

# **Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS): Co-Curricular Education and Faculty and Staff Development and Training Call Notes**

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## **General Questions**

**Q: Which version of STARS are we using?**

A: Pilot Participants should be using the STARS Guide to Pilot Phase Two, which can be found at [www.aashe.org/stars/STARS\\_Pilot\\_Phase\\_Two.pdf](http://www.aashe.org/stars/STARS_Pilot_Phase_Two.pdf).

**Q: Are there credits that should be added to either of these sections for future versions of STARS?**

A: A caller noted that institutions that encourage departments to develop department-specific sustainability policies should be recognized—possibly in a new credit.

## **Credit-Specific Questions**

### **ER Credit 1: Student Sustainability Educators Program**

There were no questions or comments on this credit.

### **ER Credit 2: Student Sustainability Outreach Campaign**

**Q: The credit criteria specify that the campaign must be successful. How do we measure success?**

A: A good way to quantify the success of student sustainability outreach campaigns is to get a baseline measurement of energy use, student awareness, etc. and compare it to post-campaign evaluations.

### **ER Credit 3: Sustainability in New Student Orientation**

**Q: We do outreach that is geared only toward first-year campus residents rather than the entire first-year student body. How should we report on these kinds of efforts?**

A: Please report on these kinds of efforts in the feedback sections of the reporting forms.

A caller noted that the orientation schedule at her institution is already jam-packed and this poses challenges to incorporating formal sustainability education in the orientation process.

AASHE has received feedback suggesting that new student orientation is an important time to introduce sustainability programs to students. However, due to differences in orientation styles between institutions the credit is intentionally non-prescriptive. Feedback on this credit is encouraged.

## **Co-Curricular Education Tier-Two Credits**

**Q: What does “sustainability-themed housing” mean? Is it the same as a Green Building?**

A: Sustainability-themed housing is housing that is geared toward sustainability education and outreach. Additionally, the institution must formally designate it as sustainability-themed.

**Q: How is a student newspaper defined? Is it a newspaper that is written by students or aimed at students?**

A: Both would qualify for this credit. A caller noted that this Tier Two credit is important because newspapers are one of the main ways students get their news on campus.

Callers suggested recognizing sustainability listservs and faculty/staff newspapers covering sustainability in future versions of STARS.

### **ER Credit 16: Incentives for Developing Sustainability Courses**

There were no questions or comments on this credit.

### **ER Credit 17: Professional Development in Sustainability**

There were no questions or comments on this credit.

### **ER Credit 18: New Employee Orientation**

There were no questions or comments on this credit.

### **ER 19: Employee Sustainability Education Program**

**Q: Does employee education that is done by formally dedicated sustainability staff count for this credit?**

A: This credit is intended to recognize institutions that engage staff members to do peer-to-peer sustainability education for their respective departments, such as purchasing, alumni services, athletics, etc.

A caller commented that this credit should be thought of as being the step beyond having a core sustainability staff.

A caller commented that schools should be recognized separately for having a core sustainability staff and supporting sustainability education and outreach done by non-sustainability focused employees. AF Credit 10 and 13 recognize institutions that have staff positions dedicated to sustainability.