Seattle Colleges Sustainability Plan

2017-2023

(updated November 2020)
# Table of Contents

Overview ................................................................................................................................................. 4

Sustainability in the College Context .................................................................................................... 5

Sustainability at the Seattle Colleges ....................................................................................................... 5
  - History ................................................................................................................................................. 5
  - Sustainability Staffing and Structure ................................................................................................. 5
  - Organizational Context ....................................................................................................................... 6

Sustainability at the College Level .......................................................................................................... 8

Sustainability Goals .................................................................................................................................. 8
  - Process: ............................................................................................................................................... 9

Sustainable Operations ............................................................................................................................ 9
  - Goal 1: Greenhouse Gas Reduction .................................................................................................... 9
  - Goal 2: Green Buildings ..................................................................................................................... 10
  - Goal 3: Waste Reduction ................................................................................................................... 11
  - Goal 4: Seattle 2030 District - Energy, Water, and Transportation ................................................ 12
  - Goal 5: Sustainable Purchasing ......................................................................................................... 13

Sustainability Curriculum ...................................................................................................................... 13
  - Goal 1: Sustainability Course Identifier .......................................................................................... 13
  - Goal 2: Sustainability Courses .......................................................................................................... 14
  - Goal 3: Student Involvement and Learning Opportunities .............................................................. 14

Sustainability Engagement .................................................................................................................... 15
  - Goal 1: Sustainability Committees .................................................................................................. 15
  - Goal 2: Sustainability in Orientation ............................................................................................... 15
  - Goal 3: Sustainability Communications .......................................................................................... 16

Sustainable Planning/Administration ..................................................................................................... 16
  - Goal 1: Sustainability Assessment .................................................................................................... 16
  - Goal 2: College Sustainability Plans ................................................................................................ 17
  - Goal 3: Sustainability in Strategic Planning .................................................................................... 17

Resources .................................................................................................................................................. 19

  - District Sustainability Committee (subject to change. Aims to be representative of various offices/departments across Seattle Colleges) ........................................................................ 19

  - STARS Reports ................................................................................................................................. 20
This page intentionally left blank
Overview

As stated in the Seattle Colleges’ 2017-2023 Strategic Plan, the mission of the Colleges is to “prepare each student for success in life and work, fostering a diverse, engaged, and dynamic community.” Climate change, ecological degradation, economic instability and inequalities, and social injustices require a community of involved citizens with the knowledge to make informed actions. Sustainability has been defined by the United Nations as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.\(^1\) The students of today will be the leaders of tomorrow who are tasked with creating and maintaining a sustainable world. To do so, students need to understand the complex interactions of environmental, social, and economic conditions that will affect their future careers and livelihoods. The Seattle College District Sustainability Plan outlines the Colleges’ commitment to infusing sustainability throughout our colleges, to better prepare our students to tackle that challenging future.

The purpose of this plan is to outline the specific sustainability goals that the Colleges has committed to over the next five years. These goals represent ambitious, yet achievable, targets across the entire district to ensure that our colleges exemplify sustainability and provide a world-class educational environment for students to learn about sustainability and be prepared to tackle that challenging future.

Sustainability in the College Context

Sustainability within the context of higher education presents a number of unique opportunities; 1) sustainability education prepares students for career success and responsible citizenship, 2) sustainability improves organizational efficiency, decreases operational costs and reduces risk, 3) sustainability catalyzes increased giving and new funding sources, 4) sustainability helps attract, retain, and motivate top students and employees, 5) sustainability strengthens community relations and facilitates new partnerships, and 6) sustainability research and education demonstrates relevance in addressing grand challenges and helps unify the campus around a shared sense of purpose. The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) is an independent non-profit that has identified and codified a framework for sustainability in higher education – STARS - that has become the most well respected benchmarking tool for sustainability at colleges and universities and is internationally recognized. The STARS framework identifies four distinct areas on which to focus sustainability efforts:

I. Operations (buildings, grounds, purchasing, resource consumption, transportation)
II. Curriculum (curriculum, research)
III. Engagement (student/faculty/staff engagement, community engagement)
IV. Planning & Administration (planning, governance, diversity, affordability, wellbeing)

The Seattle Colleges, along with hundreds of higher education institutions both nationally and internationally, has chosen to use this framework to assess sustainability across the district and create a sustainability roadmap for our colleges. The Seattle Colleges Sustainability Plan identifies opportunities in each of these areas. By focusing on a broad spectrum of sustainability topics, the Sustainability Plan looks to improve the comprehensive sustainability of Seattle Colleges.

