



STARS Stakeholder Engagement Breakfast



October 8, 2021

Event Summary and Takeaways December 2021

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EVENT SUMMARY

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education. In our most recent submission, completed in June 2021, the university received 60.89 points and earned a Silver rating. Our STARS submission is [publicly available](#).



A STARS submission process is most valuable when used as a vehicle for stakeholder engagement. We consider our stakeholders to be both students and staff, but we felt that staff are most equipped to enact specific policy changes across campus. While staff campus-wide were involved in data collection for STARS, the Sustainability team wanted to take the next step to engage them in identifying areas for further sustainability victories within their departments.

On October 8th, 2021, the Office of Sustainability brought together university staff from three different areas: Campus Dining, Facilities Services, and representatives from across campus who are currently working to address diversity & inclusion more fully. The stakeholder event was well attended and productive; Twenty UM staff members discussed sustainability challenges in their areas of expertise. (A list of attendees by table is presented on [Page 3](#), and a more detailed list of attendees and staff positions is presented on [Page 6](#).)

After an initial discussion of the importance of STARS and our scores led by Sustainability Director Eva Rocke, we broke into discussion groups based on sustainability topic. With a facilitator, each team was tasked with reviewing the STARS credits applicable to their group and identifying next steps that will earn UM additional points within the STARS credits related to their areas of expertise. A summary of the discussion from the Sustainable Purchasing table is provided on [Page 5](#).

Each table then chose a presenter to share key findings from their discussion. Staff identified specific sustainability projects their teams had already begun or will address in the coming months. The author would like to extend gratitude to the attendees who all took time out of their busy schedules to engage in thoughtful discussions.

ATTENDEES BY TABLE

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING

Rich Huffman
Ray Merseal
Colton Buford
Anastasia Orkwiszewski
Laura Grandlund
Brian Heddleston
Dan Spencer
Sam Gilbertson

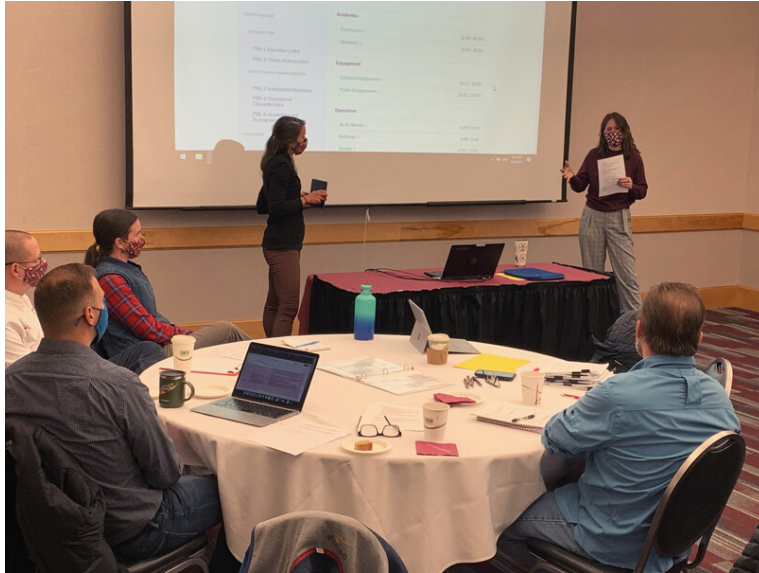
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Kelly Webster
Salena Beaumont Hill
Brian Reed
Wilena Old Person
Devin Carpenter
Madeline Jones

