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UA12/13 2011 Sustainability Report [Western Kentucky University]

WKU Office of Sustainability

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2011 Sustainability Report

AASHE STARS® Edition



What is AASHE?

AASHE is an association of colleges and universities that are working to create a sustainable future. AASHE's mission is to empower higher education to lead the sustainability transformation. The organization provides resources, professional development and a network of support to enable institutions of higher education to model and advance sustainability in everything they do, from governance and operations to education and research. For more information about AASHE, visit www.aashe.org.

In early 2010, Western Kentucky University became a charter member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). STARS® is a voluntary, self-reporting framework that provides a guide for advancing sustainability in all sectors of higher education. WKU leaders and Sustainability Committee members recognize that STARS® is a common standard of measurement for sustainability in higher education and that it can serve as a tool that promotes a comprehensive understanding of sustainability.

Western Kentucky University has received a STARS® Bronze Rating in recognition of their sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

AASHE Member Institutions

- Agnes Scott College
- Alfred State College
- American University
- Anne Arundel Community College
- Antioch University, Los Angeles
- Appalachian State University
- Arizona State University
- Art Center College of Design
- Babson College
- Ball State University
- Bard College
- Berea College
- Berklee College of Music
- Boston University
- Bowdoin College
- Brandeis University
- Bridgmont Community and Technical College
- Bridgewater College
- Brunswick Community College
- Bryant University
- Butte College
- Clarkson University
- Cleveland State University
- Colby College
- College of Lake County
- College of Menominee Nation
- College of Saint Benedict
- College of Southern Idaho
- Colorado College
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University
- Concordia University
- Cornell University
- Dalhousie University
- De Anza College
- DePaul University
- Delaware State University
- Delta College
- Denison University
- Dickinson College
- Drew University
- Duke University
- Earlham College
- Emory University
- Estrella Mountain Community College
- Evergreen State College
- Fairfield University
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Florida State University
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Frostburg State University
- Furman University
- George Mason University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Gettysburg College
- Golden West College
- Gordon College
- Goshen College
- Grand Valley State University
- Green Mountain College
- Guilford College
- Hanover College
- Harrisburg Area Community College
- Hartwick College
- Haverford College
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Haywood Community College
- Hibbing Community College
- Illinois Central College
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Illinois State University
- Indiana University Bloomington
- Iowa Lakes Community College
- Ithaca College
- Jackson Community College
- John Brown University
- Judson University
- Kankakee Community College
- Kean University
- Keene State College
- King's University College
- Lakeland Community College
- Lambton College of Applied Arts and Technology
- Lane Community College
- Les Roches Gruyere University of Applied Sciences Gilon
- Institute of Higher Education
- Lethbridge College
- Lewis & Clark College
- Lipscomb University
- Los Angeles Community College District
- Louisiana State University
- Loyola Marymount University
- Luther College
- Macalester College
- Maharishi University of Management
- Manhattanville College
- Maryville College
- McClintock University
- Michigan State University
- Middlebury College
- Missouri State University
- Missouri University of Science and Technology
- Moraine Valley Community College
- Morgan State University
- Mount Holyoke College
- New Mexico State University
- New York University
- North Carolina State University
- North Park University
- North Seattle Community College
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
- Northern Arizona University
- Northland College
- Oberlin College
- Okanagan College
- Oklahoma City University
- Oklahoma State University
- Old Dominion University
- Onondaga Community College
- Orange County Community College
- Oregon Institute of Technology
- Oregon State University
- Pace University
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Pacific University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Pittsburg State University
- Pomona College
- Portland Community College
- Portland State University
- Portland University
- Ramapo College of New Jersey
- Raritan Valley Community College
- Red River College
- Rice University
- Richland College
- Richland Community College
- Rio Salado College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design
- Royal Roads University
- Saint John's University
- Saint Louis University
- Saint Mary's University
- San Diego State University
- San Jose State University
- Santa Clara University
- Scripps College
- Seattle Pacific University
- Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
- Shoreline Community College
- Simon Fraser University
- Skidmore College
- Slippery Rock University
- Smith College
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Southern Methodist University
- Southern Oregon University
- St. Edward's University
- St. John's University
- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Stanford University
- Stark State College
- State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- State University of New York at Brockport
- State University of New York at Cortland
- State University of New York at Fredonia
- State University of New York at Geneseo
- State University of New York at Oswego
- Stetson University
- Suffolk University
- Swarthmore College
- Taylor University
- Texas A&M University
- The New School
- The Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana
- The University of Adelaide
- The University of Georgia
- Thompson Rivers University
- Transylvania University
- Trinity College
- Truman State University
- Tufts University
- Unity College
- Universidad de Monterrey
- University at Albany
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Alberta
- University of Arizona
- University of Arkansas
- University of British Columbia
- University of Calgary
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Merced
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs
- University of Colorado Denver
- University of Dayton
- University of Denver
- University of Florida
- University of Greenwich
- University of Houston
- University of Illinois, Chicago
- University of Kansas
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville
- University of Malaya
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- University of Massachusetts Medical School
- University of Michigan
- University of Michigan-Dearborn
- University of Minnesota, Duluth
- University of Minnesota, Morris
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- University of Missouri
- University of Mount Union
- University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of New Hampshire
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- University of North Florida
- University of North Texas
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of Northern Iowa
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Oregon
- University of Ottawa
- University of Puget Sound
- University of Richmond
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of South Carolina
- University of South Carolina Upstate
- University of South Florida
- University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- University of Texas at Arlington
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Utah
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington, Seattle
- University of Western Ontario
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- University of the District of Columbia
- Valencia College
- Vassar College
- Vermont Technical College
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Tech
- Wake Forest University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Washington and Lee University
- Weber State University
- Wellesley College
- West Chester University of Pennsylvania
- Western Illinois University
- Western Kentucky University**
- Western Oregon University
- Western Technical College
- Western Washington University
- Westminster College
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Williams College
- Yale University
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- California State University, Channel Islands
- California State University, Chico
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University, Monterey Bay
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Cascadia Community College
- Cedar Valley College
- Central Carolina Community College
- Central College
- Champlain Regional College, Collier Campus
- Chapman University
- Chiba University
- Clarion University of Pennsylvania
- East Tennessee State University
- Eastern Iowa Community College District
- Eastern Oregon University
- Edison State College, Collier Campus
- El Centro College - DCCCD
- Elizabethtown College
- Elon University



