

Sustainability on Campus: Comparing RPI to AASHE's Standards

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AASHE

- AASHE is a non-profit “helping to create a brighter future of opportunity for all by advancing sustainability in higher education”
- Resources for colleges
- STARS program



STARS

- Measures how different colleges are doing sustainability-wise
- Credits which each require different criteria
- Points for each credit
- Score is points earned by university divided by total points attainable
- Points based on impact rather than difficulty
- Requires signatures by administration



Academic Credits

Credit	Title	Total Points	RPI's points	Notes
AC 1	Academic Courses	14	5.9	
AC 2	Learning Outcomes*	8	2	
AC 3	Undergraduate Program*	3	3	
AC 4	Graduate Program*	3	3	
AC 5	Immersive Experience*	2	0	N/A
AC 6	Sustainability Literacy Assessment	4	0	
AC 7	Incentives for Developing Courses	2	0	
AC 8	Campus as a Living Laboratory*	4	2.8	
AC 9	Academic Research*	12	0	Separate metric
AC 10	Support for Research*	4	0	
AC 11	Access to Research	2	0	



Campus Engagement

Credit	Title	Total Points	RPI's points	Notes
EN 1	Student Educators Program	4	0	
EN 2	Student Orientation*	2	.09	
EN 3	Student Life	2	2	
EN 4	Outreach Materials and Publications	2	1.25	
EN 5	Outreach Campaign	4	0	
EN 6	Employee Educators Program	3	0	
EN 7	Employee Orientation	1	0	
EN 8	Staff Professional Development	2	0	
EN 9	Community Partnerships	3	0	
EN 10	Inter-Campus Collaboration	2	0	
EN 11	Continuing Education*	5	0	N/A
EN 12	Community Service	5	0	
EN 13	Community Stakeholder Engagement	2	0	
EN 14	Participation in Public Policy	2	0	
EN 15	Trademark Licensing*	2	0	
EN 16	Hospital Network*	1	0	N/A



Operations

Credit	Title	Total Points	RPI's points	Notes
OP 1	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	10	0	
OP 2	Outdoor Air Quality	1	0	
OP 3	Building Operations and Maintenance*	4	1.5	
OP 4	Building Design and Construction*	3	0	N/A
OP 5	Indoor Air Quality	1	0	
OP 6	Food and Beverage Purchasing*	4	0	Sodexo does not
OP 7	Low Impact Dining*	3	0	keep track
OP 8	Building Energy Consumption	6	0	
OP 9	Clean and Renewable Energy	4	0	
OP 10	Landscape Management*	2	0	
OP 11	Biodiversity*	1-2	0	
OP 12	Electronics Purchasing	1	0	
OP 13	Cleaning Product Purchasing	1	0	
OP 14	Office Paper Purchasing	1	0	



Operations

Credit	Title	Total Points	RPI's points	Notes
OP 15	Inclusive and Local Purchasing	1	.25	
OP 16	Life Cycle Cost Analysis	1	0	
OP 17	Guidelines for Business Partners	1	0	
OP 18	Campus Fleet*	1	0	
OP 19	Student Commute Modal Split*	2	0	No data
OP 20	Employee Commute Modal Split	2	0	No data
OP 21	Support for Sustainable Transportation	2	.5	
OP 22	Waste Minimization	5	0	
OP 23	Waste Diversion	3	0	
OP 24	Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion*	1	0	N/A
OP 25	Hazardous Waste Management	1	.5	
OP 26	Water Use	2-6	0	Data N/A
OP 27	Rainwater Management	2	0	
OP 28	Wastewater Management	1	0	



Planning & Administration

Credit	Title	Total Points	RPI's points	Notes
PA 1	Sustainability Coordination	1	0	
PA 2	Sustainability Planning	4	0	
PA 11	Wellness Program	1	1	

- The rest of the PA credits were not looked into because of time constraints
- Also many are less relevant to what SSTF can do
- A future report fully researched with STARS criteria should be done in the future