BUILDING OPERATIONS

Paul Trumbley
Jameel Chaudhry
Kim Nielsen
Bob Smith
Connor Stahly
Eva Rocke

KEY TAKEAWAYS



- Attendees were open to making actionable policy changes in their departments to increase STARS scores and meet sustainability targets.
- Discussions from the event led to recommendations further detailed in the STARS Roadmap, (a document designed to identify point opportunities for the STARS 2024 submission):
 - DEI: The Diversity Advisory Council is working on a detailed annual assessment to accurately measure diversity in enrollment statistics.
 - Building Operations: With future projects, employees will begin asking contractors to track and report their landfilled waste for all construction projects.
 - Sustainable Purchasing: The UM Dining Team has hired a student intern to begin a company-by-company vendor analysis to identify opportunities to purchase more organic and locally-sourced food.
- Office of Sustainability follow-up with attendees in early 2022 would help to solidify progress towards identified goals.
- The author recommends a similar stakeholder event be held again in the Summer of 2022 to review goals for the following school year. Future events during the school year could also seek involvement from selected student leaders in sustainability.

Appendix A:

Notes from Sustainable Purchasing Discussion

October 8, 2021

Values discussion

- The importance of buying local food but ensuring those vendors are sustainable/ ethical
- How do we buy local but keep our values?
- Weighing local vendors vs larger (but certified) vendors
- Fulfilling the fiduciary responsibility to the University vs. meeting STARS criteria; availability and cost comes first

Vendor evaluation

- Company by company analysis – contacting & evaluating each company and brand and making individual decisions
- Opportunity for a student intern?
- Adding these certifications into the procurement criteria as a consideration when evaluating vendors
- Reach out to DairyGold and other vendors to find out if they're paying attention to this and to change their practices
- Just asking those questions gets those vendors to think about these issues

Specific purchasing policies

- Focus on the procurement of local multi-ingredient products that have 50% or more of the ingredients coming locally
- Maximize the amount spent with local food hubs as those dollars apply with little itemization
- Finding smaller products that we could buy locally (keeping an updated spreadsheet with price comparisons)
- Identify those products and identify across the board purchasing changes for bulk items (oats, eggs, legumes)
- Come up with a set of guidelines: if X organic item is X% more expensive, buy organic - need info at hand when you're ordering.
- Need to create a pricing spreadsheet.
 - Another student internship opportunity?

Future Projects

- Invest in growing space
- More staff to produce larger quantities of food
 - Seek Kless (KRELF) funding?
 - Missoula College: using their farmland near Fort Missoula
- Invest in a high value crop that could be grown indoors (duck eggs, herbs)
- Set a points goal (3 points) for 2024
- Conduct a vendor-by-vendor analysis

Appendix B: Detailed Attendee List

Name	Department	Title	Table/Topic
Bob Smith	Facilities Services	Director of Facilities Services	Building Operations
Paul Trumbley	Facilities Services	Associate Director of Engineering & Utilities	Building Operations
Jameel Chaudhry	Facilities Services	Associate Director of Planning, Design & Construction	Building Operations
Kim Nielsen	Facilities Services	CADD Technician	Building Operations
Connor Stahly	Facilities Services	Project Manager	Building Operations
Eva Rocke	Office of Sustainability	Sustainability Director	Building Operations
Rich Huffman	Campus Dining	Director	Sustainable Purchasing
Ray Merseal	Campus Dining	Manager	Sustainable Purchasing
Colton Buford	Campus Dining	Manager, UM Catering	Sustainable Purchasing
Anastasia Orkwiszewski	Campus Dining	Garden Manager	Sustainable Purchasing
Laura Grandlund	Campus Dining	Registered Dietitian	Sustainable Purchasing
Brian Heddleston	Campus Dining	Executive Chef	Sustainable Purchasing
Dan Spencer	Environmental Studies	Professor	Sustainable Purchasing
Sam Gilbertson	Office of Sustainability	Sustainability Intern	Sustainable Purchasing
Kelly Webster	President's Office	Chief of Staff	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Salena Beaumont Hill	Vice Provost Student Success Admn.	Director of Inclusive Excellence	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Brian Reed	Vice Provost Student Success Admn.	Associate Vice President, Student Success	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Wilena Old Person	College of Health	Program Coordinator	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Devin Carpenter	Vice Provost Student Success Admn.	Director of New Student Success	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Madeline Jones	Office of Sustainability	ASUM Sustainability Coordinator	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion