**Comparative Study on Peer Sustainability Programs & Commitments**

***Executive Summary***

*(For purposes of this analysis, Peer institutions are considered the fourteen Big 10 schools.)*

Climate Commitments *(Appendix A)*

Four institutions have signed the ACUPCC (American College and University President’s Climate Commitment), with varying levels of commitment and goal dates. Exact strategies to achieving their commitments are not clearly identified and an examination of efforts towards their goals indicates that there has not been much progress.

STARS Ratings *(Appendix B)*

Twelve institutions have completed the STARS inventory.

* 6 are at Gold
* 3 are at Silver
* 3 have expired ratings

Social Justice Programs & Attributes *(Appendix C)*

Social justice encompasses equitable access to:

* Healthcare
* Education (e. g. Bucky’s Promise)
* Food (e. g. Open Pantry program for food insecure students)
* Environmental Resources (e. g. clean air, water, access to natural spaces)

Social justice also incorporates the institution’s impact to supply chains, relationship with the host community and contributions to addressing human rights issues.

Environmental Programs & Attributes *(Appendix C)*

The environmental attributes of institutions are the most frequently used sustainability indicators due to the tangible metrics available, primarily in relation to energy consumption. Many rating & ranking systems employ these metrics and the UW-Madison will have validated data for comparison in the first quarter of 2019.

Economic Vitality Programs & Attributes *(Appendix D)*

Economic impact data is presented in multiple formats across the institutions. For purposes of sustainability, common metrics relate to investment protocols for the endowments of the institutions. The relative indicators include positive and negative investments, transparency, and committee oversight.

**Opportunities**

The UW-Madison has some of the strongest and most impactful social justice programming and research out of the Big 10. This is a highly under-reported area in higher education sustainability, yet it has the biggest impact to communities and is easy to relate to from an individual perspective. It is recommended that the UW-Madison take a proactive and assertive communications approach to highlight this work through the lens of campus sustainability.

There are numerous awards/certifications/recognitions that the UW-Madison is eligible for, and has the components in place to earn, which will provide some additional publicity and talking points to highlight existing programs.

***Special note:***April 22, 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of the creation of Earth Day. This is an extraordinary opportunity to highlight the contributions of the UW-Madison on the global stage.

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| **Appendix A - Climate Commitments through American College and University Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)** |  |
| **School** | **ACUPCC - Climate Commitment** | **ACUPCC - Carbon Commitment** | **ACUPCC - Resilience Commitment** | **Goal** | **Baseline** |  |
| **University of Michigan** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **Northwestern University** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **UW-Madison** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **U of I - Urbana-Champaign** | Signed 2016 |   |   | 15% by 2015 30% by 2020 | 2008 |  |
| **Penn State - University Park** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **The Ohio State University - Columbus** |   | Signed 2008 |   | 100% by 2050 | 2008 |  |
| **Michigan State** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **Purdue-West Lafayette** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **University of Minnesota - Twin Cities** |   | Signed 2008 |   | 29% by 2016 49% by 2021 100% by 2050 | 2008 |  |
| **Indiana University-Bloomington** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **University of Iowa** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **University of Nebraska** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **Rutgers University-New Brunswick** | No | No | No |   |   |  |
| **University of Maryland,College Park** |   | Signed 2007 |   | 15% by 2012 25% by 2015 50% by 2020 60% by 2025 100% by 2050 | 2005 |  |
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 |  | **Climate Commitment**The Climate Commitment integrates carbon neutrality with climate resilience and provides a systems approach to mitigating and adapting to a changing climate.**Carbon Commitment**The Carbon Commitment is focused on reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality as soon as possible.**Resilience Commitment**The Resilience Commitment is focused on climate adaptation and community capacity-building to deal with a changing climate and resulting extremes. |  |  |  |  |
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| **Appendix B – Sustainable Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS)** | **2019 US News Ranking** | **Year Founded** | **STARS Rating** | **Student Pop** | **U.S. News 2019 Reported Endowment** |
| Northwestern University | 10 | 1851 | Silver (2017) | 21,474 | 7.9 Billion |
| University of Michigan | 27 | 1817 | Gold (2018) | 46,002 | 10.8 Billion |
| U of I - Urbana-Champaign | 46 | 1867 | Gold (2017) | 48,216 | 1.8 Billion |
| UW-Madison | 49 | 1848 | None | 43,820 | 3.8 Billion |
| The Ohio State University - Columbus | 56 | 1870 | Gold (2016) | 59,837 | 4.2 Billion |
| Purdue | 56 | 1869 | Expired (Silver 2013) | 41,573 | 2.3 Billion |
| Rutgers University-New Brunswick | 56 | 1766 | None | 49,577 | 985.5 million |
| Penn State - University Park | 59 | 1855 | Gold (2017) | 47,119 | 2.0 Billion |
| University of Maryland,College Park | 63 | 1856 | Expired (Gold) | 40,521 | 548.7 million |
| University of Minnesota | 76 | 1851 | Gold (2015) | 51,848 | 3.3 Billion |
| Michigan State | 85 | 1855 | Silver (2016) | 50,019 | 3.1 Billion |
| Indiana University-Bloomington | 89 | 1820 | Gold (2018) | 43,710 | 1.1 Billion |
| University of Iowa | 89 | 1847 | Expired (Gold) | 32,166 | 1.4 Billion |
| University of Nebraska | 129 | 1869 | Silver (2018) | 26,079 | 958 Million |