Sustainability at the Seattle Colleges

History

The Seattle Colleges have a long history of supporting sustainable programming and efforts. Through programs like the Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAgE) Associate’s degree, Seattle Culinary Institute, and energy auditing coursework at the Georgetown campus, the Seattle Colleges have been providing curricular opportunities in sustainability for students for years. The Seattle Colleges have constructed LEED certified buildings since 2005 and won the 2006 Recycler of the Year award from the Washington State Recycling Association.

3 To date, more than 800 college and universities in 30 countries have registered for STARS
In 2009, Chancellor Jill Wakefield created the Chancellor’s Sustainability Initiative to focus sustainability efforts across Seattle Colleges. The Sustainability Initiative led to the creation of the District Sustainability Committee, a representative body of students, staff, and faculty from each of the Seattle Colleges, to guide and share sustainability efforts and best practices across Seattle Colleges. This effort, combined with the ongoing educational and technical sustainability programs across the Colleges, earned the Seattle Colleges the 2009 Green Washington award from Seattle Business Magazine. 2009 also marked the year that North Seattle College students decided to fund a Sustainability Office and full-time campus Sustainability Coordinator out of their student activities budget.

Under the guidance of the Sustainability Initiative, the Seattle Colleges saw a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas pollution by undertaking significant facility efficiency projects. The Sustainability Office at North Seattle College performed the first STARS sustainability assessment in 2011 as a pilot project to determine overall campus sustainability, and made significant sustainability improvements at the campus level based on the findings.

In 2013, the Sustainability Committee recommended hiring on a part-time District Sustainability Coordinator to add additional support and resources to the sustainability initiatives across the Colleges. District Sustainability Coordinator and North’s Sustainability Coordinator conducted STARS sustainability assessments in 2013 and 2017 at North, South, and Seattle Central College to baseline existing sustainability efforts, catalog best practices, and identify areas of improvement. The District Sustainability Coordinator became a full-time position in the summer of 2014, and this document is a comprehensive plan based on the 2013 and 2017 STARS findings to improve sustainability for the Seattle Colleges at large.

Sustainability Staffing and Structure

Currently, the Seattle Colleges staff two full-time sustainability positions. The District employs a Sustainability Coordinator to focus on high-level resource conservation, external sustainability relationships, and increasing college-level capacity to implement sustainability practices. North Seattle College employs a full-time Sustainability Coordinator to engage students with sustainability through campus sustainability projects. South Seattle College and Seattle Central College do not have dedicated sustainability staff, but they do have a Sustainability Council and Committee, respectively. Several staff members at each college have played significant roles on the council and committee.

Organizational Context

The Seattle Colleges Sustainability Committee is the over-arching sustainability body at the Colleges. The committee has staff and faculty from each college to represent organizational perspectives across the Colleges. The District Sustainability Coordinator chairs the committee. The committee exists to help share best practices in sustainability across the Colleges, connect sustainability efforts at each college to larger Seattle Colleges initiatives, and to help identify areas for improvement in sustainability. The Seattle Colleges Sustainability Committee consults with campus leadership and campus councils/committees.

The district committee has three working groups that align with the STARS framework categories to focus on sustainability initiatives in these areas. The working groups meet between the quarterly
Sustainability Committee meetings to advance the agenda of sustainability as it relates to their focus areas.

**District Sustainability Committee Working Groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
<th>Directive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Operations  | • Track progress on operational goals in the Colleges Sustainability Plan  
             • Share best operational practices between colleges  
             • Explore District-wide operational initiatives |

- Resource conservation projects
- Renewable energy projects
## Curriculum
- Sustainable curriculum resources and workshops
- Sustainability course identification and promotion
- Learning opportunities for students in college projects
- Catalog and promote sustainability curriculum at our colleges
- Develop faculty training for curriculum integration with sustainability
- Coordinate with Operations working group to find student learning opportunities (Campus as a Living Laboratory)
- Track progress of curriculum goals in Seattle Colleges Sustainability Plan

## Engagement/Planning
- Sustainability plan development/execution
- Sustainability events
- Workshops and trainings
- Media and publicity
- Community partnerships
- Track progress on Seattle Colleges Sustainability Plan and report on annual progress
- Facilitate gathering of sustainability related news for campus and District PIOs
- Organize sustainability events including workshops and trainings for general staff/faculty/students

**Sustainability at the College Level**

Each college has an active sustainability council or committee composed of students, faculty, and staff who work with the District Sustainability Coordinator to align college sustainability initiatives with larger strategic sustainability goals. The college sustainability councils and committees provide organizational support to sustainability endeavors at each campus with a focus on student engagement and learning as well as improving campus operations.

North Seattle College students currently fund a Sustainability Coordinator who runs the Sustainability Office at NSC. This is the only dedicated sustainability position at the college-level as of January 2019. That being said, the various sustainability committees/councils are continuously working to better incorporate sustainability tasks/responsibilities into various job descriptions as those opportunities arise.

**Sustainability Goals**

The following goals represent the current District-wide sustainability objectives for Seattle Colleges. The intent is for each of our colleges to address those areas of sustainability that play to the strengths of each college, so that we may support each other in meeting these ambitious, yet achievable goals.
Process:
These goals are the culmination of extensive research and engagement with the campus communities circa 2013-2014. An original set of goals was drafted by the Seattle Colleges Sustainability Committee using the following criteria:

I. Improve the college’s sustainability as identified through the STARS sustainability framework  
II. Lead to resource conservation and cost savings for each college and Seattle Colleges  
III. Provide opportunities for student learning  
IV. Ambitious and achievable based on institutional capacity

This set of draft goals was taken to each college through in-person feedback sessions and an online survey which engaged over 100 faculty, staff, and students from all of our colleges. A final list of goals was created based on the feedback received.

Sustainable Operations

One of the most visible signs of sustainability at colleges and universities is in the physical sustainability of the campus. From procurement to facilities use to waste management, campus operations play an important role in exemplifying a college’s commitment to sustainability as well as providing opportunities for students to engage with hands-on projects related to sustainability on campus.

Goal 1: Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Goal: Surpass greenhouse gas reduction targets provided by the State Agency Climate Leadership Act

Background:
The State Agency Climate Leadership Act was passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2008 and called for annual tracking of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by all state agencies, as well as a commitment to hit specific reduction targets compared to the 2005 baseline year. In 2020, Washington State passed HB 2311, which updated GHG reduction targets as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Old Targets</th>
<th>HB 2311 Targets</th>
<th>Seattle Colleges Target (MTCO2e)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>3,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>2,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>1,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual reports must also now include:

- Actions taken to reduce emissions (previous 2 years)  
- Actions planned in the next biennium (next 2 years)  
- Long-term strategy to meet future GHG reduction targets (i.e. Climate Action Plan or similar)

Deliverable: Meet 2020 target and develop strategies to meet 2035 and 2050 targets
Progress to Date:
The Seattle Colleges kept annual Scope 1 & 2 emissions (includes emissions associated with natural gas, steam, electricity usage, as well as fuel used in fleet vehicles) below the 2020 target in 2015 and 2016. However, mostly as a result of; 1) adding square footage, and 2) an increased electricity emission factor (i.e. GHG emissions as a result of using one kWh), and 3) more accurate data, Seattle Colleges GHG emissions have crept up above the 2020 target over the past two reporting years. Up to this point, progress has been made through resource conservation/efficiency efforts at each campus, but more strategic initiatives are necessary. A Climate Action Plan is needed to strategize for 2035 and 2050 targets.

Accountability:
The District Sustainability Coordinator will analyze annual emissions for the Department of Ecology Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report. The Sustainability Coordinator will work with college Facilities and Operations to reduce energy consumption throughout the year to help meet the reduction targets. The Operations Working Group will help create a Seattle Colleges Climate Action Plan with more specific goals and strategies for greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Goal 2: Green Buildings

Goal: All new buildings will be constructed to at least a LEED Silver standard.