What is the AASHE STARS® program?

AASHE's STARS® program is the only one of its kind that involves publicly reporting comprehensive information related to a college or university's sustainability performance. Participants report achievements in three overall areas: **Education & Research, Operations, and Planning, Administration & Engagement.**

STARS® is designed to:

- Provide a **framework** for understanding sustainability in all sectors of higher education.
- Enable meaningful **comparisons** over time and across institutions using a common set of measurements developed with broad participation from the campus sustainability community.
- Create **incentives** for continual improvement toward sustainability.
- Facilitate **information sharing** about higher education sustainability practices and performance.
- Build a stronger, more diverse **campus sustainability community.**

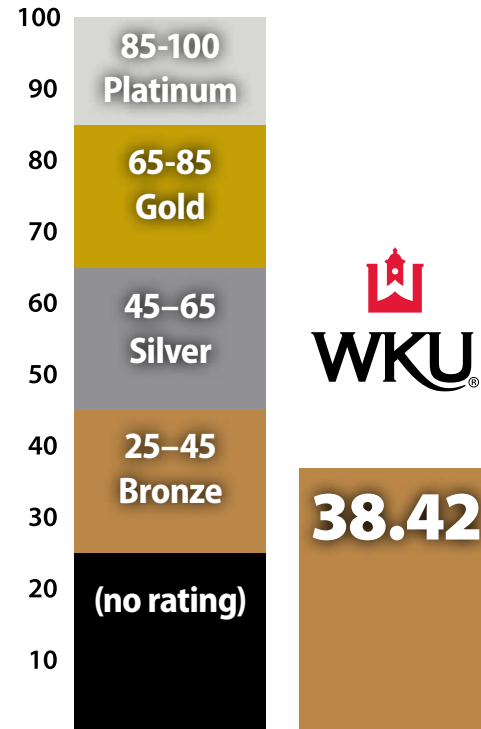
For more information about the STARS® program, visit stars.aashe.org.

