

# Sustainability in Academics - STARS 2018

Every 3 years, the University submits a STARS report, which is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.

STARS serves as a roadmap for becoming a more sustainable institution and allows us to compare our sustainability performance to other institutions. In 2015, the Board of Governors' goal was to obtain a Silver STARS rating, which we were able to achieve with the help of the entire MSU community.

Since 2015, we have committed to continue to improve our STARS score and to become a leader in campus sustainability.

Today, we need your help with two parts of our 2018 report: Academic Courses and Research.

## Academic Courses:

In 2015, we conducted an [inventory](#) of all courses offered by the University, finding that nearly 200 courses offered at the graduate and undergraduate levels included sustainability in some way. We need your help updating this course inventory.

### Specifically, we are looking for courses that:

- Address sustainability as a key focus of the course even if not using sustainability terminology.
- Focus on all 3 pillars of sustainability (environmental, economic and social).
- Include a unit, chapter or lecture on sustainability.
- Incorporate a unit or module on sustainability or a sustainability challenge.
- Incorporate one or more sustainability-focused activities.
- Integrate sustainability issues throughout the course.
- Cover the 3 pillars of sustainability at some point in the course.
- Focus on 1 or 2 pillars of sustainability, but don't address all 3 (ex. Women and Politics).

### Examples (*not MSU specific*):

- Systems Thinking and Analysis (Engineering)
  - Introduction to systems thinking, systems of systems and sustainable development.
- Society and the Environment (Sociology)
  - Students devise their own set of principles for understanding sustainability issues.
- Resilient Societies (Interdisciplinary Studies)
  - Overview of social and economic development in the context of ecological limits. Studies pathways and processes that lead to sustainable societies.
- Ecological Economics (Economics)
  - Studies the role of environmental amenities (clean air and water) in economic systems.
- International Development (International Studies)
  - Covers causes of global poverty, environmental degradation, and preventable disease.
- Introduction to Chemistry (Chemistry)
  - Includes a module on green chemistry and chemistry's contribution to sustainability.

- Art and Social Change (Art and Architecture)
  - One of the listed objectives is to examine art's potential contribution to sustainability.
- Construction Management (Construction and Environmental Management)
  - Includes a unit on green building.
- Math in Society (Mathematics)
  - Includes practice problems that are oriented around sustainability.
- Business in the European Union (Business)
  - Includes a unit on sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- Applied Ethics (Philosophy)
  - Includes discussion of inter-generational equity and the sustainability ethic.
- Cause Marketing (Communications)
  - Case studies include marketing corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability.
- Social Problems and Social Change (Sociology)
  - Includes units on sustainability, environmental movements, activism, climate change .
- Literature and Nature (Literary Arts)
  - Readings on relationship between humans and land; sustainability writing assignment.

**What We Need:** List of classes in each department that include sustainability (taught within the last 3 years): course code, course title, contact name and information, 1-2 sentence description of how sustainability is included (see examples above).

**Deadline:** February 15th

## Research and Scholarship:

This STARS® credit seeks to recognize research on sustainability topics. Conducting an inventory of an institution's sustainability research can help in identifying strengths and areas for development. The inventory can also help connect individuals, laboratories, research centers, and other campus community members with shared interests in sustainability.

***Sustainability research*** is defined as research that leads toward solutions that simultaneously support social well-being, economic prosperity, and ecological health. Includes research and scholarship that:

1. *Explicitly addresses sustainability and/or furthers our understanding of the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental issues;*
2. *Contributes directly toward solving one or more major sustainability challenge;*
3. *Engages community members with the aim of combining knowledge and action to achieve positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.*

**What We Need:** List of faculty who have conducted research related to sustainability during the last 3 years: name, contact info, 1-2 sentence description of research.

**Deadline:** February 15<sup>th</sup>

Submit information to Jordan Schanda, Sustainability Coordinator: [jordanschanda@missouristate.edu](mailto:jordanschanda@missouristate.edu)  
 Feel free to email or call with questions: 836-4993