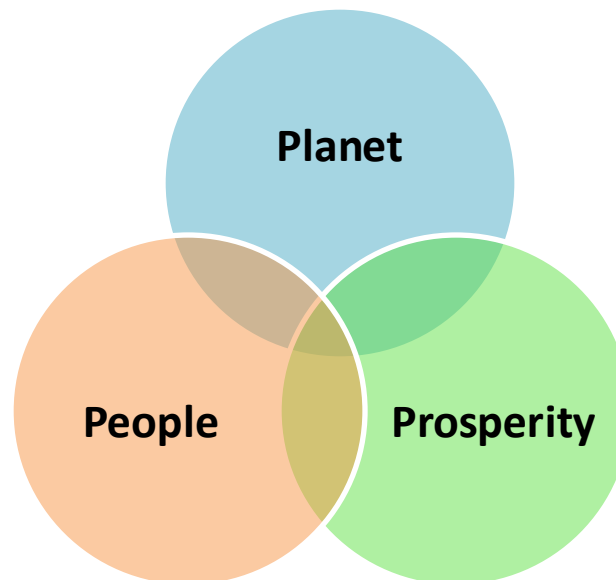


Sustainability Initiatives on Campus

Michael Kensler
Director, Office of Sustainability

Nanette Chadwick
Director of Academic Sustainability Programs
Office of the Provost



What is Sustainability?

“Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

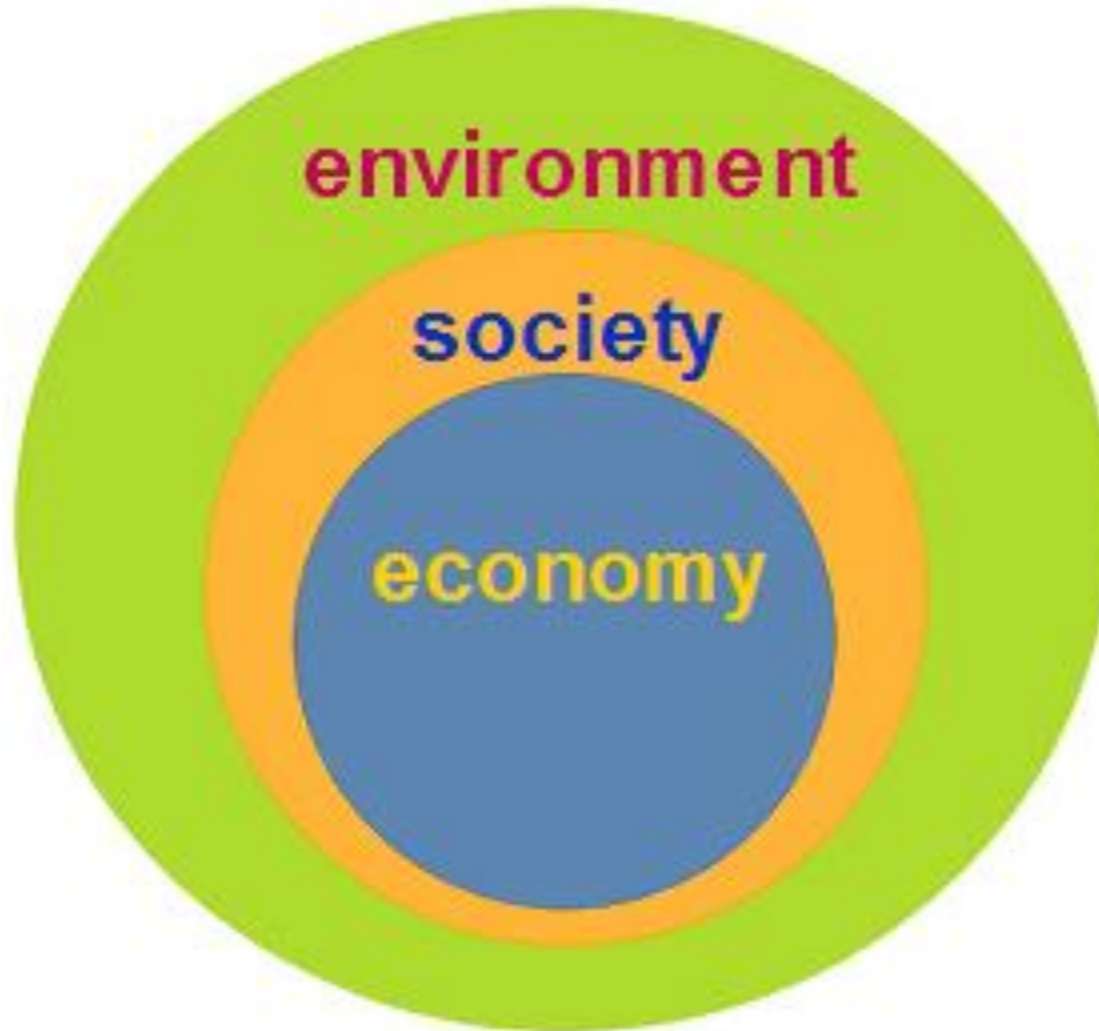
United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (1987)

Dr. Gro Brundtland

W.H.O. Director, Norway Prime Minister



Sustainability recognizes 3 nested systems:



For business: More than just an economic bottom line
“Triple Bottom Line”



894 Member Institutions



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Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System



399 Participating Institutions

252 Rated Institutions



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What gets measured?

➤ Education and Research

➤ Operations

➤ Planning, Administration, & Engagement

➤ Innovation



Performance Rating Levels

Platinum	0
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Gold	45
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Silver	125
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Bronze	62
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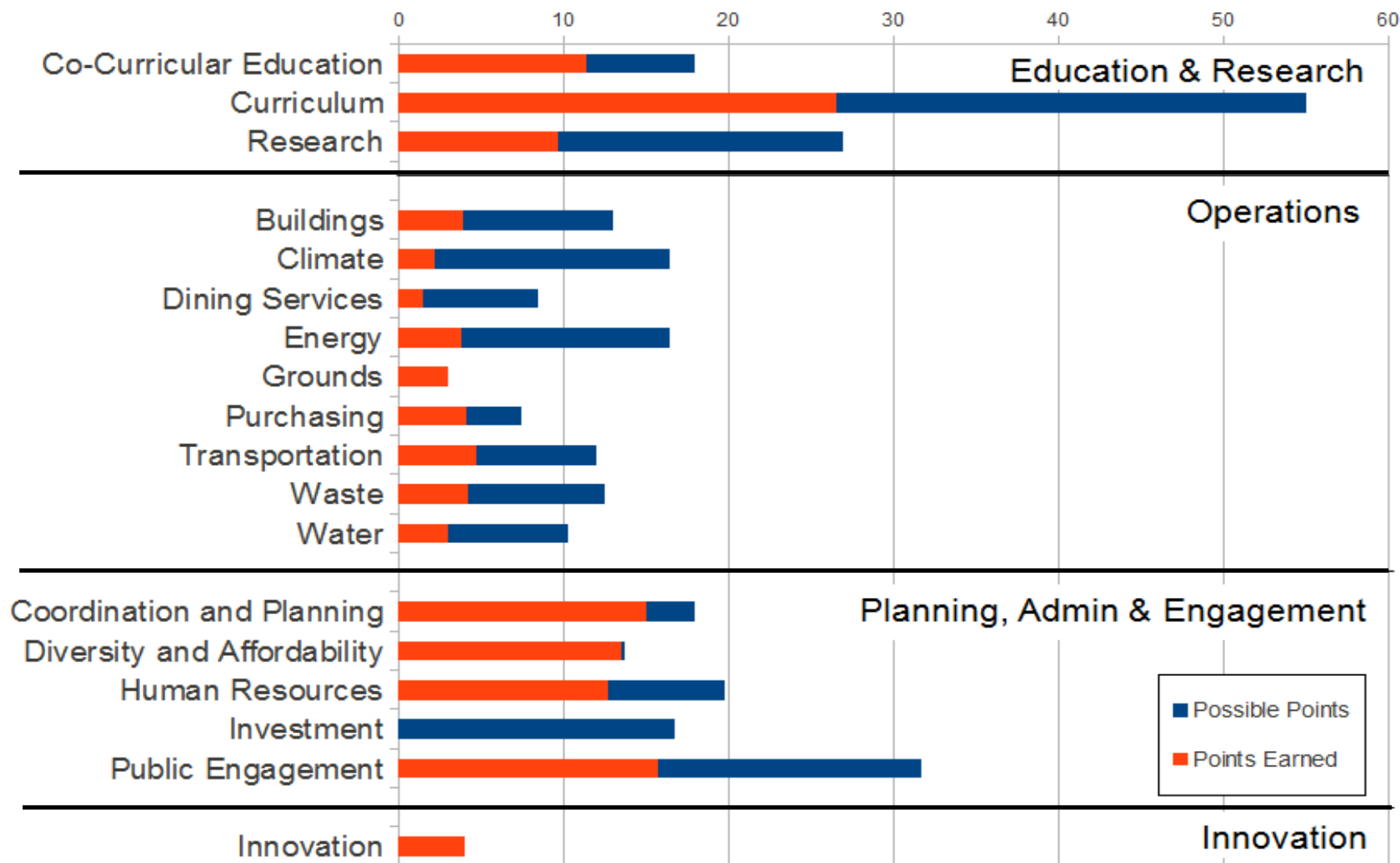
Reporting	20
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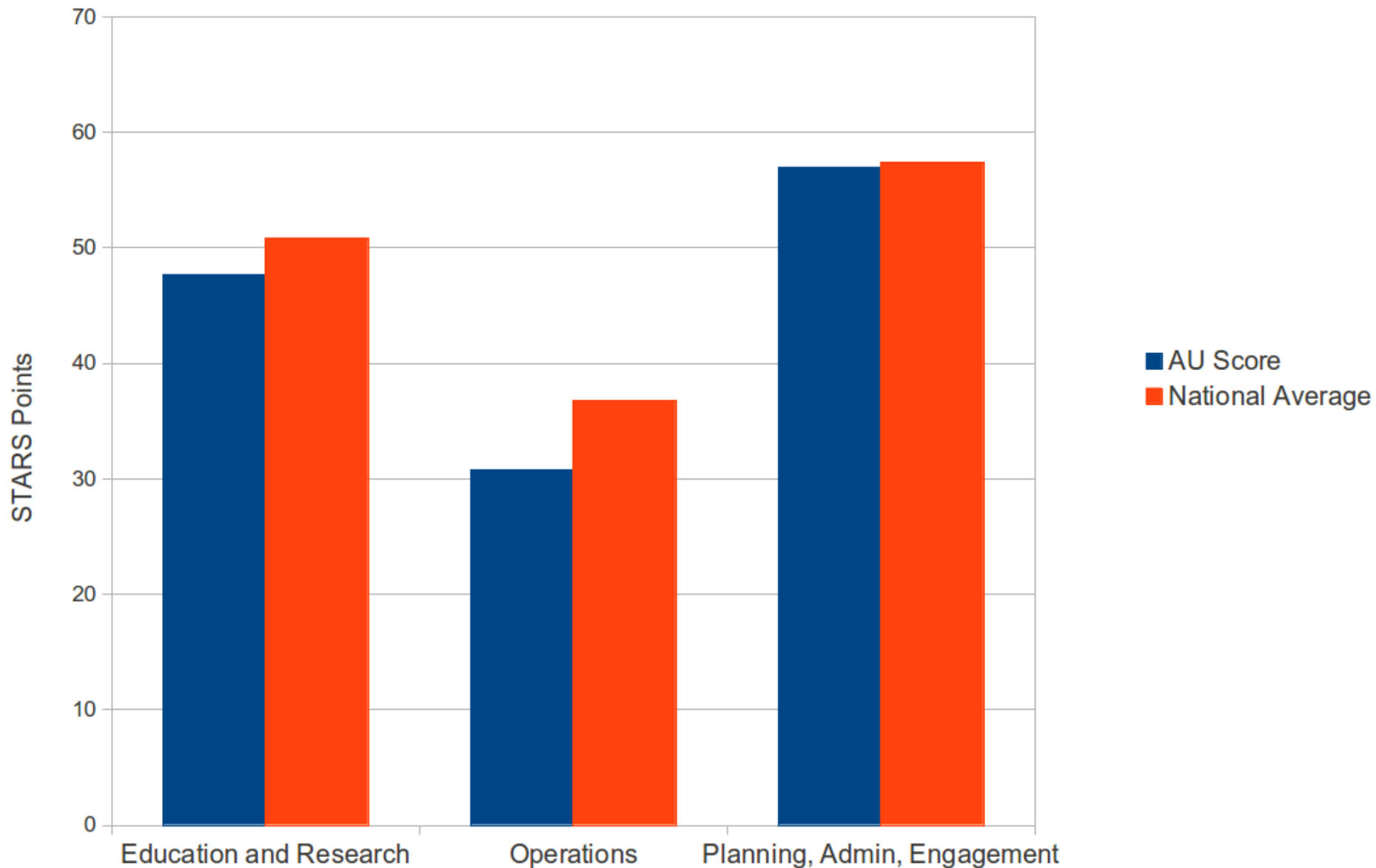
So... Where are we?