Background: Since 2005, the Washington State Legislature requires all new state agency buildings to be constructed to a LEED Silver standard.

Deliverable: LEED Silver or above certification for all new buildings after 2005.
Progress to Date:

All new buildings have received LEED Silver or higher certification. The current project list is as follows:

- Opportunity Center for Employment and Education (OCE&E) – North Seattle College – 2011
  - LEED Gold
- Gene J. Colin Education Hall (Building C Expansion) – South Seattle College – 2012
  - LEED Silver
- Health Sciences and Student Resources Building (HSSR) – North Seattle College – 2014
  - LEED Gold
- Wood Technology Center (Wood Tech.) – Seattle Central College – 2012
  - LEED Silver
- Cascade Hall – South Seattle College – 2018
  - LEED Gold
- Maritime Academy Expansion – Seattle Central College – 2017
  - LEED Silver,

Accountability:

Facilities and Operations works to ensure that all projects will meet or exceed this standard and that the LEED features of the buildings are appropriate and fit the needs of the college.

Goal 3: Waste Reduction

Goal: Compared to 2019, reduce landfill waste 50% by weight by 2030

Background:

Landfill waste is the most expensive form of traditional waste (garbage, recycling, and compost) for the colleges by weight. Improving recycling and composting infrastructure and procedures will help divert materials from landfills—reducing our environmental footprint—while simultaneously yielding long-term savings for Seattle Colleges.

Deliverable: Annual waste diversion in line with reaching 2030 target.

College Level Waste Reduction Plan to be developed by Facilities and Operations Staff at each college.

Progress to Date:

The District Sustainability Coordinator is working with the waste contractors for each college to gather annual waste consumption data at the college level. This data will help set a 2019 baseline and subsequent target metrics.

All campuses have conducted several waste audits over the past few years to help measure waste diversion rates for landfill, recycling, and compost. Waste audits are good exercises to determine types of contamination and general waste behavior, but are not necessarily accurate in measuring garbage, recycling, and compost rates. The data from the audits has been used to strategically improve waste receptacles to aid in reducing landfill waste.
Accountability:

The District Sustainability Coordinator will gather annual landfill consumption data from the waste contractors for each college where available and use other strategies to establish a recycling and diversion rate for each campus. These methodologies will be used to track recycling and diversion rates moving forward. The Operations Working Group will work with college level Facilities and Operations staff to create a Waste Reduction Plan that shows specific improvements to waste receptacles and signage that will help reach the goal. College Sustainability Committees will help with education of faculty, students, and staff on proper waste disposal.

**Goal 4: Seattle 2030 District - Energy, Water, and Transportation**

**Goal:** Meet Seattle 2030 District resource conservation targets

**Background:** In 2014, the Seattle Colleges joined the Seattle 2030 District, a high-performance building district with ambitious goals for resource conservation in central Seattle. The Seattle 2030 District has specific goals related to energy use, water use, and transportation emissions. There is no binding contract for the colleges to reach these goals, but the Seattle Colleges recognizes the importance of higher education institutions leading the way in creating a sustainable future. The Seattle 2030 District offers resources to help members reach their goals, including funding opportunities and technical assistance.

**2030 District Goals:**

- **Energy Use:** A minimum of 20% reduction below the National median by 2020 with incremental targets, reaching a 50% reduction by 2030.
- **Water Use:** Manage stormwater peak discharge and potable water use within the 2030 District by 50% below the 2030 District baseline by 2030, with incremental targets of 20% by 2020, 35% by 2025, reaching 50% by 2030.
- **CO2e of Auto and Freight:** A minimum of 20% reduction below the current 2030 District average by 2020 with incremental targets, reaching a 50% reduction by 2030.

**Deliverable:** Annual report of energy use, water use, and transportation emissions that shows progress in relation to annual goals. Annual goals are based on a linear trend towards 2030 goals.

**Progress to Date:** The District Sustainability Coordinator has submitted annual progress reports to 2030 District for several years and Seattle Colleges is performing admirably at this time. Progress will continue to be monitored.