This is how AASHE STARS® assigns points. Up to 100 points can be earned in each major area. Final scores are the result of the average score in each of the three major areas (ER, OP, PAE), plus up to four "extra credit" points for innovations.

The Scoring System

Average of the 3 categories
+ Innovation Credits
= Total possible score 104.00

WKU
Education and Research 41.57
Operations 27.60
Planning, Administration & Engagement 34.10
Average 34.42
+ Innovation Points 4.00
= total score **38.42**



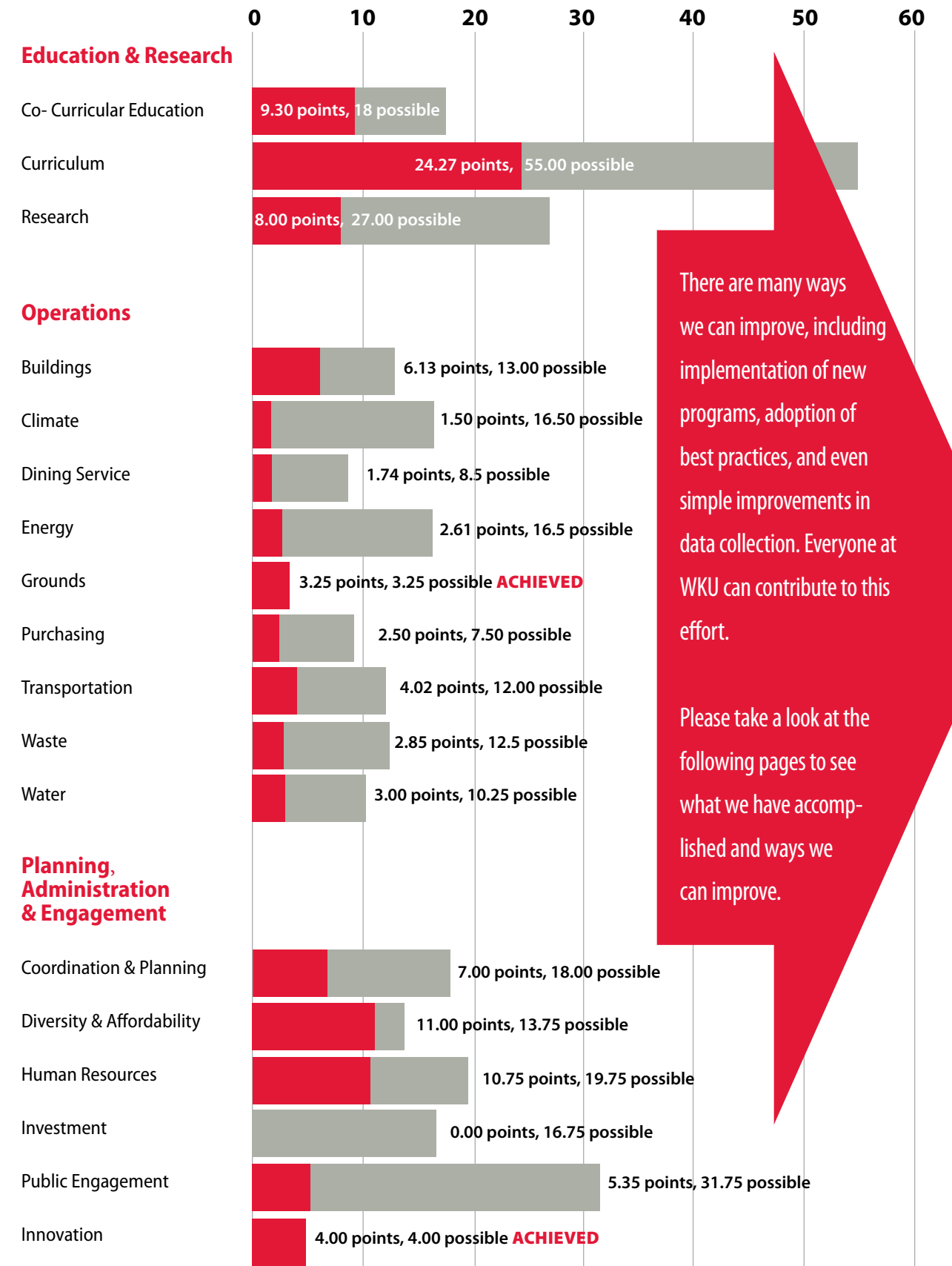
- An institution's STARS® score is based on the average of the percentage of applicable points it earns in each of the three main categories of STARS® credits. Any Innovation Credits earned are then added to this average determining the total STARS® score.

