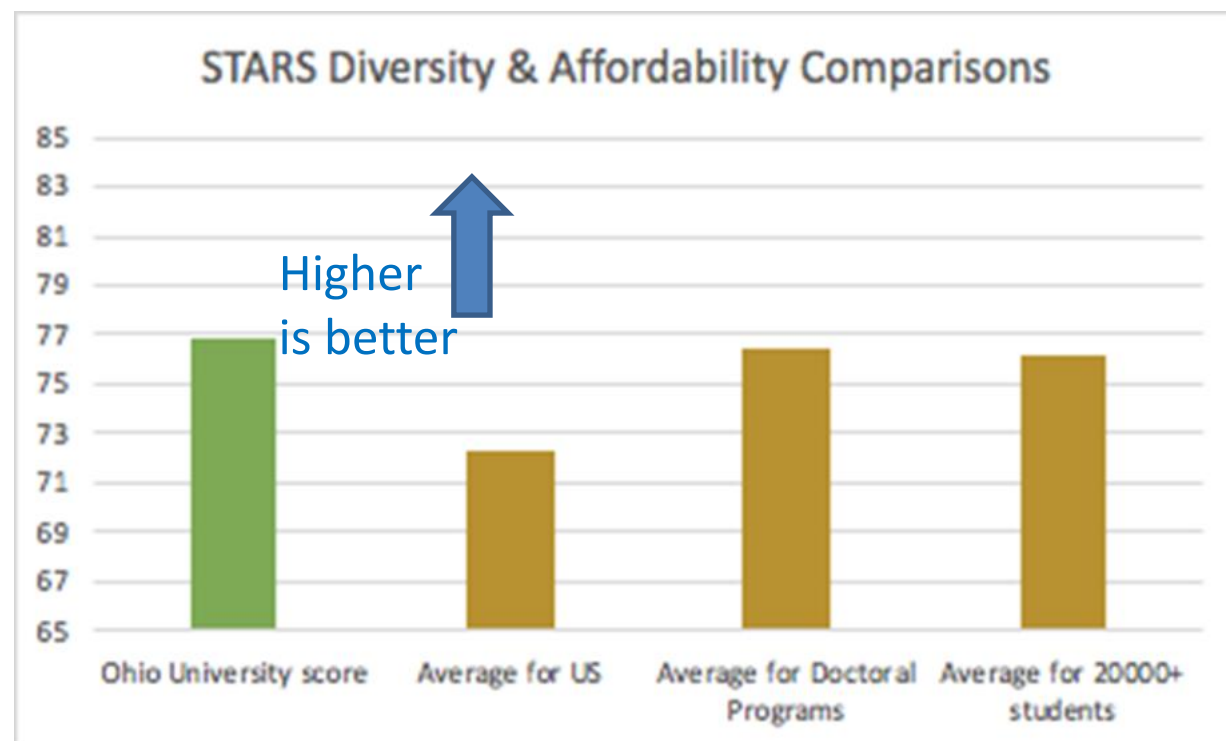


Baker Edible Gardens, 2019. Photo Credit: Elaine Goetz



### Where we are now

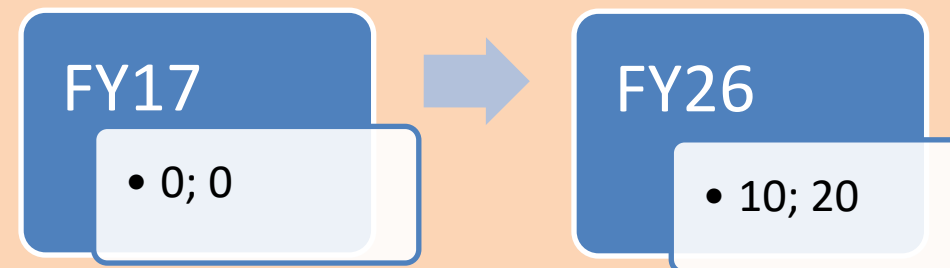
- ✓ Benchmark 19: Increase use of green cleaning products. **Target met: Facilities Management has a green cleaning program.**
- ✓ Benchmark 22: Implement recruitment strategies targeting sustainability-minded students, faculty and staff. **Target met partially: sustainability student recruitment brochure created and mailed.**