**Accountability:** The District Sustainability Coordinator will track progress through annual reporting to the 2030 District. The Operations Working Group will work with college Facilities staff on resource conservation initiatives to help meet reduction goals in each category.

---

4 From 2030 site: http://www.2030districts.org/seattle
Goal 5: Sustainable Purchasing

**Goal:** Develop a District Purchasing Policy to purchase, when available, GreenSeal, EcoLogo brand products, EPEAT Silver or higher certified electronics, and other third-party verified sustainable products.

**Background:** AASHE has identified three primary sustainable product certifications for higher education institutions to purchase; GreenSeal, EcoLogo, and EPEAT Silver. These are national standards for a broad spectrum of products regularly purchased by the District. Because Seattle Colleges has a centralized purchasing department, creating a purchasing policy for these sustainable certifications will have widespread benefit to Seattle Colleges’ environmental footprint.

**Deliverable:** Creation of Sustainable Purchasing Policy

**Progress to Date:** The District Procurement Director and the District Sustainability Coordinator have met with college purchasing staff to determine current purchasing preferences. Many college level purchasing staff already pursue GreenSeal products and would be open to creating a policy. IT still needs to be engaged on the issue of EPEAT electronic purchasing.

**Accountability:** The District Sustainability Coordinator will work with the Procurement Director to develop a policy and present it to the Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees

Sustainability Curriculum

The mission of the Seattle Colleges is to “provide excellent, accessible educational opportunities to prepare our students for a challenging future.” As educational institutions, the Seattle Colleges are uniquely poised to teach our students to approach the world through the multidisciplinary lens of sustainability and prepare them to rise to the challenge of tackling the world’s hardest problems. Students with background and experience in sustainability will be better prepared to enter a workforce that is increasingly seeking workers who can approach challenges and opportunities systematically and with an understanding of the triple bottom line. The following goals will help increase the amount of sustainability curriculum available to our students and will provide them with increased opportunities for real world learning experiences.

Goal 1: Sustainability Course Identifier

**Goal:** Identify sustainability related and focused courses in course catalogs and listing

**Background:** The Seattle Colleges offer a wide variety of sustainability focused degrees, certificates, programs, concentrations, and courses. Currently, there is not a single directory for students interested in sustainability careers to find all of these educational opportunities listed together. This goal will make it easy for students to find and engage with existing sustainability curriculum across Seattle Colleges.

**Deliverable:** Create an updatable list of sustainability courses for faculty, students, and staff.

**Progress to Date:** The 2013 and 2017 STARS reports collected information about sustainability degrees and courses at Seattle Colleges. An informal list of sustainability-related degrees and courses has been
created for each college, but it needs to be more fully vetted through faculty and deans. The Curriculum Working Group is re-engaging to develop a work plan to undertake this objective.

**Accountability:** Curriculum Working Group and Instructional Deans

### Goal 2: Sustainability Courses

**Goal:** Increase number of sustainability focused courses 20% by 2020 compared to 2013 baseline

**Background:** The STARS reports undertaken in 2013 collected information about sustainability focused courses as identified by AASHE criteria. These criteria are:

- A sustainability course is a course in which the primary and explicit focus is on sustainability and/or on understanding or solving one or more major sustainability challenges.

The number of classes that met this criteria was 34 in 2013. The target goal of a 20% increase would be 42 sustainability focused courses. The addition of the Sustainable Building Science Technology (SBST) BAS at Georgetown added 14 sustainability focused courses. While this would exceed the goal, it is necessary to annually confirm that all the recorded courses are still offered.

Faculty development opportunities will be crucial to expanding the number of sustainability-focused courses. The Curriculum Working Group will work with the Faculty Development Coordinator to provide sustainable curriculum learning opportunities for part- and full-time staff each year.

**Deliverable:** Offer more than 42 sustainability-focused courses annually across Seattle Colleges

**Progress to Date:** Completed. The SBST program added 14 sustainability-focused courses, bringing the number of known sustainability-focused courses to 48. Annual check will need to be done to ensure that courses are still offered.