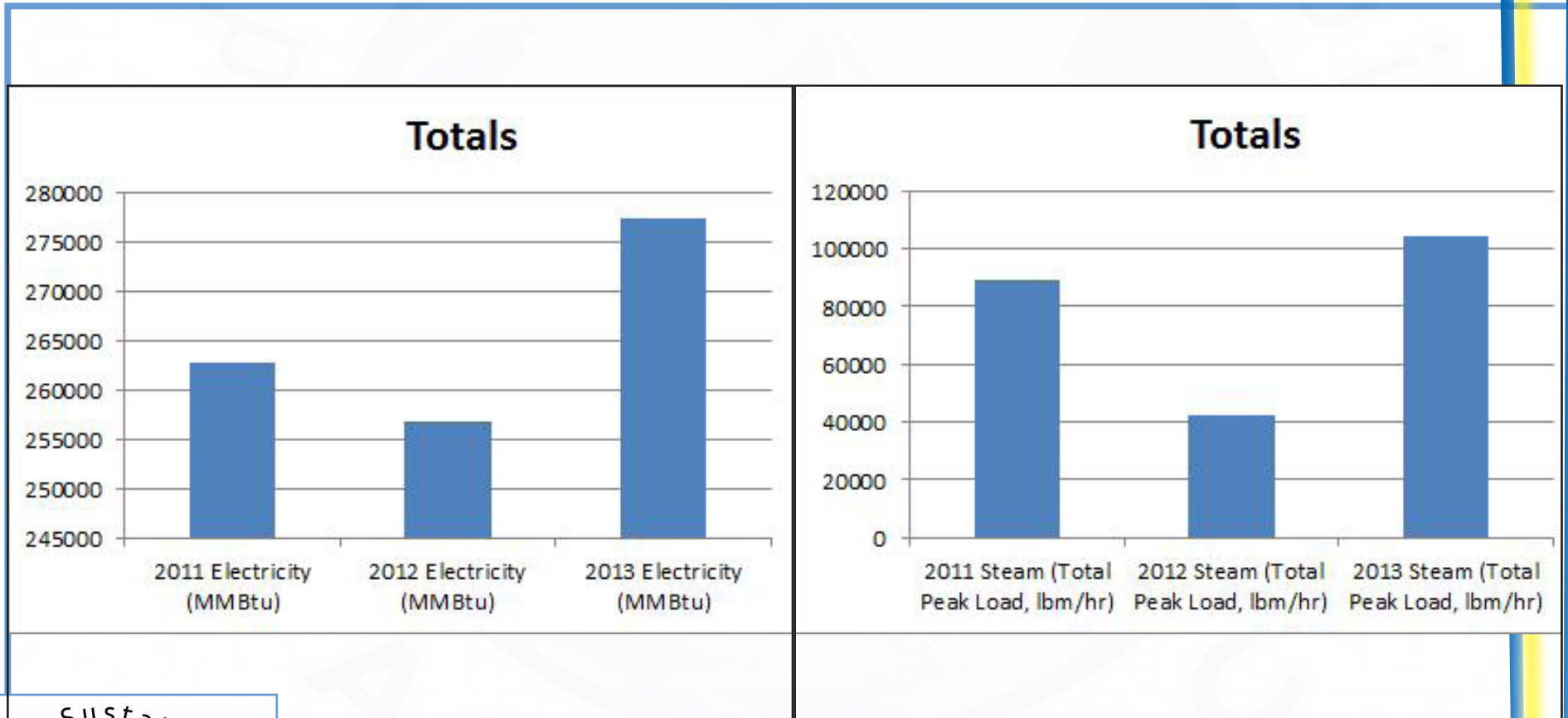


Results

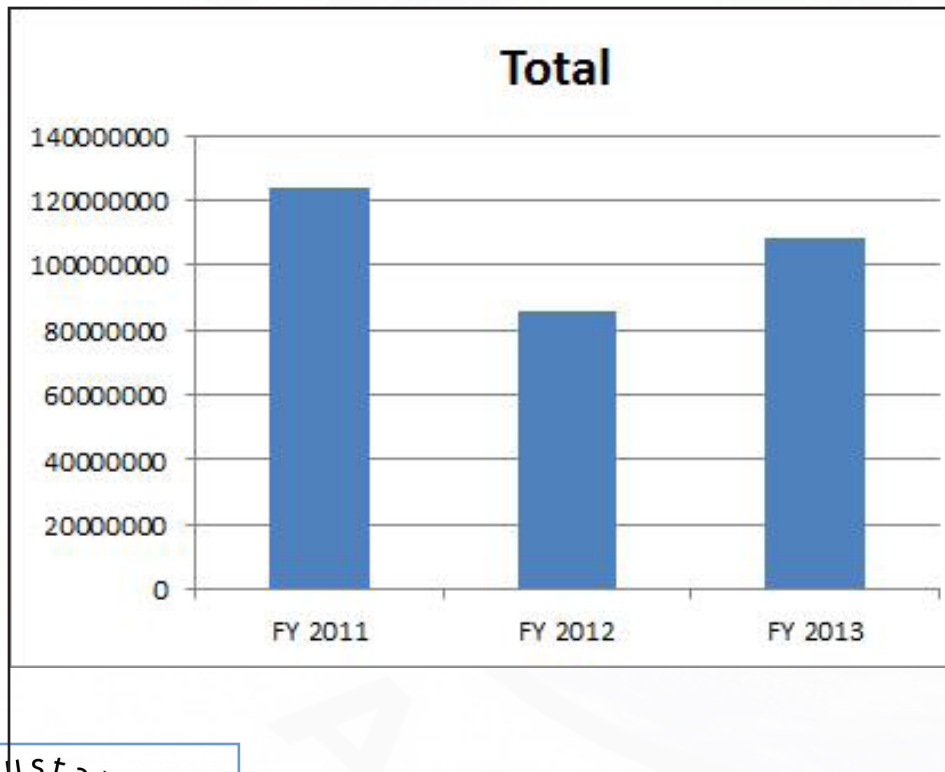
- RPI earned 24.29 points out of a possible 143
- Percentage: 16.9 percent
- Need at least 25 percent to get Bronze
- Data was not collected or found for some credits



Energy Use



Water Use

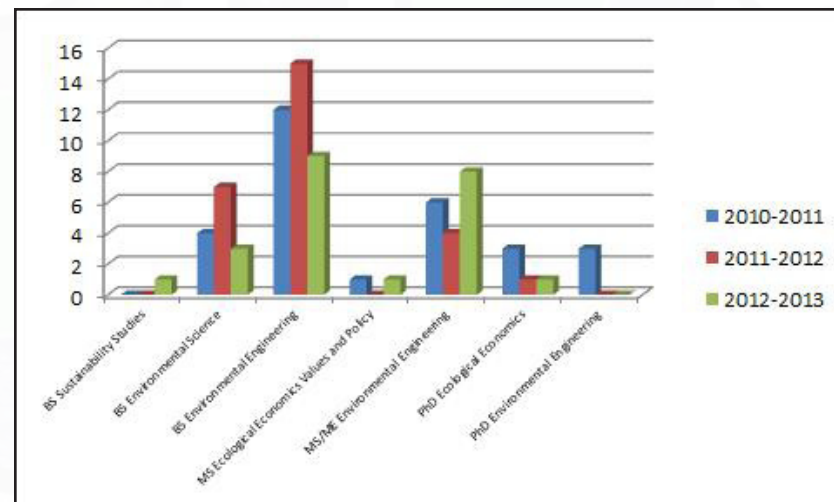


- Has been decreasing
- Data in appropriate form for STARS water credit not available
- Coming up with a baseline



Highlights

- Sustainability and other environmental majors/minors
- Single-stream recycling
- Environmental clubs
- Vasudha Living and Learning Community
- Student-run Union



Future Projects

- Sustainability office and comprehensive plan
- Work with Sodexo to find baseline and then green food operations
- Discover why energy use has gone up in certain buldngs and
- Audit and compile sustainability research
- Require sustainability learning outcomes



Peer Institutions

- BU, CMU, Clarkson, Princeton, RUT, U Penn all have silver ratings
- Cornell, Georgia Institute of Technology, Stanford all have gold ratings
- Platinum is the highest rating, with 85 % of applicable points



Questions?

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