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

### Moving forward

**Goal 1: Support and promote student wellbeing and resilience** (Metrics: # of faculty participants in mental health and wellbeing trainings; # of student participants in peer wellbeing coaching programs)



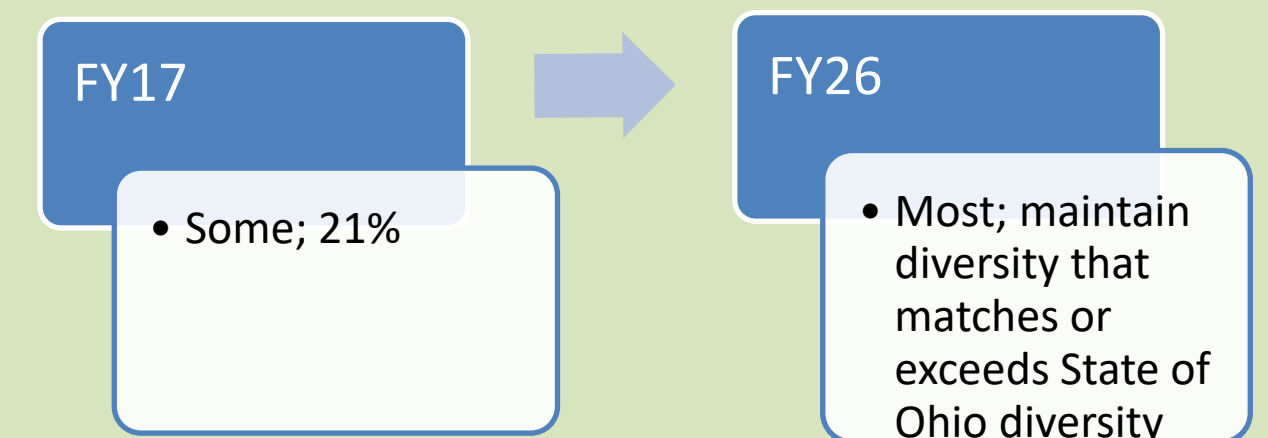
#### Potential Strategies

- Create a comprehensive plan for student physical & mental health, wellness & resilience
- Utilize RA Outreach/Residential Life Curriculum to promote wellbeing
- Develop off-campus living education on wellbeing and resilience
- Enhance and promote [OHIO Basic Needs Initiative](#)
- Continue [OHIO Guarantee](#)
- Enhance and promote [OHIO Signature Awards](#)
- Engage student employees about wellbeing and resilience
- Identify new & enhance existing programs & services that help students build community and feel connected

Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies	Costs of Goal #1 Strategies
Recruitment/retention	Staff time (O&M)
Human health	
Reputation	
Social justice	
Student success	
Proactive environmental behavior	

### Moving forward

**Goal 2: Prioritize sustainability, diversity and inclusion as positive student attributes in recruitment and retention efforts** (Metrics: proportion of students that have participated in cultural competency or sustainability training; % student diversity<sup>1</sup>)



#### Potential Strategies

- Develop cultural competency training for students
- Develop sustainability training for students
- Encourage inclusivity as a core design principle in teaching and learning
- Incorporate student sustainability, diversity, and inclusion information into recruitment materials and Bobcat Student Orientation
- Utilize [Sky Factor survey](#) to determine if sustainability efforts affect student satisfaction

Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies	Costs of Goal #2 Strategies
Recruitment/retention	Staff time (O&M)
Emissions reduction	
Student success	
Reputation	
Social justice	
Proactive environmental behavior	

Notes: <sup>1</sup>Student diversity percentage is calculated from the number of students reporting their race/ethnicity as non-Caucasian.