- STARS® Rating levels are not awarded for the score achieved in an individual category (i.e. If an institution earns an average of 50% for the Education and Research Category, it does not achieve a STARS® Silver Rating in this category). STARS® Rating levels represent the total score achieved by the institution.

This is how WKU scored in its first STARS® rating. We've done well by earning a bronze rating. The short-term goal is to earn a silver rating within the year. That will require increasing our score by an average of 6 points among the three major areas.

For more information on the STARS® reporting tool, or a complete report on WKU's score, visit stars.aashe.org/institutions/western-kentucky-university-ky/report/2011-06-02.

WKU's Rating



There are many ways we can improve, including implementation of new programs, adoption of best practices, and even simple improvements in data collection. Everyone at WKU can contribute to this effort.

Please take a look at the following pages to see what we have accomplished and ways we can improve.



Education & Research

Co-Curricular Education

Sustainability learning experiences outside the formal curriculum

We received credit for

- Student Sustainability Educators Program
- Student Sustainability Outreach Campaign
- Sustainability Outreach and Publications
- Student Group
- Organic Garden
- Sustainable Enterprise
- Sustainability Events
- Outdoors Program

Where we could do more

- Sustainability in New Student Orientation
- Model Room in a Residence Hall
- Themed Housing
- Themed Semester or Year

Student Sustainability Outreach Campaign

Each year students, faculty and staff collaborate on the annual WKU Earth Day Festival. Campus and community members are invited to share best practices, ideas, music, art, food, and fun, all in celebration of the Earth.

Housing and Residence Life partner with the Office of Sustainability and WKU Recycling on a variety of outreach programs each year including

- M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan move in cardboard drive and bike ride
- *Reduce Your Use*
- *Lighten Your Load*

We also celebrate Campus Sustainability Day at WKU with guest speakers, best practice tours, workshops, and a special menu in Fresh Foods Dining Hall.

Curriculum

Formal education programs and courses that address sustainability and equip their students to lead society to a sustainable future

We received credit for

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

Where we could do more

- Sustainability Literacy Assessment

Education for Sustainability Faculty Development Retreat

In 2010 WKU's Center for Environmental Education and Sustainability, Office of Sustainability, and Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility hosted the first ever Education for Sustainability faculty development retreat. The two-day retreat was held at Barren River State Park and guest speakers included AASHE Director Paul Rowland. The retreat presented faculty with opportunities to learn from experts and each other about concepts, pedagogies, innovative programs and resources to help them incorporate sustainability into classes across the curriculum, with the ultimate goal of providing future citizens the education and skills necessary in the transition to a sustainable society.



◀ AASHE Executive Director Paul Rowland speaks at the 2010 WKU Education for Sustainability Faculty Development Retreat

Research

Sustainability research to help the world understand sustainability challenges and develop new technologies, strategies, and approaches to address those challenges

We received credit for

- Sustainability Research Identification
- Departments Involved in Sustainability Research

Where we could do more

- Faculty Involved in Sustainability Research
- Sustainability Research Incentives
- Interdisciplinary Research in Tenure and Promotion

Departments Involved in Sustainability Research

There are at least ten different academic departments that conduct sustainability related research. Those included in the 2011 STARS® Report were:

- Odgen Environmental Water Quality Laboratory- Water Analysis Training Education and Research Services (WATERS)
- Department of Agriculture/ WKU Farm/ Baker Arboretum
- Department of Engineering/ Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology
- Department of Geography & Geology / The Hoffman Environmental Research Institute and Center for Cave and Karst Studies
- Department of Biology/ Center for Biodiversity Studies
- School of Teacher Education/ WKU Center for Environmental Education and Sustainability (CEES)
- Architectural & Manufacturing Science Institute
- Gender and Women's Studies
- Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility
- Department of Physics and Astronomy/ The Applied Physics Institute

If you know of others that we have missed, please let us know by emailing sustainability@wku.edu so that we may include them in the next reporting period.