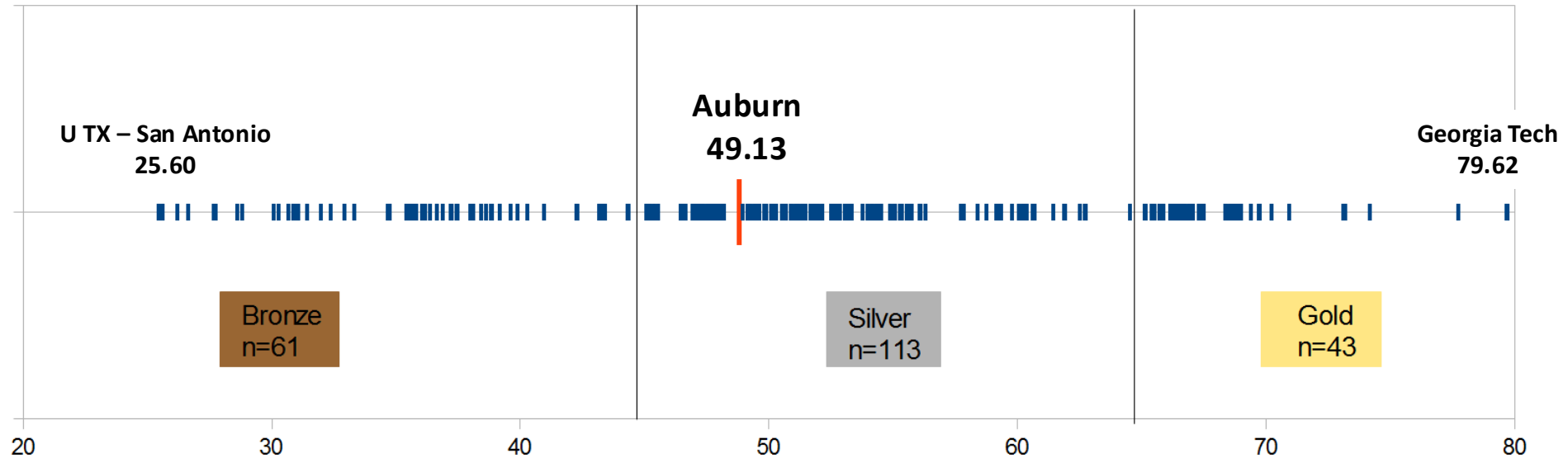
Auburn STARS Points Overlaid on Total Possible for Sub-Categories



AU STARS Scores Compared to National Average



Total Campuses with STARS Ratings



www.stars.aashe.org



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Achievements and Opportunities

- **Operations**
- **Planning, Administration, & Engagement**



Achievements and Opportunities

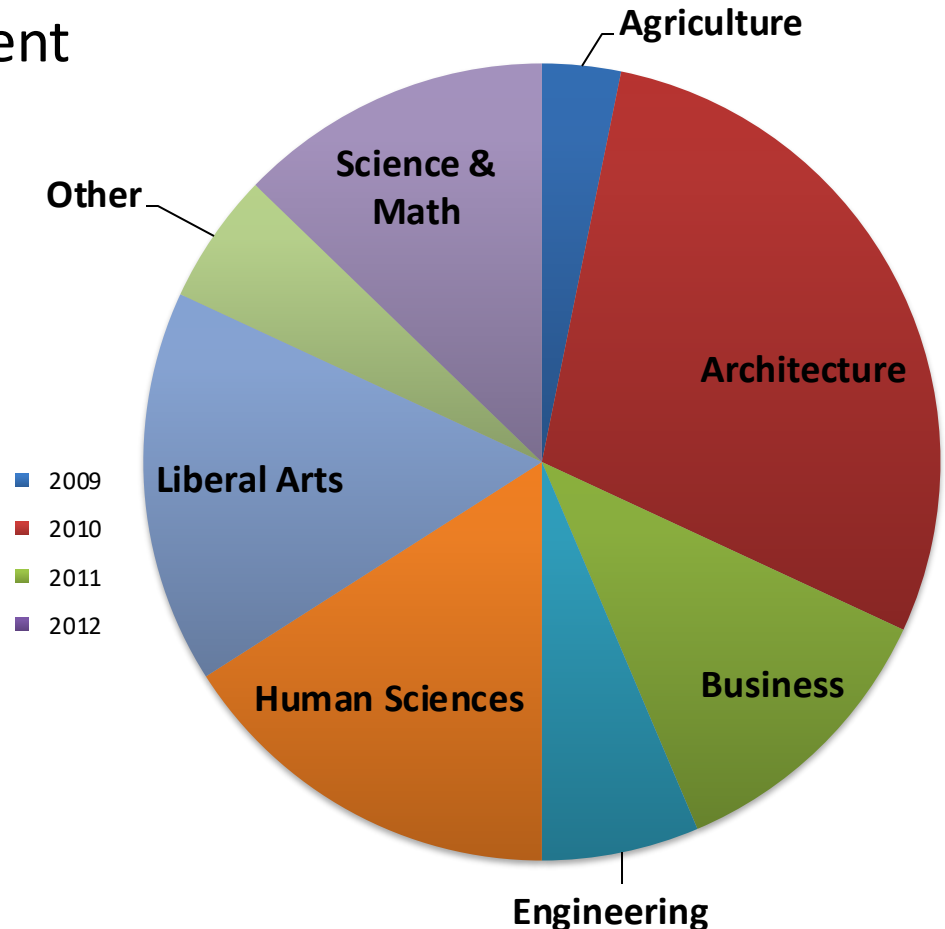
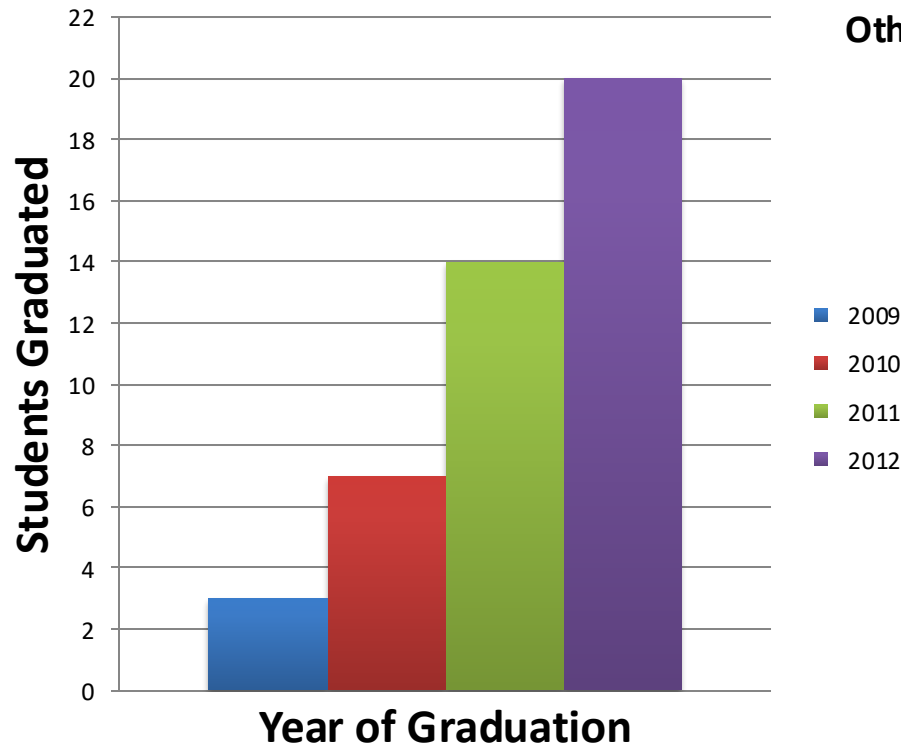
Education and Research

