

A close-up photograph of a tiger's face, showing its eyes, nose, and whiskers. The tiger has orange fur with black stripes. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is centered over the tiger's face, containing the title text in white.

# Sustainability at Auburn University



Photo by Digimist - Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License <https://www.flickr.com/photos/30898814@N03>

Created with Haiku Deck



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

# Sustainability

“Creating a safe and just place for all of humanity within the means of our life-giving planet.”

Kate Raworth, Oxford University

while protecting and maintaining healthy ecosystems in perpetuity.

# Sustainability Compass

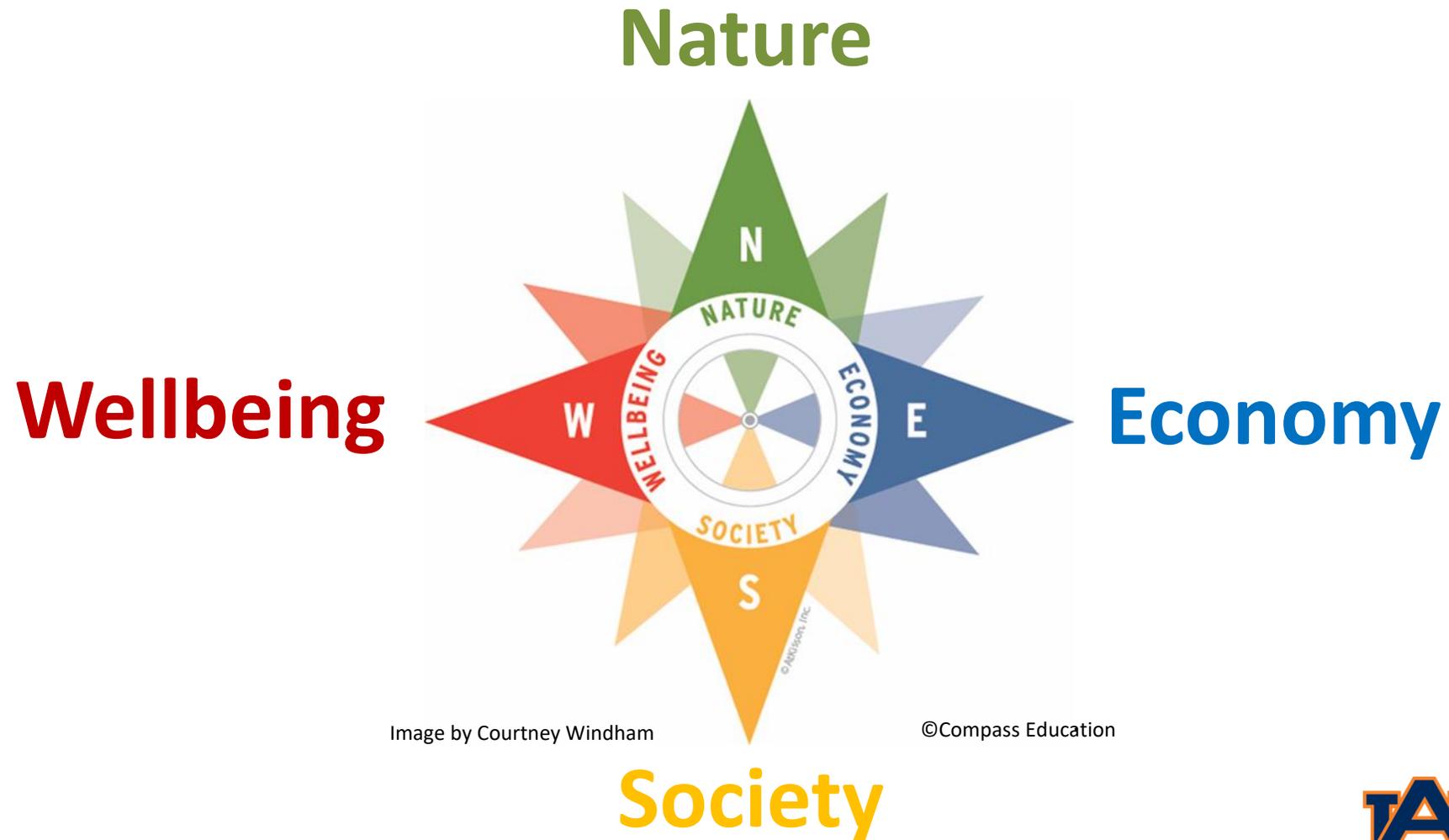
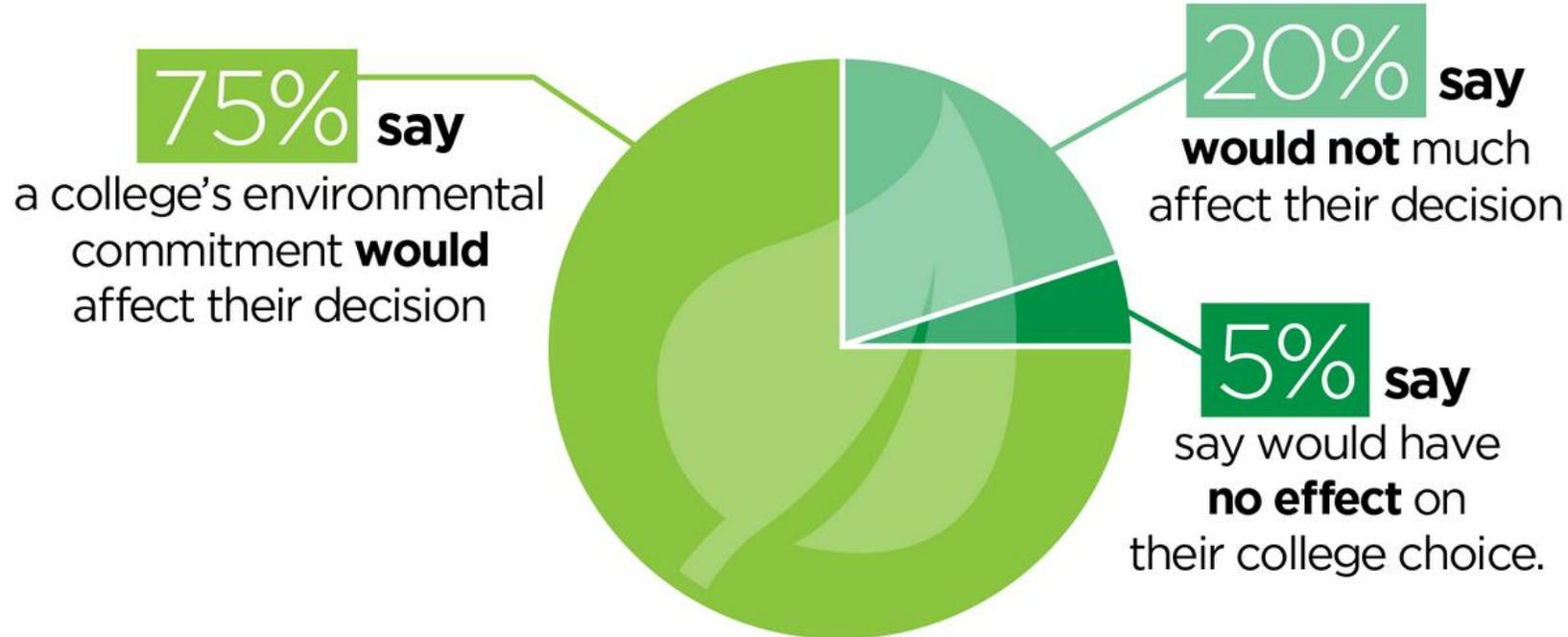
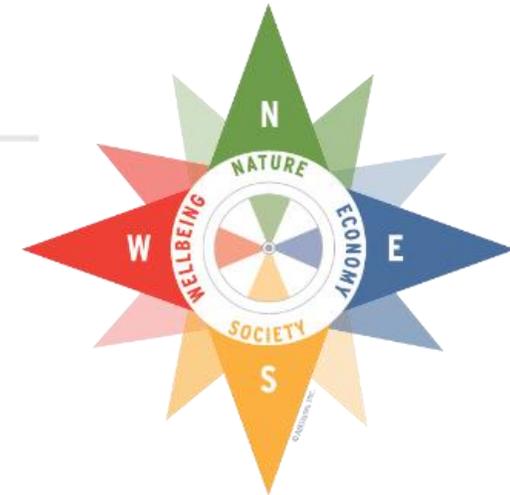