◀ Installation of natural gas boiler #2 in spring 2011. This boiler completed the Central Heating Plant upgrade, allowing for complete heating with natural gas. The project was funded by utility budget savings resultant from conservation and efficiency programs.

Operations

Buildings

Provide a safe and healthy indoor environment for inhabitants while simultaneously mitigating the building's impact on the outdoor environment

We received credit for

Building Operations and Maintenance
Building Design and Construction
Indoor Air Quality

Where we could do more

WKU's commitment to building all new and renovated spaces to LEED® standards and certification ensures that this credit will be earned in future STARS® reporting.

Criteria for Buildings

Must own and operate 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

For more information on green buildings, please visit www.wku.edu/sustainability/greenbuildings.php

Climate

Measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

We received credit for

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Where we could do more

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction
Air Travel Emissions
Local Offsets Program

Decreasing our Carbon Footprint

According to the AASHE STARS® website, climate change 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.

WKU is working to decrease its campus carbon footprint in a variety of ways, including energy efficiency and conservation efforts, conversion from coal to natural gas for campus heating, and solid waste reduction.

To review the WKU Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, visit:
www.wku.edu/sustainability/energy.php

Dining Services

- Use food purchases to support our local economy
- Encourage safe, environmentally-friendly farming methods
- Help alleviate poverty for farmers

We received credit for

Food Purchasing
Trayless Dining
Vegan Dining
Trans-Fats
Pre-Consumer Food Waste Composting
Food Donation
Recycled Content Napkins
Reusable Mug Discounts

Where we could do more

Guidelines for Franchisees
Post-Consumer Food Waste Composting
Reusable To-Go Containers

WKU a Fair Trade University

In spring 2011, WKU became the fourth Fair Trade University in the United States. This achievement was the result of work by students in WKU Americans for an Informed Democracy (AID), in collaboration with Dining Services, Student Government Association, and Faculty Senate. President Ransdell signed the Resolution on March 19th, 2011 at the annual United Students for Fair Trade Convergence, hosted by WKU.

Download a pdf of the Fair Trade University Resolution here:
<http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=ustfa>



Energy

- Reduce energy consumption through conservation and efficiency
- Switch to cleaner and renewable sources of energy

We received credit for

Building Energy Consumption
Timers for Temperature Control
Lighting Sensors
LED Lighting
Vending Machine Sensors
Energy Management System
Energy Metering

Where we could do more

Clean and Renewable Energy

Energy Savings Performance Contract

Energy use on the main WKU campus has been reduced 15% since 2005.

In 2010, WKU partnered with Johnson Controls, Inc. to perform an Energy Savings Performance Contract, including:

- Upgrade/replacement of more than 35,000 light fixtures inside buildings, including installation of 1,402 occupancy sensors
- 1,743 exterior lighting upgrades
- 2,114 water fixtures being upgraded or replaced to save water.

In two locations on campus and at the WKU Farm, rainwater is being harvested for irrigation. The Preston Health and Activities Center swimming pool is now solar-heated.

Overall, the project is projected to result in electric reductions of 11%, coal/natural gas by 14%, and water by 15%. At current rates, WKU will save more than \$1 million on utility bills each year or \$15.7 million over the life of the project.

Energy use at WKU can be monitored in real time. Take a look at <http://buildingdashboard.net/wku>.

Purchasing

- Use purchasing power to choose environmentally and socially preferable products and services
- Support companies with strong commitments to sustainability

We received credit for

Computer Purchasing
Cleaning Products Purchasing

Where we could do more

Office Paper Purchasing
Vendor Code of Conduct
Historically Underutilized Businesses
Local Businesses

Computer and Cleaning Products Purchasing

The WKU IT department purchases Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT®) Certified computers. EPEAT® Certified electronics meet criteria for:

- Reduction/elimination of environmentally sensitive materials
- Use of recycled content or renewable materials
- Design for product longevity, energy conservation, end of life management, and environmental packaging.