Minor in Sustainability Studies: Established 2008, rapid growth

Diverse students: 43 majors in 10 colleges

45 graduated so far + ~50 current

140 in intro courses this year



Campus as a living laboratory

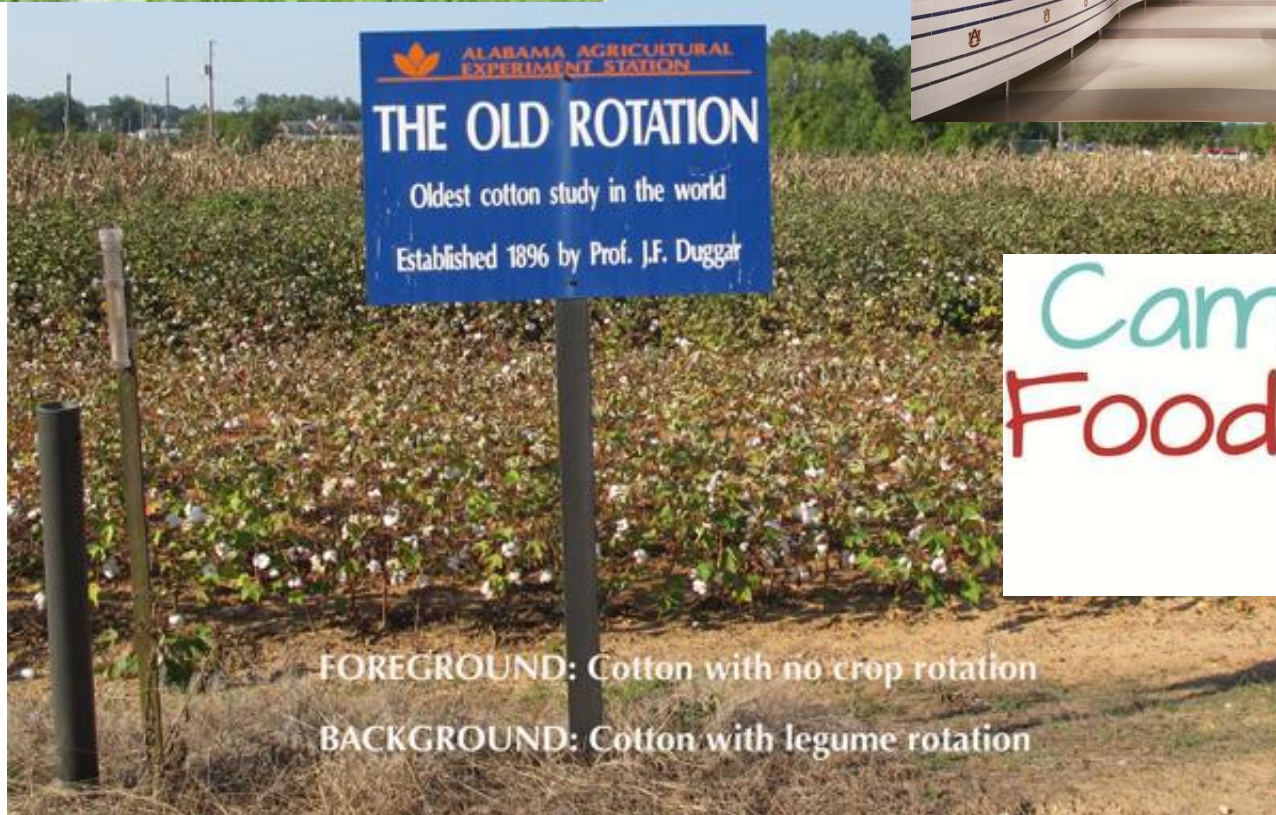
Use campus & city systems to give students hands-on, local experience with real-world sustainability issues.

