



% Faculty Engaged in Sustainability Research – Vancouver Campus

	Vancouver	
	2011/12	2014
% faculty engaged in sustainability research	14.5%	tbc

Benchmark

UBC has established a baseline for performance based on a benchmarking exercise that compared UBC’s performance with some of its North American peers. This analysis was undertaken by reviewing the most recent data posted on the STARS database (a transparent, self-reporting framework for post-secondary institutions to gauge progress in sustainability).

The analysis indicates that, out of 30 Doctorate universities that share a STARS Gold rating with UBC (including ASU, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Emory, Georgia Tech, UCSD, University of Washington, and others), 24 had a higher percentage of faculty engaged in sustainability research than UBC, ranging from 15.1% to 25% (the maximum value possible), and six had a lower percentage than UBC. The average performance was 18.9%. While UBC was the only Canadian university on the list of Doctorate universities that achieved a STARS Gold rating, based on the achievements of our US peers, this is an area in which there exists significant potential for UBC to improve its performance in the future.

Description

Conducting research is a major function of post-secondary education organizations. By conducting research into sustainability issues and by refining theories and concepts, higher education institutions help advance the understanding of sustainability challenges and contribute to the development of new processes, strategies and technologies that address those challenges.

The total number of faculty members at the UBC Vancouver campus in August 2011 was 2096. The total number of faculty members engaged in sustainability research was 304. This results in a percentage of 14.5%

Person with lead responsibility for this metric: Associate Director, USI/CIRS
Data collection will be from: STARS submission
Date: April 1 to March 31 (collected every 3 years)

Explanation of Results

Roughly one in seven faculty members are currently engaged in research projects that address sustainability issues. This is a growing area of research interest at UBC; we can expect future numbers to reflect this fact. On 2013-2014, UBC will reassess this area as we prepare for a new STARS submission. A benchmarking analysis on this subject has been completed to understand how UBC compares with some of its North American peers.

Recommended Action:

In 2013, the USI through its Research and Partnerships Fellows will start a more direct process of faculty member engagement in sustainability research and partnership opportunities. The expectation is that this will result in increases in the number of faculty members engaged in sustainability research at the UBC Vancouver campus.