For more information Visit the EPEAT® website at: www.epeat.net/default.aspx

WKU Department of Facilities Management Building Services' Green Cleaning program uses certified green products whenever possible. All cleaning chemicals are diluted at low, safe levels with cold water. Paper products such as paper towels and toilet paper are recycled content.

WKU Building Services has also implemented the use of 'green' equipment:

- FaST® Auto Scrubbers – Water is oxidized and 'energized' to clean with no chemicals.
- "BOOST" floor scrubbers – Remove wax from floors using only water.
- All vacuums provide HEPA filtration.

Grounds

Plan, plant and maintain campus grounds while minimizing the use of toxic chemicals, protecting wildlife habitat, and conserving water and resources

We received credit for

Integrated Pest Management
Native Plants
Wildlife Habitat
Tree Campus USA®
Snow and Ice Removal
Compost

WKU earned full credit in this category!

Lots of Trees

WKU owns 1200 acres of land on the upper Green River known as the Upper Green River Biopreserve. Not only is this area protected as a biopreserve, but much of it is being restored to native grasses and riparian forest. Visit greenriver.wku.edu.

Additionally, the main campus landscaping includes wildlife gardens and habitat plantings. As a Tree Campus USA®, WKU is recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a campus committed to natural wildlife.

For more information on WKU as Tree Campus USA® visit: www.wku.edu/sustainability/treecampus.php

WKU earned the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus USA® certification in 2011. WKU Student Meg Kennedy hangs the flag in celebration on Earth Day. ►



Transportation

- Model sustainable transportation systems
- Reduce dependency on petroleum-based fuels
- Encouraging bicycling and walking

We received credit for

Campus Fleet
Student Commute Modal Split
Employee Commute Modal Split
Bicycle Sharing
Facilities for Bicyclists
Bicycle Plan
Mass Transit
Condensed Work Week
Telecommuting
Carpool Matching

Where we could do more

Cash-out of Parking
Carpool Discount
Local Housing
Prohibiting Idling
Car Sharing



Big Red Bikes

The Big Red Bikes bicycle lending program refurbishes abandoned or donated bicycles for loan to students, faculty, and staff at no cost. The WKU GreenToppers started the program in 2007 to promote bicycle use. It remains a student-run project, but is managed by the Office of Sustainability.

Big Red Bikes is supported by the Department of Facilities Management, Parking and Transportation Services, the Parents Advisory Council, and the Outdoor Recreation and Activities Center. In 2011, Big Red Bikes received the Paula Nye Memorial Education Grant from the Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeways Commission, which allowed for significant upgrade to the mechanic shop and expansion of the program.

In addition to lending bicycles, the program spreads bicycle awareness and knowledge throughout the campus community through bicycle maintenance and safety workshops. Anyone interested in learning more about bicycles or helping the program can volunteer and help manage, restore, and maintain the bicycle fleet; no previous experience is required. If you are interested in volunteering, have a bicycle to donate, or want to borrow a bike, please inquire with the Office of Sustainability.

Water

- Conserve water and protect water quality
- Manage storm water effectively
- Reduce the need for effluent discharge into local surface water supplies

We received credit for

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

Where we could do more

Waterless Urinals

Non-Potable Water Usage

In 2011, rainwater collection cisterns were installed at several spots around campus. The rain water collected is used to water sod, landscaping and pressure washing areas on campus. This allows us to minimize the use of potable water in another effort to lower utility costs. The existing collection systems allow for collection and diversion of approximately 30,000 gallons of rain water.

Weather-Informed Irrigation

In 2011, a "smart" irrigation system was installed on the main campus, athletic fields, and intramural fields. The new irrigation system and low flow irrigation heads reduce campus water consumption. The system measures soil evapotranspiration rates and responds accordingly, and shuts water off in the event of precipitation.