Image by Courtney Windham

©Compass Education

## College Hopes & Worries Survey 2021

### School commitment to the environment affecting school choice

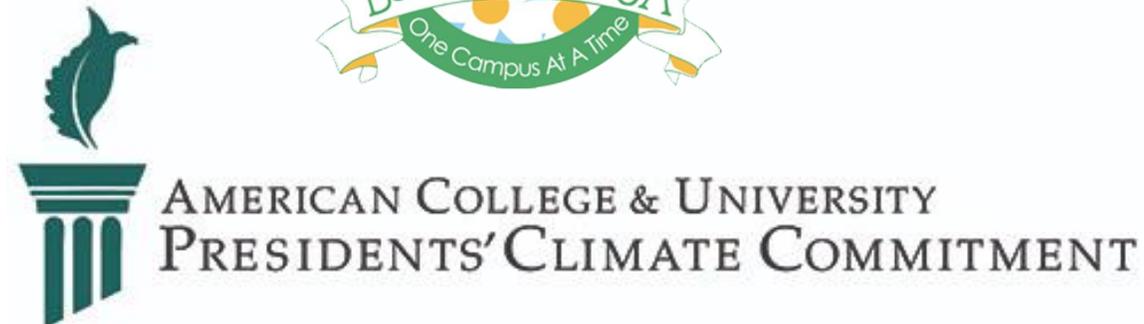


# Auburn University Sustainability Policy



“...Auburn University considers sustainability a core value and strives for excellence in sustainability through continuous assessment and improvement.”

# Auburn University



# Auburn's Contributions to Global Sustainable Development Goals



SDSN's **National** and **Regional** networks support the localization of SDGs and their implementation, develop long-term transformation pathways for sustainable development, promote education around Agenda 2030, and launch solution initiatives.



## U.S. Chapter created December 2018, at Columbia University

“...we are building a global network of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions to translate the latest expertise in sustainable development into action.”

A world map showing the global coverage of the SDSN network. The map is color-coded: green for National Network, blue for Regional Network, and grey for Network in Formation. The United States is highlighted in green. A legend in the bottom left corner explains the color coding.

SDSN Network Coverage

- National Network
- Regional Network
- Network in Formation

**1500 universities in 140 countries. 130 U.S. universities.**

# AUBURN UNIVERSITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Published December 2020

Revised September 2021



[http://sustain.auburn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SDG-REPORT-FINAL\\_September-2021.pdf](http://sustain.auburn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SDG-REPORT-FINAL_September-2021.pdf)

# 2 Zero Hunger

Zero hunger means eradicating not only starvation, but food insecurity and malnourishment.<sup>10</sup> The UN also includes sustainable agriculture as a priority for achieving zero hunger by 2030.<sup>10</sup> In addition to the challenge of feeding 800 million hungry people worldwide, the challenge of feeding a global population of 9 billion by 2050 makes Goal 2 an urgent matter.<sup>10</sup> Auburn University is highly engaged with Goal 2, mostly through research. From 2016 to 2018, researchers at Auburn University engaged in no less than 16 research projects oriented toward eradicating hunger. Adequate food is critical to maintaining a sound mind, a sound body, and a spirit that is not afraid.<sup>11</sup> Having a variety of nutritious food to eat is a basic physiological need that must be met to actualize a quality life for all people, the central mission of Auburn University.<sup>6</sup>

12

courses

1

major

2

minors

16

faculty  
conducting  
research

1

institute

2

student  
organizations

## Hunger Solutions Institute

A foundational principle of the College of Human Sciences' HSI is that hunger is a solvable problem, but only when the relevant knowledge from all academic disciplines is combined with strengths of all sectors. By creating multi-sector partnerships at the community, state, and global levels, HSI shares knowledge and best practices and leverages the power of collective action. HSI educates and mobilizes students to join in the fight against hunger, creates collaborative coalitions to address hunger, and convenes university leaders to prioritize food and nutrition security. HSI brings together experts and practitioners from all disciplines to collectively address hunger and malnutrition.<sup>12</sup>



Photo courtesy of Hunger Solutions Institute

## Minimizing Food Waste

About 40 percent of food produced in the U.S. is wasted at different stages of the farm-to-fork continuum, amounting to 133 billion pounds annually. This immense food waste occurs while millions of people go hungry. The College of Agriculture's Amit Morey researches innovative ways to reduce food waste and capture food being wasted to improve food security of people in the United States. Morey's development of "functional ice," a product for storage and transportation, will increase food safety while reducing waste for the poultry and seafood industries. Morey's research could be a game-changer in the fight to minimize food waste and ensure food security.<sup>13</sup>



Photo courtesy of Paul Hollis

## Hunger Studies Minor

The College of Human Sciences has developed one of the only Hunger Studies minors in the country. Students representing every discipline apply their major studies in cross-disciplinary classes that interactively study and discuss how to solve hunger. Students examine hunger as a complex issue of sustainable human development. Topics include causes and consequences of U.S. and global hunger, as well as current responses and potential solutions. The minor helps students develop a skill set for global citizenship that includes opportunities for advocacy, leadership, and critical problem solving. Students also learn to apply critical thinking skills in addressing hunger as a multi-disciplinary, complex social issue.<sup>12</sup>