# Transportation

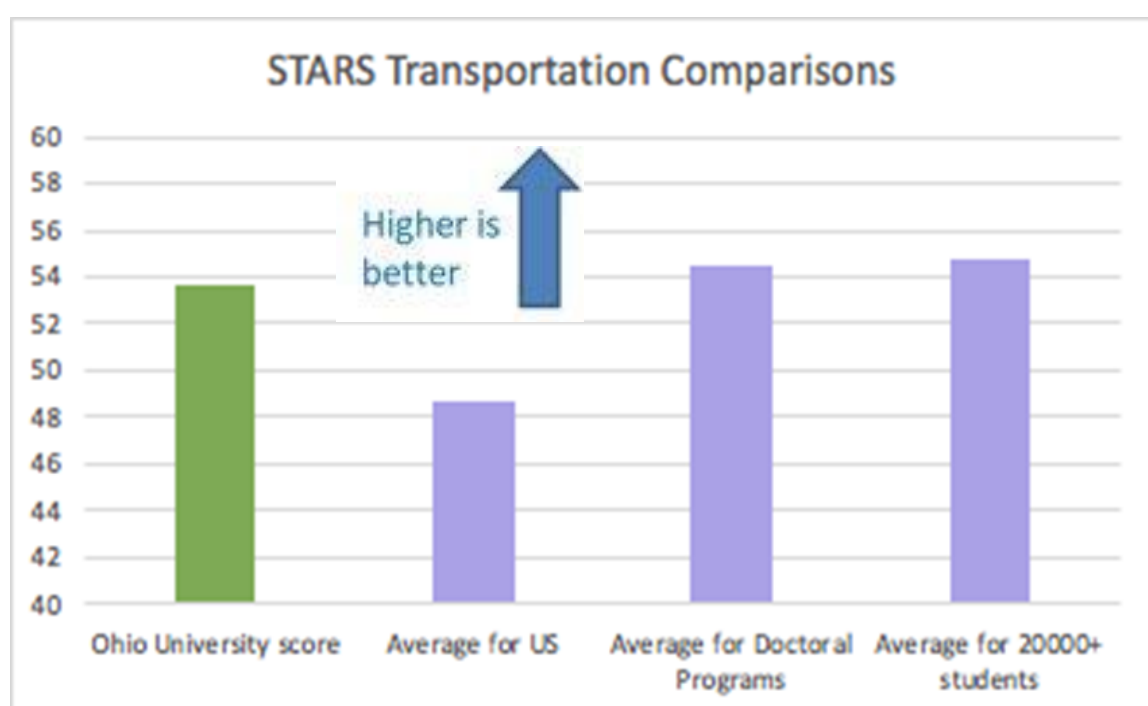
Hub: Living

Aspiration: Every OHIO community member will have access to alternative transportation

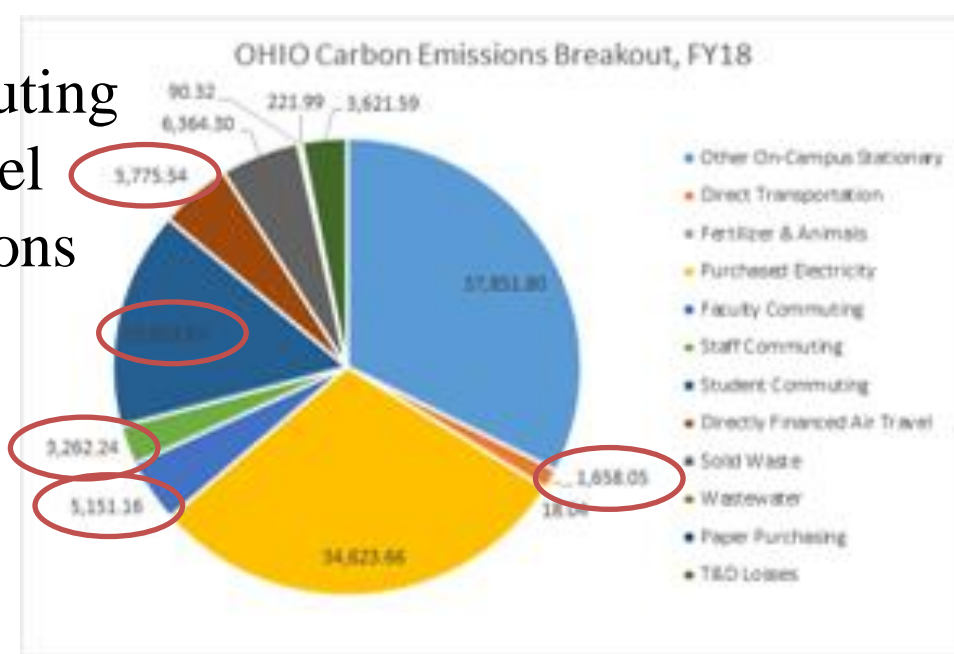


## Where we are now

- ✓ Benchmark 1 : Reduce institutional greenhouse gas emissions **Target exceeded and in Progress.**
- ✓ Benchmark 16 : Improve sustainability profile of student, staff, and faculty vehicles **Ineffective target and goal.**
- ✓ Benchmark 18 : Improve sustainability profile of campus fleet **Target baseline created (fuel economy) and target met (CAFE).**
- ✓ Benchmark 27 : Decrease use of Single Occupancy Vehicles **Target nearly met and data collected.**