For more information, please visit www.wku.edu/sustainability/water.php

Waste

Mitigate the need to extract virgin materials and reduce the flow of waste to incinerators and landfills by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting

We received credit for

Waste Reduction
Waste Diversion
Electronic Waste Recycling Program
Hazardous Waste Management
Materials Exchange
Limiting Printing
Materials Online
Move-In Waste Reduction
Move-Out Waste Reduction

Where we could do more

Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion
Chemical Reuse Inventory

Move-In and Move-Out Waste Reduction

The *Lighten Your Load* and M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan cardboard drive programs were originally initiated by students and now are standard operating procedure through partnership between Dept. of Facilities Management and Housing and Residence Life. *Lighten Your Load* encourages students to leave gently used but unwanted items in collection bins in residence hall lobbies, rather than throwing good items away. The results: thousands of items, including clothes, lamps, electronics, appliances, and food are donated to charity each spring.

The cardboard drive is a great way to welcome new students and kick off the school year. Up to seven tons of cardboard have been diverted from move-in dumpsters in one week!

For more information on the WKU Recycling and Surplus Program, please visit www.wku.edu/recycling



The annual M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan move-in cardboard drive diverts thousands of pounds of cardboard from landfill-bound dumpsters. ►



Planning, Administration & Engagement

Coordination and Planning

- Dedicate resources to sustainability coordination
- Incorporate sustainability into primary campus plans
- Develop plans to implement sustainable changes

We received credit for

Sustainability Coordination
Strategic Plan

Where we could do more

Physical Campus Plan
Sustainability Plan
Climate Plan

Strategic Plan

Sustainability and Efficiency are included in the WKU Strategic Guide 2010-2012. It is stated that, "The broad matter of creating a sustainable campus environment and conserving campus resources has risen to a level of high priority since 2007. There are two primary reasons. First, WKU students, faculty, and staff recognize that they are responsible for the role that a university must play in serving as a model for environmental stewardship and in conserving our limited natural resources. The second reason why these matters have risen on our priority list is because good sustainable practices help us save money. A University Sustainability Committee has been created and is leading the way for campuswide resolve to both model sustainability in our operations and services, and to educate for sustainability as a university core value. WKU, therefore, will strive in every practical way to contribute to a healthy environment, grow in ways that are sustainable, and conserve energy and other consumable commodities."

Sustainability will also be addressed in the Strategic Plan currently under development for release in 2012.

◀ The W. L. Gander Terry Colonnade by the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center

Diversity and Affordability

Advance campus diversity and affordability to allow diverse groups to collaboratively address sustainability challenges and create a more equitable world

We received credit for

Diversity and Equity Coordination
Support Programs for Under-Represented Groups
Support Programs for Future Faculty
Affordability and Access Programs

Where we could do more

Measuring Campus Diversity Culture
Gender Neutral Housing
Employee Training Opportunities
Student Training Opportunities

Diversity and Equity Coordination

Western Kentucky University places a premium on teaching and student learning and growth; therefore, it is important for the University to seek achievement of diversity among its faculty, staff and student populations. As stated in the University's Strategic Plan, Challenging the Spirit, three (3) of the five (5) Strategic Goals relate to the importance of diversity in the development of culturally responsible citizens, growing a high quality and diverse student body, and enhancing the climate for diversity and collegiality. The Strategic Plan's performance indicators include the engagement of the Chief Diversity Officer who has direct access to the President. A Presidentially appointed Diversity Enhancement Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Chief Diversity Officer who is responsible for overseeing diversity initiatives, continuous improvement in meeting diversity goals, and establishing a Diversity Plan for the University.

For more information, please visit www.wku.edu/odp

Human Resources

Make fair and responsible investments in human capital by offering appropriate benefits, wages, and other assistance that serve to respectfully and ethically compensate workers

We received credit for

Sustainable Compensation
Employee Satisfaction Evaluation
Childcare
Employee Wellness Program
Socially Responsible Retirement Plan

Where we could do more

Staff Professional Development in Sustainability
Sustainability in New Employee Orientation
Employee Sustainability Educators Program

Campus Childcare Center

The WKU Campus Childcare Center offers Early Head Start and Head Start programs. For families that meet income guidelines (KY Poverty) half-day child care is free. Participants may pay for the other half-day, or enroll in a child care subsidy organization. Qualifying families have the opportunity to receive a half a day of quality care for free to allow them to work, continue education, etc. About 60% of the families that participate in the child care program are students, and many faculty and staff participate in the program as well.