In-class tours offered:

(1) **Water Systems** – Arboretum cell phone tour, stream, rain gardens, new Dudley Hall tank



(2) Food Systems – Old Rotation, food gardens, campus dining, head chef Emil Topel



Campus
Food Pantry



FOREGROUND: Cotton with no crop rotation

BACKGROUND: Cotton with legume rotation

(3) Transportation – solar panels to electric cars, solar cars, pedestrian/bicycle systems



(4) Buildings and Energy Use – LEED buildings: Gorie Center, new OIT Bldg, Solar House



(5) Materials Consumption and Waste – follow the waste stream; Student Center, Recycling



(6) Walkability – downtown area (public health, engineering, city planning, new urbanism)



Other options: Connect with community programs
(food bank, day care centers, churches, city government, etc.)

Faculty Training Workshops in Sustainability

- Annual at Forest Ecology Preserve
- ~ 85 faculty trained from >30 depts, ~20 each year
- \$\$ awards for participation and syllabus development
- Benefits: interact with faculty across campus, update courses



Campus-wide course inventory

<u>College</u>	<u># Courses with sustainability content</u>	<u>Total # courses</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Agriculture	81	250	32.4%
Architecture	9	155	5.8%
Business	3	275	1.1%
Education	2	285	7.0%
Engineering	46	610	7.5%
Forestry & Wildlife	38	74	51.3%
Human Sciences	24	137	17.5%
Liberal Arts	30	756	4.0%
Sciences & Math	56	342	16.4%
Total	289	2884	10.0%

**All 9 colleges
have some
content**

**About *half* of
depts. include
content
(N = 71)**

**No
Sustainability
Literacy
Assessment or
SLOs in core
curriculum**

Current Sustainability Research

Faculty engagement: >72 faculty in 11 colleges engaged in sustainability-related research (~6% of 1176 faculty on campus)

Departmental engagement: 22 departments with sustainability-related research (~16% of 140 depts total)

Interdisciplinary research incentives: Intramural Grants Program

New for Research Week 2013: Sustainability sessions

Opportunities for growth

Interdisciplinary research in tenure and promotion: Recognition only on a per-unit basis. Many units encourage faculty to focus activities only inside unit: Silo Effect

Incentives for sustainability-focused research: None yet

Institutional framework: No institute or umbrella program

But newly-formed by OVPR: Council for Energy, Environment & Economic Research (CEEER)

Lessons Learned

- **Meaningful and substantial**
- **Triggered a lot of worthwhile conversations**
- **Identified opportunities for progress**
- **Some schools' self-assessments are more rigorous than others**
- **Colleagues were very responsive to our requests (in most cases)**



Moving forward from here:

- **Vision: What does a sustainable Auburn University look like?**
- **Establish Long-term sustainability goals**
 - “Auburn will establish long-term sustainability goals...”



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