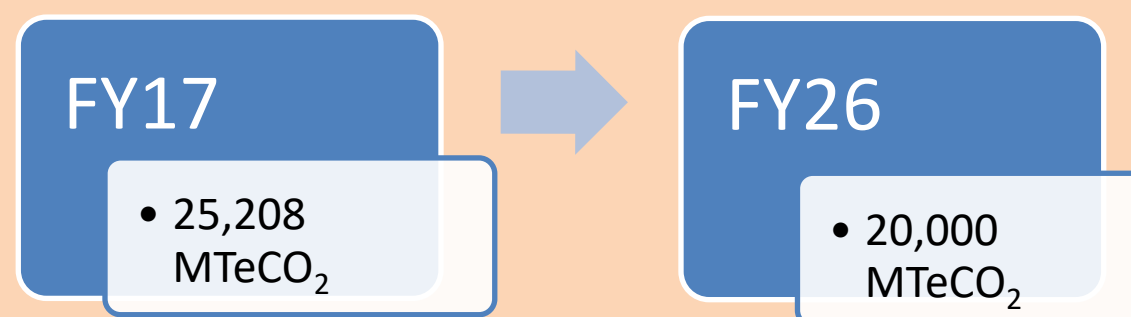


## Commuting & Travel Emissions



## Moving forward

Goal 1: Reduce carbon emissions from transportation (Metric: MT e-CO<sup>2</sup>)



### Potential Strategies

- Increase options for and use of alternative transportation to, from and on campus
- Offer opportunities for carbon offset purchases for airline and conference travel
- Increase marketing of alternative transit and carbon emissions reduction initiatives
- Increased use of hybrid vehicles in campus fleet
- Educational campaign to expand campus bus ridership
- Educational campaign to encourage alternative transportation usage
- Improve fuel economy of University vehicles
- Continue Campus Circulation Thru Transit program

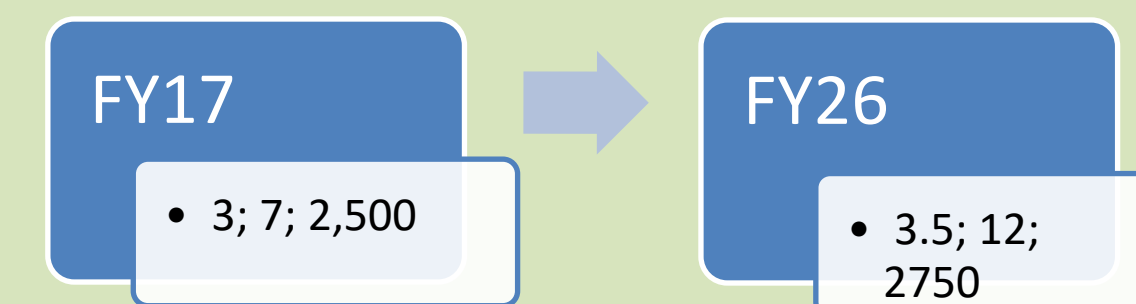
Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies	Costs of Goal #1 Strategies
Operating expense reduction	Capital expense increase
Emissions reduction	Operating costs
Human health benefits	

### Notes:

- <sup>1</sup>Includes Bikeway, campus roadway bike lanes, and multi-modal Sweep.
- <sup>2</sup>Includes all transit available with Bobcat Pass from Athens Public Transit and from campus transportation services.

## Moving forward

Goal 2: Create safe, efficient, affordable and healthy routes and options for non-SOV (single occupancy vehicle) transit (Metric: miles of non-motorized transportation routes<sup>1</sup>; number of bus routes<sup>2</sup>; number of monthly small shared mobility device users)



### Potential Strategies

- Offer expanded Shared Mobility Programs
- "Share the Road" educational campaign
- Utilize Complete Streets framework
- Identify additional non-motorized transportation routes

Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies	Costs of Goal #2 Strategies
Operating cost reductions	Capital expense increase
Human health benefits	Operating costs
Community impacts	