Employee Wellness Program

WKU's Employee Wellness Program has a mission to help enhance the personal and professional lives of WKU employees by providing educational opportunities, programs, and services that promote and support healthy lifestyle behaviors.

For more information, please visit www.wku.edu/wellu



Investment

Make transparent and democratic investment decisions that promote sustainability by investing in companies and funds that are committed to social and environmental responsibility

Where we could do more

- Committee on Socially Responsible Investment
- Shareholder Advocacy
- Positive Sustainability Investments
- Student-Managed SRI Fund
- Socially Responsible Investment Policy
- Investment Disclosure



Public Engagement

Give back to the community through community service, engagement, and partnerships

We received credit for

- Community Sustainability Partnerships
- Inter-Campus Collaboration on Sustainability
- Community Service Participation
- Community Service Hours
- Community Service on Transcripts
- Farmers' Market

Where we could do more

- Sustainability in Continuing Education
- Sustainability Policy Advocacy
- Trademark Licensing
- Graduation Pledge

Community Sustainability Partnerships

WKU enjoys many strong partnerships with local community groups to support a variety of initiatives that promote sustainability, including BG Green (the Bowling Green citizens for sustainability group), Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers and Sisters, the Interfaith Coalition on Earth Care, and others.

Additionally, the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships exists to support community development locally and abroad through campus and community partnerships. The ALIVE CCP connects students, faculty, staff, and community members to resources and opportunities for meaningful service and engaged scholarship.

Bowling Green Farmers' Markets

There are two local Farmers' Markets in Bowling Green, the SKY Farmers' Market and the Community Farmers' Market. Each market includes items grown or produced by WKU students, faculty and staff and both are well-supported by the WKU community. The Community Farmers' Market is located on University property at the intersection of Nashville Road and Campbell Lane, next to the Center for Research & Development.



Innovation Credits

Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, 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.

Institutions may earn up to 4 innovation credits. An institution's overall score is increased by the number of innovation credits it earns. For example, if an institution achieved an overall score of 30 based on the three main categories, earning 2 innovation credits would raise its final score to 32. WKU earned all four innovation credits for the following initiatives:

Innovation 1: The WKU Green Tour

The WKU Green Tour is presently under development. The tour will include physical signage and a web-based virtual tour to highlight sustainability features and programs on campus. The first phase of the Green Tour was completed in Fall 2011, and includes signage highlighting best practices in water conservation, energy conservation, and ecologically designed parking lots.

Innovation 2: WKYU/PBS Studio 1 Lighting Renovation

In 2010, the campus WKYU/PBS Studio underwent a major lighting makeover. An LED (light emitting diode) lighting system replaced an aging, 40 year old incandescent system that regularly malfunctioned, required expensive specialized bulb replacement, wasted energy, and generated much unnecessary heat. The LEDs will reduce energy consumption by 97% and last tens of thousands of hours. The bulbs will never need replacement and produce only a small amount of heat. Most importantly, WKU broadcast production students have the opportunity to use the most innovative lighting technology found in a university television studio. The Emmy award-winning studio is the only one of its kind at any university campus in the world.

Solar thermal collectors were installed in Fall 2010. The collectors are manufactured by Heliocol and are distributed and installed by SunQuest Energy LLC. ►

Innovation 3: Building Dashboard®

To engage students, faculty and staff in energy conservation efforts, WKU has invested in a real-time energy feedback web-based Building Dashboard® by Lucid Design for residence halls and academic and administrative buildings. The dashboard is interactive, provides information on energy use and allows for competitions and social networking related to conservation commitments and challenges. Take a look at <http://buildingdashboard.net/wku>.

Innovation 4: Preston Center Solar Thermal Array

As part of WKU's Energy Saving's Performance Contract, a solar thermal array has been installed on the Preston Activities Center roof that uses the sun's radiant energy to heat the 350,000-gallon swimming pool. The collectors are expected to perform 10 months per year, as measured by Solar British Thermal Unit (BTU) output. WKU is guaranteed to save at least \$10,963 annually by reducing the amount of natural gas required for heating as a result of this installation. With an initial project investment of \$96,410, these annual savings result in a project payback of 8.8 years.





Office of Sustainability

Cover Photo by Betsy Wilson