

Auburn University: Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability & Engagement



AU RISE Senate Committee Presentation

February 13, 2024

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Hollie Cost, PhD, Assistant Vice President for Outreach and Public Service

Committee Report

Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability formed in August 2023 to provide input to Strategic Plan

Campus-wide committee outlined current situation, future opportunities, and recommendations to achieve outcomes



Committee Request

Assemble **interdisciplinary, campus inclusive** committee that seeks and provides input on **actionable recommendations** for Auburn University to be a leader in sustainability.



Photo credit: Frances O'Donnell



Sustainability and Tracking Assessment and Rating System

AU (STARS) Report 2022

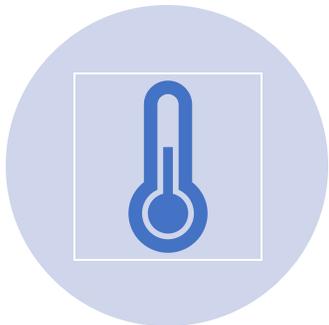
AU's Overall Score 64.13%



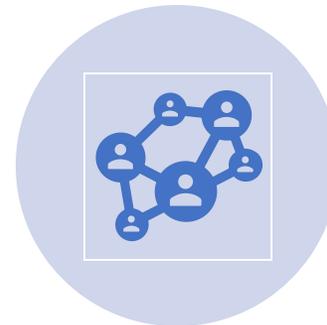
Academics: Curriculum (68%), Research (87%)



Engagement: Campus (75%), Community (64%)



Operations: Air & Climate (46%), Buildings(43%), Energy (34%), Food & Dining (26%), Grounds (40%), Purchasing (44%), Transportation (50%), Waste (64%), Water(89%)



Planning & Administration: Coordination & Planning (58%), Diversity & Affordability (77%), Investment & Finance (0%), Wellbeing & Work (51%)

BENCHMARKING AUBURN

All institutions used the same version of STARS, which awards designations at these thresholds:

BRONZE - 25

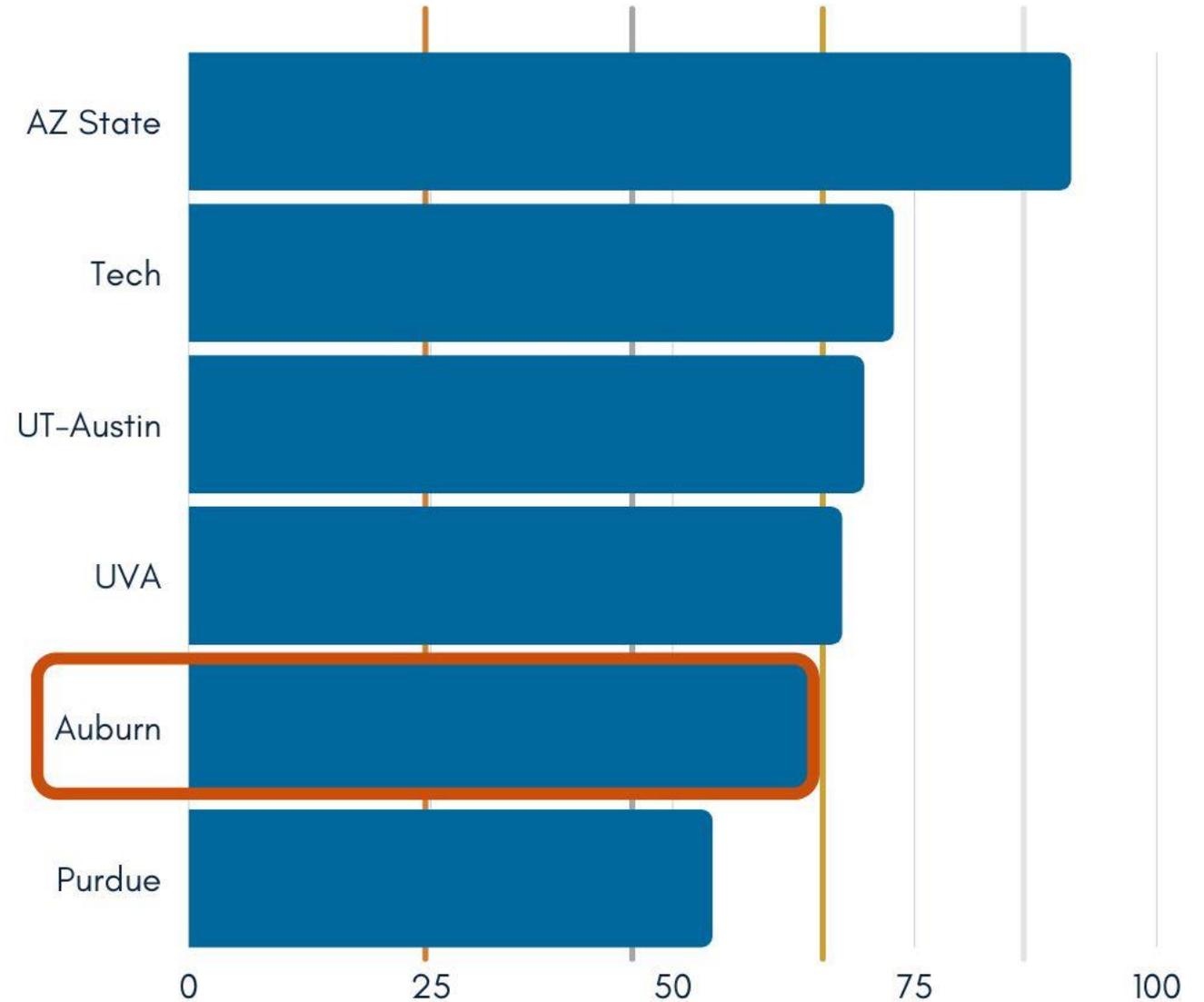
SILVER - 45

GOLD - 65

PLATINUM - 85



STARS SCORES OF SELECT INSTITUTIONS



Why Institutions Should Invest in Sustainable Practices



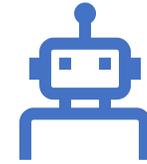
Environmental
Responsibility



Cost Savings



Student
Engagement



Global
Citizenship

Benefits

Demonstrates commitment to science-based environmental responsibility.

Fiscal responsibility and cost savings:

decreased inputs

improved efficiencies in energy use

waste reduction

transportation costs

purchases



Photo credit: Keith Rahn

Benefits

Demonstrates commitment to science-based environmental responsibility.

Increased opportunities for impactful student experiences -profound sense of responsibility toward each other and the natural world.

Cultivates innovation in research, education, outreach and Extension - interdisciplinary collaborations



Leadership

Sustainability efforts on and off campus have generated positive outcomes and enhanced all aspects of Auburn's mission.

To build on these efforts, remain competitive in the higher education landscape, and fully embody the university's mission, it is imperative that Auburn integrate sustainability into its vision.



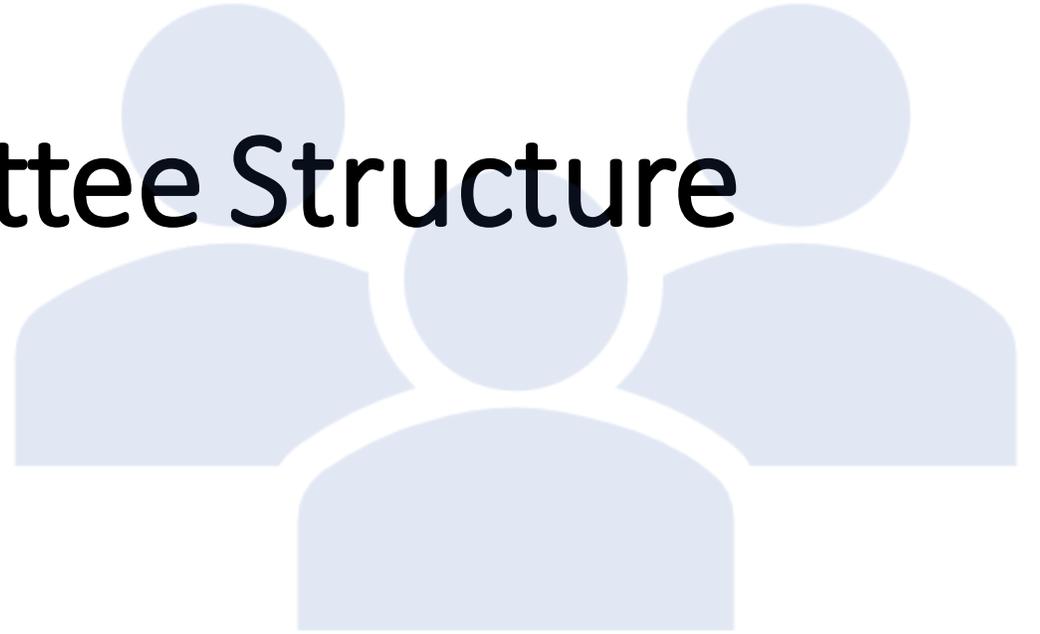
Ad-Hoc Committee Strategic Planning White Paper Recommendations

- 1) Embed sustainability as prominent theme throughout strategic plan.
- 2) Establish official committees for sustainability and resilience in all governance bodies.
- 3) Create a Vice President position to represent and connect all stakeholders contributing to sustainability

* 158 Signatures supporting the [AU RISE Strategic Plan White Paper](#) (as of 2/14/2024)



Proposed Committee Structure and Charge



Senate Motion

We move that the Senate accept this report and approve the creation of a permanent Senate committee for Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, and Engagement following the detailed committee description provided.

Questions - Contact Information

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