



**PRESIDENT'S  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Meeting Minutes  
November 14th, 1:00-2:30 pm  
**Virtual Meeting**

- Introduction
  - Carol Dollard, Tonie Miyamoto, Joe von Fischer, Stacey Baumgarn, Tim Brennan, Farrah Bustamante, Sara Campbell, Monica Latham, Greg Lewis, Mary Liang, Daniel McGrath, Brian Dunbar, Mindy Hill, Mark Paquette, Sybil Sharvelle, Andrew Warnock, Grace Wright, Kenneth Kineer, Omar Soliman, William Timpson, Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez, Jacob VanderRoest, Aleta Weller
- STARS Wrap Up & Gap Analysis
  - Tonie Miyamoto: The STARS report was officially submitted to AASHE last Monday (11/7). AASHE will conduct their review and may come back with clarifications or questions before it is considered an official report. Currently, we have a provisional Platinum report, which would be our fourth Platinum report. While we won't be submitting a top score with this report, considering the bar was raised with version 2.2 and pandemic impacts, maintaining Platinum is something to be proud of!
    - And, we just ranked Number 5 in the Princeton Review Top Green Colleges list, which is a very tough competition. This is the first time we have been in the top 5 since 2017.  
<https://source.colostate.edu/csu-no-5-on-princeton-reviews-2023-top-green-colleges-list/>
    - Congratulations to Grace and COB for the Better World MBA rankings – the Impact MBA came in at #4 in the U.S. and #20 internationally. <https://biz.source.colostate.edu/impact-mba-ranked-number-20-in-world-in-better-world-mba-rankings/>
  - Carol Dollard: The gap analysis is a key part of what AASHE intended for STARS, as a system to look for improvements based on how we benchmark against other schools and over time. Now that we have just finished the report, we want to begin looking for areas we can improve and start planning for the next round.
    - Tonie Miyamoto: The STARS gap analysis is meant to provide a jumping off point for topics to explore at the retreat in January, alongside other documents like the Climate Action Plan and CST, to determine how we want to move forward.
  - Carol: In Curriculum, Research, Water Use, and Innovation we scored 100% in those categories.
    - Academics and Research we have always gotten full points or very near full points, so shoutout to all the groups involved like the colleges, SoGES, and our researchers.
    - Water use is based on improvements over time, which allowed us to get 100% in this category despite still having room to grow in our water efficiency.
  - Carol: The categories we did well in but are not quite at 100% are Campus & Public Engagement, Grounds, Purchasing, and Coordination & Planning. Some of these credits are hard to address and still have room to grow.
    - Tonie: The Coordination and Planning credits looks at how the University addresses and implements sustainability across our campuses, and the integration between groups at CSU. This includes strategic planning, governance, and student representation/involvement.
    - Engagement includes things like the work Extension does throughout the state, student community service, and campus partnerships. Thanks to Mary for digging through the data and sorting out pandemic impacts, especially in regard to community service!

- Tonie: Our most improved credit for this submission is positive sustainable investments, shoutout to Sara Campbell and the Foundation folks for pushing for more sustainable investments through the pandemic and some challenging financial times. The Foundation also invites the student-run Summit Fund to provide input which also helped this credit.
- Carol: Our credits with the most room for growth, meaning they earned less than 25% of available points, are: Building Operation & Maintenance, Clean & Renewable Energy, Food & Beverage Purchasing, and Campus Fleet.
  - Building O&M looks at campus buildings ranked with third party groups, like LEED, for operations and maintenance. This is an area where many universities are struggling.
  - Clean & Renewable Energy evaluates what percentage of energy consumed by University operations are clean and renewable. The solar project we just completed will move the needle on this credit, but there is still plenty of room to grow. There are two ways to address this credit area: reducing energy usage and increasing renewable energy. Purchased Renewable Energy Credits (RECS) are also included in this credit.
    - As a side note, the completion of the ground mount solar array near the conference center and classroom space at ARDEC will likely make this the first area of campus to be fully powered by renewable energy.
  - Mary Liang: Food & Beverage Purchasing is a difficult credit, requiring 100% of food and beverage purchases to be third-party certified, like Certified Organic, Fair Trade, or Sustainable Sea Food Certifications. This credit is an expensive area to address overall, so progress tends to be slower moving.
  - Carol Dollard: Campus Fleet is a credit we have discussed before as an area for focus. Aaron Fodge is chairing the new Fleet Working Group to look for ways to implement University-level policies or other strategies to make our fleet more sustainable. This credit calculates the number of sustainably-fueled vehicles over the total number of University-owned vehicles. We can address this issue in two main ways: purchasing more sustainable vehicles or downsizing the fleet overall. Many vehicles on campus are underutilized but still costly to maintain, so downsizing the fleet could be our best strategy. We can also look into policies that prioritize the purchasing and use of hybrid or electric vehicles when available, which improves fleet from an emissions perspective.
  - Carol Dollard: Next are our areas that have room for improvement but are not our lowest performers. These credits earned less than 70% of available points: Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Building Design & Construction, Building Energy & Efficiency, Office Paper Purchasing, Commute Mode Split, Waste Minimization & Diversion, Affordability & Access, Investment Disclosure, and Employee Compensation.
    - Our Greenhouse Gas Emissions are on a downward trend but are not moving fast enough.
    - Building Design & Construction looks at new buildings with third-party certifications like LEED. The State recently passed a mandate regarding building performance standards, which will likely help this credit. As buildings are required to perform to set standards, it would be best for LEED Gold or above to be pursued from the start. This mandate means we have until 2030 to get all of our campus buildings above 50,000 square feet to their set metrics. Performance metrics, like those in the new State mandate, will be more effective long-term than design metrics. Our Green Building Standards working group has been working on a Conceptual Review Process, which will get more stakeholders involved in the initial building design process to address the certifications. Building Energy Efficiency is also coming down, but again, not fast enough
      - State Mandate regarding Building Performance Standards: <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/climate-energy/energy-policy/building-performance-standards>



workshop stage as they work through what exactly they are asking for and the strength of the resolution. We are looking to have a meeting with the Foundation to understand more about what this could look like. Rob Long, the current ASCSU Student President, has expressed support for conversations with the Foundation regarding the resolution.

- Information about Divest CSU: <https://divestcsu.org/>

- Member Updates

- Stacey Baumgarn: Stacey gave a brief update on the presidential search. There may possibly be a decision regarding the next President at the Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting.
- Tonie Miyamoto: We may be sharing the official STARS results over email. After it is official, all of the report will be publicly available and data will be uploaded to green.colostate. As STARS 3.0 is developed, they release credit criteria for public comment. If there is any credit you feel strongly about, such as the ones mentioned today, you can contact AASHE for consideration or contact me and I can bring it to the STARS Steering Committee. The link below shows the credits still open for public comment:
  - <https://stars.aashe.org/about-stars/governance/stars-3-0-public-comment/>
- Tonie: We will be cancelling the December meeting unless a pressing agenda item comes up. We will reconvene for the retreat in January.