**Accountability:** Curriculum Working Group; Instructional Deans; Faculty Development Coordinator

### Goal 3: Student Involvement and Learning Opportunities

**Goal:** All sustainability projects have a student-learning component

**Background:** Colleges provide an excellent opportunity to act as a living laboratory for exploring questions of sustainability. All of the other sustainability goals in this plan present opportunities for students to engage in hands-on learning that relates to all realms of their academic pursuits. Creating an intentional mechanism and space for students to be involved in sustainability activities on campus furthers our mission as an educational institution.

**Deliverable:** Student involvement in all sustainability designated projects.

**Progress to Date:** Students are involved in a number of sustainability projects including energy audits at South Seattle College, utility efficiency upgrades at Seattle Central, and waste audits at North Seattle.

---

5 Page 25, STARS 2.0 Manual
College. A more formal and consistent mechanism for ensuring student involvement needs to be developed.

**Accountability:** District Sustainability Coordinator and College Sustainability Contacts

### Sustainability Engagement

A crucial aspect of sustainability on college campuses is creating a culture of sustainability among the students, faculty, and staff. Through media, events, and a strong on-campus presence, we aim to transform the culture of Seattle Colleges to fully embrace sustainability as a mindset and practice.

### Goal 1: Sustainability Committees

**Goal:** Maintain an active college-level Sustainability Council on each campus to help enact the Seattle Colleges Sustainability Plan and college sustainability goals

**Background:** A college-level Sustainability Council composed of faculty, staff, and students, offers a mechanism for those passionate about sustainability to work in an organized group to improve campus sustainability. Councils will be recognized by each campus and will be included in college strategic planning. College councils will work with college sustainability staff and the District Sustainability Coordinator to develop plans and actions that meet college sustainability goals and Seattle Colleges Sustainability Plan goals.

**Deliverable:** Each college has an official Sustainability Council

**Progress to Date:** Currently, North Seattle College and Seattle Central College have active sustainability councils that are recognized by college leadership. South Seattle has maintained a sustainability committee over the past few years.

**Accountability:** Planning/Engagement Working Group and College Sustainability Contacts

### Goal 2: Sustainability in Orientation

**Goal:** Include a sustainability component into new student and new staff orientation

**Background:** Orientation is an important time for new faculty, staff, and students to learn about campus practices and norms. Creating awareness of sustainable practices and activities on campus at the outset will improve participation and efficacy of sustainability initiatives across Seattle Colleges.

**Deliverable:** Implementation of sustainability modules specific to faculty, staff, and student orientation.

**Progress to Date:** Sustainability slides have been created for integration into student and staff orientation. Several campuses are using the slides in various orientations, but there are others that have not fully incorporated them yet. New Hire Orientation includes a 30-minute presentation and interactive waste sorting game, which is offered to all new employees of Seattle Colleges (started March 2019).

**Accountability:** District Sustainability Coordinator, college sustainability staff, and the Planning/Engagement Working Group will create appropriate sustainability modules
Goal 3: Sustainability Communications

Goal: Produce regular sustainability communications to the campus at large

Background: Including regular communications and updates about college sustainability initiatives and activities will help the campus community recognize the importance of sustainability at each college. Using existing methods of communications (newsletters, PIO communications, and websites) will likely be more effective than creating new ones.

Deliverable: Regular PIO and student communications have a sustainability component.

Progress to Date: Planning/Engagement Working Group tasked with gathering monthly stories from each campus for PIOs

Accountability: Planning/Engagement Working Group and District and College PIOs.

Sustainable Planning/Administration

Sustainability efforts on campus are most effective when they are given weight and importance by being included in high-level planning and are championed by college leadership. The following goals will help ensure that sustainability is included meaningfully in strategic planning.

Goal 1: Sustainability Assessment

Goal: Perform STARS Sustainability Assessment every 3 years with an increased score each submission

Background: AASHE’s STARS program is the gold standard for assessing college sustainability. The STARS framework was created specifically to gauge sustainability in the context of higher education and to help provide a roadmap for making sustainability improvements. STARS ratings are categorized Reporter, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum based on scoring brackets.

