



STARS Rating Report

Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System, Version 2.2
 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

This report contains the results of the application for a STARS rating submitted for Portland Community College. The STARS rating is an official recognition that a college or university has met the requirements prescribed within the Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) as created, maintained and administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

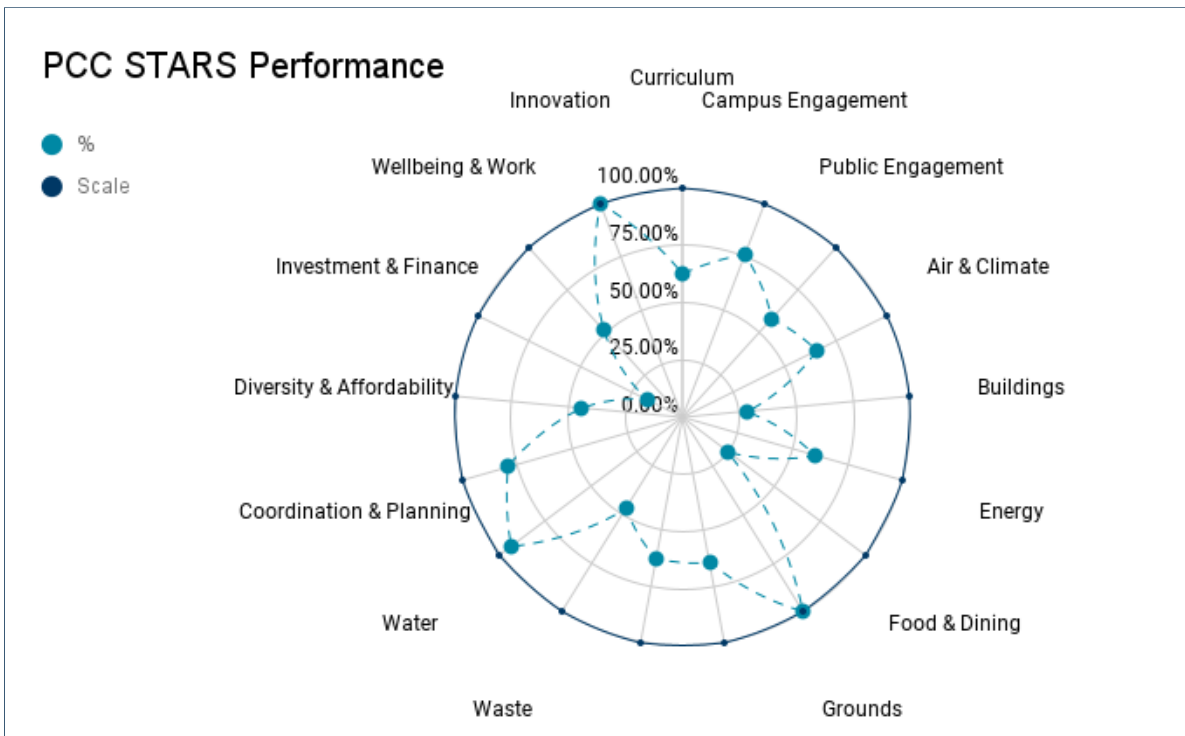
2019 STARS Report Summary

PCC Score 63.12%			
Date	March 5, 2021	Rating	Score Required
Reporting Period	FY 2019	Bronze	25%
Rating	Silver	Silver	45%
Score	63.12%	Gold	65%
Version	2.2	Platinum	85%

Enrollment	
Headcount	67,137
FTE	23,888

Academics	Improvement Opportunity	Achieved	Possible	23.08/37
Curriculum	Better tracking of degree level outcomes or career pathways Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs Innovation credit possible for a climate justice course	23.08	37	
Engagement	Improvement Opportunity	Achieved	Possible	26.46/39
Campus Engagement	Formalize green office Offer regular internal opportunities for sustainability professional development for staff	15.97	21	
Public Engagement		10.49	18	
Operations	Improvement Opportunity		Possible	39.28/70

		Achieved	Possible	
Air & Climate		7.23	11	
Buildings	Opportunity for pursuing more green building certification activities	2.25	8	
Energy		6.06	10	
Food & Dining	Better data collection and tracking Food and beverage purchasing	2.00	8	
Grounds		3.01	4	
Purchasing		4.00	6	
Transportation		4.41	7	
Waste		4.71	10	
Water	Water infrastructure repair and investment	5.61	6	
Planning & Administration	Improvement Opportunity	Achieved	Possible	20.16/32
Coordination & Planning	Monitor wage gap at the college	7.13	9	
Diversity & Affordability	Support better data integration (e.g. between financial aid and graduation rates)	4.44	10	
Investment & Finance	Work with foundation office on divestment and form divestment committee	1.00	6	
Wellbeing & Work		3.59	7	
Innovation & Leadership	Improvement Opportunity	Achieved	Possible	4.25/4
Exemplary Practice & Innovation		4.25	4	



Comparisons to Other Institutions

In selecting institutions to compare ourselves to, we found only nine institutions that were also two-year institutions and had completed version 2.2 of the STARS report. PCC continues to rank favorably among all two year institutions and is still ranked #1 among two-year institutions within the United States.