**Appendix C – Sustainability Indicators, Peer Participation Inventory**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | ACUPCC | Tree Campus | Bike Friendly University | Princeton Review - Green Schools | Sierra Club Cool Schools | Sustainable Endowments - 2011 Report  | Fair Labor Association  | Worker's Rights Consortium | Carnegie Community Engagement Designation | Campus Compact | NSLVE |
| **School** |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| University of Michigan-Ann Arbor | No | Yes | Silver | Yes | #69 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Northwestern University | No | Yes | Silver | Yes | #118 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| **UW-Madison** | **No** | **No** | **Gold** | **No** | **No** | **Yes** | **No** | **Yes** | **2008, 2015** | **Yes** | **Yes** |
| U of I - Urbana-Champaign | Yes - Climate | Yes | Bronze | Yes | #92 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Penn State - University Park | No | Yes | Silver | Yes | #62 | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2008, 2015 | No | Yes |
| The Ohio State University - Columbus | Yes - Carbon | Yes | Bronze | Yes | #54 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Michigan State | No | Yes | Silver | Yes | #157 | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2006, 2015 | Yes | Yes |
| Purdue-West Lafayette | No | Yes | Silver | Yes |   | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2008, 2015 | Yes | Yes |
| University of Minnesota-Twin Cities | Yes - Carbon | No | No | Yes | #112 | Yes | No | Yes | 2006, 2015 | Yes | Yes |
| Indiana University-Bloomington | No | Yes | Silver | Yes | #41 | Yes | No | Yes | 2010 | Yes | Yes |
| University of Iowa | No | Yes | Silver | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2015 | Yes | Yes |
| University of Nebraska -Lincoln | No | Yes | Silver | Yes | #152 | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Yes |
| Rutgers University-New Brunswick | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes | Yes | 2010 | No | Yes |
| School | ACUPCC | Tree Campus | Bike Friendly University | Princeton Review - Green Schools | Sierra Club Cool Schools | Sustainable Endowments - 2011 Report  | Fair Labor Association  | Worker's Rights Consortium | Carnegie Community Engagement Designation | Campus Compact | NSLVE |
| University of Maryland,College Park | Yes - Carbon | Yes | Gold | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Carnegie Community Engagement - https://www.brown.edu//swearer/sites/swearer2/files/2010\_and\_2015\_CE\_Classified\_Institutions.pdf |
| Bike Friendly University - https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFU\_Award\_List\_2018\_ALL.pdf?utm\_source=Media&utm\_campaign=0f1a9ab4ac-EMAIL\_CAMPAIGN\_2017\_04\_05\_COPY\_01&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_92e0c078fd-0f1a9ab4ac-  |
| Campus Compact - https://compact.org/who-we-are/our-coalition/members/ |
| Sustainable Endowments - http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2011.html |
| Princeton Review Guide to Green Schools - https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings?rankings=green-colleges&page=10 |
| NSLVE (National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement) - https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve |
| Sierra Club Cool Schools - https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/cool-schools-2018/cool-schools-2018-full-ranking |

**Appendix D – STARS Endowment Indicators. Planning and Administration Credits (PA)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Big 10 Schools**  | **2019 US News Ranking** | **STARS Rating** |  **Student Pop**  | **U.S. News 2019 Reported Endowment** |  **STARS Reported Endowment**  | **PA 8 Committee on Investor Responsibility** | **PA 9 Sustainable Investment** |  **PA 10 Investment Disclosure**  |  **Total Investment & Finance Credits**  |
| Northwestern University | 10 | Silver (2017) |  21,474  | 7.9 Billion |  $ 9,804,000,000  | 2/2 | 1.07/4 | 0/0 |  3.07 out of 7  |
| University of Michigan | 27 | Gold (2018) |  46,002  | 10.8 Billion |  $ 10,900,000,000  | Not Pursuing | Not Pursuing | Not Pursuing |  0 out of 7  |
| U of I - Urbana-Champaign | 46 | Gold (2017) |  48,216  | 1.8 Billion |  $ 3,231,000,000  | 0/2 | .07/4 | 1/1 |  1.07 out of 7  |
| UW-Madison | 49 | None |  43,820  | 3.8 Billion |   |   |   |   |   |
| The Ohio State University - Columbus | 56 | Gold (2016) |  59,837  | 4.2 Billion |  $ 3,600,000,000  | Not Pursuing | 1.68/4 | 0/1 |  1.68 out of 7  |
| Purdue | 56 | Expired (Silver 2013) |  41,573  | 2.3 Billion |  n/a  | n/a | n/a | n/a |   |
| Rutgers University-New Brunswick | 56 | None |  49,577  | 985.5 million |  n/a  | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Penn State - University Park | 59 | Gold (2017) |  47,119  | 2.0 Billion |  $ 3,742,900,000  | Not Pursuing | .84/4 | 0/1 |  .84 out of 7  |
| University of Maryland,College Park | 63 | Expired (Gold) |  40,521  | 548.7 million |  n/a  | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| University of Minnesota | 76 | Gold (2015) |  51,848  | 3.3 Billion |  $ 3,164,000,000  | 2/2 | .92/4 | 0/1 |  2.92 out of 7  |
| Michigan State | 85 | Silver (2016) |  50,019  | 3.1 Billion |  $ 2,145,424,187  | Not Pursuing | Not Pursuing | 1/1 |  1 out of 7  |
| Indiana University-Bloomington | 89 | Gold (2018) |  43,710  | 1.1 Billion |  $ 1,986,646,000  | Not Pursuing | .13/4 | Not Pursuing |  .13 out of 7  |
| University of Iowa | 89 | Expired (Gold) |  32,166  | 1.4 Billion |  n/a  | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| University of Nebraska | 129 | Silver (2018) |  26,079  | 958 Million |  $ 1,475,000,000  | Not Pursuing | Not Pursuing | Not Pursuing |  0 out of 7  |