

OP 9: Landscape Management

2 points available

A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that manage their grounds sustainably. Sustainable landscape management integrates economic, social, and ecological considerations to meet human needs and maintain healthy ecosystems.

B. Criteria

Institution's grounds include areas that are managed in accordance with:

- 1) An [Integrated Pest Management](#) (IPM) program;
Or
- 2) An [organic land care standard](#) or landscape management program that has eliminated the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides in favor of [ecologically preferable materials](#).

To count, an IPM program must use a four-tiered approach as outlined in G. Standards and Terms. Management programs that employ some IPM principles or techniques but do not include a four-tiered approach should be counted as conventional programs.

C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions with managed grounds comprising one or more percent of the total area of the campus.

D. Scoring

Institutions earn the maximum of 2 points available for this credit when 100 percent of campus grounds are managed in accordance with a program that has eliminated the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides in favor of ecologically preferable materials. Incremental points are available based on the percentage of grounds managed in accordance with an IPM program and/or an organic program. Scoring for this credit is based on the total area of managed grounds: the sum of areas managed under conventional, IPM and organic programs.

Points for this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

Management level	Factor		Area managed at each level		Total area of managed grounds		Points earned
Conventional program	0	x	_____	÷	_____	=	
IPM program	1		_____				

Organic program	2		_____			
Total points earned →						Up to 2

E. Reporting Fields

Required

- Total campus area (i.e., the total amount of land within the institutional boundary) (acres/hectares)
- Figures required to calculate the total area of managed grounds:
 - Area managed in accordance with an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that uses a four-tiered approach: 1) set action thresholds, 2) monitor and identify pests, 3) prevent or remove conditions that attract pests, 4) control (acres/hectares)
 - Area managed in accordance with an organic land care standard or sustainable landscape management program that has eliminated the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides in favor of ecologically preferable materials (acres/hectares)
 - Area managed using conventional landscape management practices (which may include some IPM principles or techniques) (acres/hectares)

If the total area of managed grounds is less than the total campus area, provide:

- A brief description of any land excluded from the area of managed grounds (e.g., the footprint of buildings and impervious surfaces, experimental agricultural land, areas that are not regularly managed or maintained)

If reporting an IPM program, provide:

- A copy or brief description of the IPM plan or program (text or upload)

If reporting an organic program, provide:

- A brief description of the organic land standard or landscape management program

Optional

- A brief description of the institution's approach to the following:
 - Plant stewardship (e.g., protecting and using existing vegetation, using native and ecologically appropriate plants, controlling and managing invasive species)
 - Soil stewardship (e.g., organic soils management practices that restore and/or maintain a natural nutrient cycle and limit the use of inorganic fertilizers and chemicals)
 - Hydrology and water use (e.g., restoring and/or maintaining the integrity of the natural hydrology of the campus by promoting water infiltration, minimizing or eliminating the use of potable water for irrigation, and/or protecting/restoring riparian, wetland, and shoreline habitats and lost streams)
 - Materials management and waste minimization (e.g., composting and/or mulching on-site waste)
 - Energy-efficient landscape design (e.g., the placement and selection of shade trees and windbreaks and the use of vegetation and reflective materials to reduce heat islands)

- Other sustainable landscape management practices (e.g., use of environmentally preferable landscaping materials, initiatives to reduce the impacts of ice and snow removal, wildfire prevention)
- The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

F. Measurement

Timeframe

Report on current program(s) and practices at the time of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards

An institution may exclude the footprint of buildings and impervious surfaces, experimental agricultural land, and land that is not regularly managed or maintained from the area of managed grounds as long as such areas are excluded consistently.

To simplify reporting, an institution may elect to account for the footprint of a building or facility and associated impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and parking areas based on how the entire site is managed as long as the same methodology is used consistently for all managed areas. For example, if the Housing Department uses integrated pest management to maintain four acres that include residence halls and paved surfaces as well as associated grounds, all four acres may be counted toward the “area managed in accordance with an IPM program” as long as all managed areas are counted the same way.

G. Standards and Terms

Ecologically preferable materials

Ecologically preferable materials may include [OMRI Listed products](#) (Organic Materials Review Institute) and/or products listed/certified by an [IFOAM-endorsed standard](#).

Integrated pest management

Integrated pest management (IPM) uses a combination of biological, cultural, physical/mechanical and chemical management tools to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. Although every IPM program is different, successful programs use the same four-tiered approach: 1) set action thresholds, 2) monitor and identify pests, 3) prevent or remove conditions that attract pests, and 4) control. For more information, see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [IPM Principles factsheet](#).

Organic land care standard

Organic land care standards include:

- An organic land care standard or participatory guarantee system endorsed by [IFOAM](#) (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements)
- The SOUL [Organic Land Care Standard](#)
- The Northeast Organic Farming Association’s [Standards for Organic Land Care](#)
- CCOF Tilth’s [Organic Land Care Policies & Standards](#)

Scoring Example: Landscape Management

The total campus area of Example University comprises 50 acres, all of which are regularly managed. The grounds are managed by three separate departments: Athletics, Housing, and Facilities Management. The Athletics department manages 5 acres of grounds using conventional landscape management techniques and does not follow an IPM program. The Housing department, which manages 20 acres of grounds, follows an IPM program. The Facilities Management department manages 24 acres following an IPM program. Facilities Management also oversees a 1 acre campus garden that is managed without the use of any inorganic fertilizers or chemicals.

Management level	Factor		Area managed at each level		Total area of managed grounds		Points earned
Conventional program	0	×	<u>5</u>	÷	<u>50</u>	=	0
IPM program	1		<u>44</u>				0.88
Organic program	2		<u>1</u>				0.04
Total points earned →							0.92