Photo courtesy of Hunger Solutions Institute



# Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System

## THE STATUS OF SUSTAINABILITY

AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

<https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/auburn-university-al/report/2022-02-04/>

# THE ASSESSMENT TOOL

STARS v2.2

**Planning/Administration**

(14 credits)

**Academics**

(11 credits)

**Exemplary Practice**

(23 options)

**Innovation**

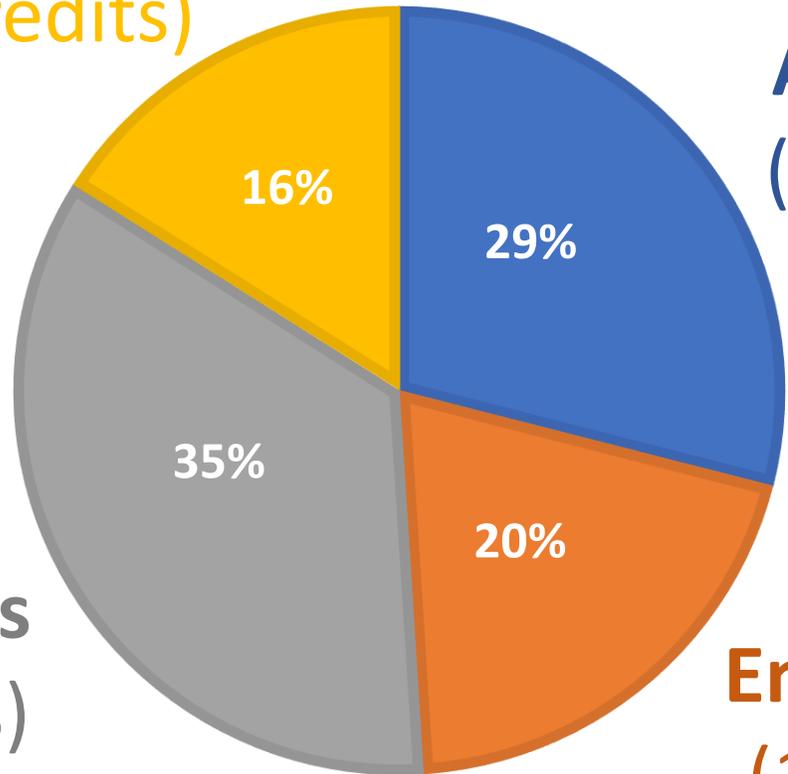
(up to 4)

**Operations**

(23 credits)

**Engagement**

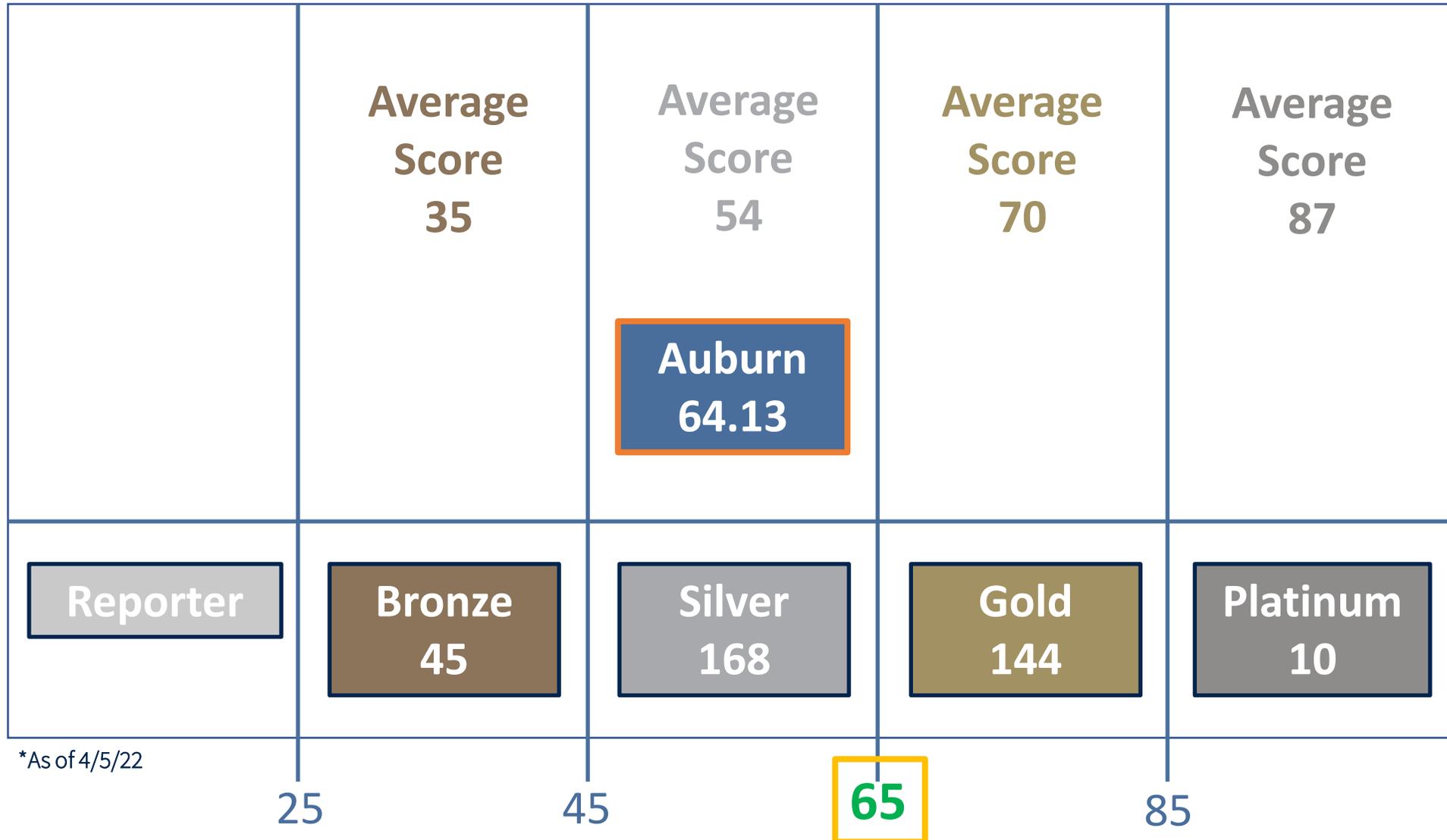
(15 credits)



