

# PA 2: Sustainability Planning

4 points available

## A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that have developed comprehensive plans to move toward sustainability. Sustainability planning affords an institution the opportunity to clarify its vision of a sustainable future and provides a road map to help guide decision-making. Establishing measurable goals and objectives allows an institution to track its future progress, identify and document its successes, and manage the levels of resources devoted to (and required for) the attainment of its sustainability goals. Including sustainability at a high level in the institution's strategic plan and other guiding documents also signals an institution's commitment to sustainability and may help infuse an ethic of environmental, fiscal and social responsibility throughout the campus community.

## B. Criteria

Institution has published one or more written plans that include measurable sustainability objectives addressing one or more of the following areas:

- Curriculum
- Research
- Campus Engagement
- Public Engagement
- Air & Climate
- Buildings
- Energy
- Food & Dining
- Grounds
- Purchasing
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water
- Diversity & Affordability
- Investment & Finance
- Wellbeing & Work
- Other (e.g., arts and culture or technology)

The criteria may be met by any combination of published plans, for example:

- [Strategic plan](#) or equivalent guiding document
- Campus master plan or physical campus plan
- Sustainability plan
- [Climate action plan](#)
- Human resources strategic plan
- Diversity plan

For institutions that are a part of a larger system, plans developed at the system level are eligible for this credit.

## C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

## D. Scoring

Institutions earn 0.25 points for each of the areas listed for which they have published plans that include at least one measurable sustainability objective. Note that points are awarded based on the breadth of topics covered by one or more plans, not the number of plans the institution has published. A maximum of 4 points is available for this credit.

## E. Reporting Fields

### Required

- Does the institution have a published [strategic plan](#) or equivalent guiding document that includes sustainability at a high level?
 

*If yes, provide:*

  - A brief description of how the institution's strategic plan or equivalent guiding document addresses sustainability
  - A copy of the strategic plan (upload) or the website URL where the plan is publicly available
- Does the institution have a published sustainability plan (apart from what is reported above)?
 

*If yes, provide:*

  - A copy of the sustainability plan (upload) or the website URL where the plan is publicly available
- Does the institution have a published [climate action plan](#) (apart from what is reported above)?
 

*If yes, provide:*

  - A copy of the climate action plan (upload) or the website URL where the plan is publicly available
- Does the institution have other published plans that address sustainability or include measurable sustainability objectives (e.g., campus master plan, physical campus plan, diversity plan, human resources plan)?
 

*If yes, provide:*

  - A list of other published plans that address sustainability, including public website URLs (if available)
- Taken together, do the plan(s) reported above include [measurable sustainability objectives](#) that address the following?
 

○ Curriculum	○ Purchasing
○ Research	○ Transportation
○ Campus Engagement	○ Waste
○ Public Engagement	○ Water
○ Air & Climate	○ Diversity & Affordability
○ Buildings	○ Investment & Finance
○ Energy	○ Wellbeing & Work
○ Food & Dining	○ Other (e.g., arts and culture or technology)
○ Grounds	

*For each topic selected above, provide:*

  - A list or sample of the measurable sustainability objectives that address the topic and the published plans in which each objective is included

## Optional

- ☐ Does the institution have a formal statement in support of sustainability endorsed by its [governing body](#) (e.g., a mission statement that specifically includes sustainability and is endorsed by the Board of Trustees)?

*If yes, provide:*

- ☐ The formal statement in support of sustainability
- ☐ The institution's definition of sustainability (e.g., as included in a published statement or plan)
- ☐ Is the institution an endorser or signatory of the following?
  - ☐ The Earth Charter
  - ☐ The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)
  - ☐ ISCN-GULF Sustainable Campus Charter
  - ☐ Pan-Canadian Protocol for Sustainability
  - ☐ Second Nature's Carbon Commitment (formerly known as the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment), Resilience Commitment, and/or integrated Climate Commitment
  - ☐ The Talloires Declaration (TD)
  - ☐ UN Global Compact
  - ☐ Other multi-dimensional sustainability commitments (please specify)

*If yes to any of the above, provide:*

- ☐ A brief description of the institution's formal sustainability commitments, including the specific initiatives selected above
- ☐ 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 the institution's published plan(s) at the time of submission. Draft documents are not eligible for this credit.

### Sampling and Data Standards

Not applicable

## G. Standards and Terms

### Climate action plan

A climate action plan outlines targets and strategies to reduce an institution's greenhouse gas emissions and improve campus resiliency in the face of global climate change.

## **Governing body**

Governing body is defined as the highest governing body with ultimate authority at the site defined by the institutional boundary. This body might be called the board of trustees, board of governors, board of overseers, board of visitors or some other nomenclature. Institutions that are part of larger systems may have several boards that are involved in the institution's operation. The term governing body is intended to describe the board with the most direct involvement in campus governance and with the highest authority at that particular location.

## **Measurable sustainability objectives**

Measurable sustainability objectives are concrete criteria used to assess progress toward the attainment of a sustainability goal or target (e.g. emissions reductions, reductions in resource use or waste, the establishment of new sustainability programs or initiatives, increases in the number of people impacted by sustainability programs and initiatives, and financial savings attributable to sustainability initiatives). In addition to being measurable, such objectives should be specific, achievable, relevant and time-bound (see [SMART criteria](#)). Examples include:

- The institution will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2025.”
- “100 percent of graduates will be able to demonstrate sustainability literacy by 2020 as measured by a standard sustainability literacy survey.”
- “By 2020, all students and staff will be required to participate in cultural competence training” or “By 2020, the diversity and inclusion grant program will double the percentage of graduate students from underrepresented groups.”
- “In 2018, the institution will roll out a student eco-reps program in all residence halls” or “By 2018, the sustainability committee will adopt a green office certification program.”
- “The institution will save in excess of \$1 million over the next 10 years due to energy efficiency improvements.”

## **Strategic plan**

A strategic plan is the highest guiding document for an institution. Strategic planning is the process of defining a strategy or direction and making decisions on allocating resources to pursue the strategy. A strategic plan thus serves as a statement of where the institution wants to go and how it plans to get there. Strategic plans often establish goals, objectives, strategies, and/or performance measures. An equivalent guiding document may be known under a different name.