Historical STARS Ratings and Targets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline (2013)</th>
<th>Year 1 (2017)</th>
<th>Year 3 (2020)</th>
<th>Year 6 (2023)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Seattle</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Central</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Seattle</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Colleges</td>
<td>105(^A)</td>
<td>145(^A)</td>
<td>148(^T)</td>
<td>178(^T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>123(^T)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key

\(^T\) target score
\(^A\) actual score
STARS point system

- **STARS reporter: do not want to pursue a rating or make score public**
- **Bronze: 25-45 points**
- **Silver: 45-65 points**
- **Gold: 65-85 points**
- **Platinum: 85+ points**

**Deliverable:** Improved STARS score each submission for each college.

**Progress to Date:** North, Central, and South Seattle College recently completed STARS assessments in 2013 and 2017. STARS ratings are valid for 3 years, at which point a new assessment needs to be made to maintain a STARS rating. Next STARS assessments are due in 2020.

**Accountability:** District Sustainability Coordinator

**Goal 2: College Sustainability Plans**

**Goal:** Develop and maintain college-level Sustainability Action Plans

**Background:** The District Sustainability Plan provides a list of high-level sustainability metrics to guide sustainability across all of the Seattle Colleges. Most of the work to make sustainability improvements, especially in connecting with student learning, will happen at the college level. The District Sustainability Coordinator will work with College Sustainability Contacts and college-level Sustainability Committees to help craft a Sustainability Action Plan that outlines specific steps and measures that each college will take to help meet District Sustainability Goals. Each college will work to address those sustainability goals most suited to its capacity and specializations.

**Progress to Date:** District Sustainability Goals have been created. No college progress on drafting a Sustainability Action Plan.

**Accountability:** District Sustainability Coordinator; College Sustainability Contact; college-level Sustainability Committees

**Goal 3: Sustainability in Strategic Planning**

**Goal:** Integrate sustainability goals into College and District Strategic Plans

**Background:** The District and College Strategic Plans serve as the primary guiding documents for college planning over the long-term.

**Deliverable:** Inclusion of sustainability goals in College and District Strategic Plans

**Progress to Date:** STARS is included as a measure in the 2017-2023 Seattle Colleges Strategic Plan. North included the triple bottom line approach in their 2017-2023 Strategic Plan.

**Accountability:** Planning/Engagement Working Group; College Sustainability Contacts; college Administration.
Resources

District Sustainability Committee (subject to change. Aims to be representative of various offices/departments across Seattle Colleges)

Membership – fall 2019

- **District Office**
  - Vacant — Vice Chancellor of Finance & Operations
  - Kurt Buttleman — Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Success
  - Jennifer Calhoun — Manager, Learning and Organizational Development
  - Victor Kuo — Director of Research and Strategic Planning, Business & Finance
  - Adam Maurer — District Sustainability Coordinator

- **North Seattle College**
  - Tim Albertson — Sustainability Coordinator
  - Mayra Werner — Capital Projects Manager
  - Odessa Woodlee — Director of Facilities Operations

- **South Seattle College**
  - Karen Herndon — Director, Capital Projects
  - Alison Pugh — Faculty, Sustainable Building Science Technology BAS
  - Eric Steen — Director of Facilities and Plant Operations

- **Seattle Central College**
  - Julia Buchans — Program Specialist for Information Central
  - Dave Ernevad — Director of Facilities and Plant Operations
  - Jeff Keever — Director of Auxiliary Services
  - Katherine Kehrli — Associate Dean of Culinary Academy
  - Bruce Riveland — Vice President of Administrative Services
  - Wendy Rockhill — Dean of Math & Sciences

Working Group Membership - spring 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning/Engagement WG</th>
<th>Curriculum WG</th>
<th>Operations WG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tim Albertson</td>
<td>Kurt Buttleman</td>
<td>Dave Ernevad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Buchans</td>
<td>Katherine Kehrli</td>
<td>Karen Herndon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Keever</td>
<td>Adam Maurer</td>
<td>Adam Maurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Maurer</td>
<td>Alison Pugh</td>
<td>Eric Steen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Kuo</td>
<td>Wendy Rockhill</td>
<td>Mayra Werner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STARS Reports

North Seattle College


Seattle Central College


South Seattle College