**Point Allocation by Category**



# STARS RATINGS





# LEED Buildings at Auburn University





THE IMPACT OF  
GREEN BUILDINGS ON  
**COGNITIVE  
FUNCTION**

# Cognition Impacts of Green Certified Buildings



- **26.4% higher cognitive test scores.**
- **6.4% better sleep quality.**
- **30% fewer health symptoms.**

# Aquaponics - Integrated Plant + Fish Greenhouse



A photograph of the Auburn University campus. In the foreground, a brick wall features a large stone sign that reads "AUBURN UNIVERSITY" in bold, black, serif capital letters, with "ESTABLISHED 1856" in smaller letters below it. Behind the wall, a large, multi-story red brick building with a prominent clock tower and several smaller spires is visible. The scene is set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds and is surrounded by lush green trees and foliage.

**What's next for Auburn University?**



**OKANAGAN CHARTER**  
AN INTERNATIONAL CHARTER  
FOR HEALTH PROMOTING  
UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

<http://ushpcn.org/>

# Okanagan Charter

An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities & Colleges

## Two Calls To Action

### 1. Embed health into all aspects of campus culture, across the administration, operations and academic mandates

- Embed health into all campus policies
- Create supportive campus environments
- Generate thriving communities and a culture of well-being
- Support personal development
- Create or re-orient campus services

### 2. Lead health promotion action and collaboration locally and globally

- Integrate health, well-being and sustainability in multiple disciplines to develop change agents
- Advance research, teaching and training for health promotion knowledge and action
- Lead and partner towards local and global action for health promotion





# Auburn University Climate Action Plan

Version 1.0



## CAP 2.0

➤ **CAP 2.0** Reaffirm and strengthen our climate commitment, and prioritize actions to fulfill our climate commitments and goals.

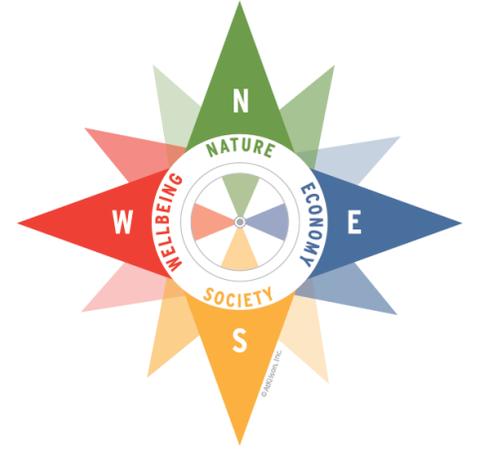
AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY  
ESTABLISHED 1856

**Auburn's greatest opportunity for impact**

# Solar Energy

**Purchased electricity**

*The Stuttgart Solar Energy Center  
(Photo: Entergy Arkansas)*



AUBURN

---

SUSTAINABILITY