Academics

PCC: 23.08/37, Peer Avg: 21.69

PCC continues to do well in the Academics category and received 23.08/37 or [62.37%](#) of the points that we opted into. PCC's curriculum offerings have remained relatively static. PCC currently offers 131/3600 sustainability focused courses and 230/3600 sustainability inclusive courses as defined by the AASHE STARS program. For the first time this year, PCC pursued a credit in immersive experience. In addition, PCC now offers two sustainability related focus awards, one in Sustainability and one in [Earth Sciences - Fluid Earth](#). A highlight for the college continues to be using the campus as a living laboratory. For example, PCC practices this concept through its four campuses learning gardens that classes, faculty, and staff utilize for hands-on education around organic and sustainable food production. Some of this produce is utilized by dining services in our cafeterias and donated to local food gleaning efforts, but the majority goes back to our students through our volunteer run farm stand at Rock Creek.

Engagement

PCC: 26.46/39, Peer Avg: 33.26

PCC continues to perform well in engagement, receiving 69.63% of the available points. In particular, PCC does well at offering a variety of opportunities to engage in sustainability for staff and students. These include ASPCC offerings developed by the designated campus Eco Social Justice Director/Sustainability Coordinators and student clubs. Both the Strategic Energy Management program and the ASPCC have recently hosted waste reduction campaigns such as "Take Back the Tap" and "Panther Print." Students played a critical role in creating a comprehensive Coca-Cola Swire beverage contract. The new pouring right contract encompasses a wide range of sustainability goals that the vendor will help PCC address over the ten year contract period, including replacing all plastic bottle products with aluminum (recycled content preferred), paper boxes and/or glass containers (in that order). PCC also collaborates with partners outside of PCC such as the Public Sector Sustainability Round Table, the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network, Partners for a Sustainable Washington County, the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council, the Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Consortium, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and America is All In. In addition, both students and staff are eligible to create sustainability projects through the student sponsored EcoSocial Justice Grant.

Operations

PCC: 39.28/70, Peer Avg: 21.69

PCC received 56.11% of the available points in the operations category, although in the past we've scored a higher percentage of the available points. This category includes points for green purchases and we get more points in years where we've built more LEED (or other green certified) buildings or purchased a higher percentage of green electronics. In other words, the flux of new projects and associated spending has a big influence on our score. Some credits in this category were scored differently than in past years. For example, in the past PCC claimed our green cleaning policy as part of an operations & maintenance certification; however, we are now unable to do that.

Highlights for PCC include PCC's plethora of sustainable dining options and the Rock Creek Environmental Environmental Studies Center. PCC continues to get solid credit for our greenhouse inventory, green building operations & maintenance, clean and renewable energy commitments and landscaping. Big opportunities for improvement include water conservation, electronics purchasing and building operations & maintenance. Many of the improvements require better collection and tracking; this shows up as a goal within PCC's 2021 Climate Action Plan. There are also a few items that remain untapped such as better data collection in food and beverage purchasing.

PCC scored fewer points under the Green Building Design and Construction metric in this category, due mostly to the fact that performance in this area is qualified by the amount of bond work that happens in the three-year tracking period. PCC could also do better by pursuing green building certification in the Buildings Operation & Maintenance category. (This credit has changed and in the past, partial credit was received for both our green cleaning policy and for energy benchmarking these buildings.)

The last few projects in the bond measure were smaller and were LEED silver, while those projects reported in the previous STARS report were larger and had higher ratings on average, meaning that PCC scored fewer points in this area than it has in the past.

PCC's 2021 Climate Action Plan recommends focusing on aspects of sustainable dining that prioritize sustainable food options and food justice over expenditures on tracking (which is what this credit does). PCC is providing feedback to the AASHE STARS committee about why this credit is so tricky for district community college dining services. Characteristics of these services are: decentralized and low volume, making it challenging to scale the investment in software that would make pursuing this credit worthwhile.

Planning & Administration

PCC: 16.16/32, Peer Avg: 17.07

PCC does consistently well in sustainability planning and coordination. The Sustainability Office efforts to collaborate with other offices to obtain relevant STARS data show both a consistent commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. In addition, it is clear that PCC's many data systems do not always play well together, making some of this data challenging or impossible to collect. Fortunately, the college's recent strategic plan mentions improvements to data gathering as a priority, which has the potential to improve our ability to collect data around support for underrepresented groups and affordability and access.

Innovation & Leadership

PCC: 4.24/4*, Peer Avg: 3.5

PCC continues to be a change agent and earned custom innovation points for PCC's 2021 Climate Action Plan, including Equity and Contracting and the inclusion of Social Justice, Equity and Climate Justice in Climate Action Planning in addition to earning more typical innovation points such as grounds certification and textbook affordability.

Resources

- [Alignment between the 2021 Climate Action Plan](#)
- [PCC CAP Website](#)
- [PCC's STARS Report](#)
- [PCC STARS 2.2 Credit Checklist 2020](#)
- [PSU STARS Plan Template](#)
- [SLC 10/20 Meeting Powerpoint](#)
- [STARS Feedback letter to AASHE 2021.11.1](#)