From STARS to STAR Communities: Helping Cities Track Sustainability Performance

March 31, 2015
Smart & Sustainable Campuses Conference
Presenters

Mieko A. Ozeki
Sustainability Projects Coordinator at UVM

Daniel V. Baker ‘15
UVM Student & STAR Intern

Alex Helling
UVM Grad Student & STAR Grad Intern
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<tr>
<th>ACADEMICS (AC)</th>
<th>ENGAGEMENT (EN)</th>
<th>OPERATIONS (OP)</th>
<th>PLANNING &amp; ADMIN. (PA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>Campus Engagement</td>
<td>Air &amp; Climate</td>
<td>Coordination, Planning &amp; Governance</td>
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<td>AC 1: Academic Courses</td>
<td>EN 1: Student Educators Program</td>
<td>• OP 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions</td>
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<td>EN 11: Continuing Education*</td>
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<td>EN 12: Community Service</td>
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<td>EN 13: Community Stakeholder Engagement</td>
<td>• OP 5: Indoor Air Quality</td>
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<td>EN 14: Participation in Public Policy</td>
<td>• OP 6: Food and Beverage Purchasing*</td>
<td>• PA 13: Committee on Investor Responsibility*</td>
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<td>EN 15: Trademark Licensing*</td>
<td>• OP 7: Low Impact Design*</td>
<td>• PA 14: Sustainable Investment*</td>
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<td>EN 16: Hospital Network*</td>
<td>• OP 8: Building Energy Consumption</td>
<td>• PA 15: Investment Disclosure*</td>
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</table>

**Table: Built Environment, Climate & Energy, Economy & Jobs, Education, Arts & Community, Equity & Empowerment, Health & Safety, Natural Systems**

- Ambient Noise & Light
- Climate Adaptation
- Business Retention & Development
- Arts & Culture
- Civic Engagement
- Active Living
- Green Infrastructure
- Community Water Systems
- Greenhouse Gas Mitigation
- Green Market Development
- Community Cohesion
- Civil & Human Rights
- Community Health & Health System
- Invasive Species
- Compact & Complete Communities
- Greening the Energy Supply
- Local Economy
- Educational Opportunity & Attainment
- Environmental Justice
- Emergency Prevention & Attainment
- Natural Resource Protection
- Housing Affordability
- Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency
- Quality Jobs & Living Wages
- Historic Preservation
- Equitable Services & Access
- Food Access & Nutrition
- Outdoor Air Quality
- Infill & Redevelopment
- Resource Efficient Buildings
- Targeted Industry Development
- Social & Cultural Diversity
- Human Services
- Indoor Air Quality
- Water in the Environment
- Public Spaces
- Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure
- Workforce Readiness
- Poverty Prevention & Alleviation
- Natural & Human Hazards
- Working Lands
- Transportation Choices
- Waste Minimization
- Safe Communities
## Differences & Similarities Between Performance Metrics

### Differences
- Scale
- Data Sources and Categories
- Submission Review Process
- Obstacles to Completion

### Similarities
- Online reporting tool
- Two-tiered structure
  - Quantitative and Qualitative
- Comprehensive suite of sustainability related data
- Strategies for Success
Differences

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City Wide Sustainability Partnership

- Higher Education
- Local Government
- Commerce
- Health Care

Burlington Sustainability Partnership
Community - Campus Partnership

- University of Vermont
- City of Burlington
- C.C. Regional Planning Commission

STAR Communities
Collaboration Structure

University of Vermont

City of Burlington

STAR Communities

C.C. Regional Planning Commission

Money

Time
Burlington Vermont STAR Project

Started: May 2014

Stakeholders involved:

1. BSP members
2. BTV Sustainability Coordinator, Senior Planner from CCRPC
3. One high school intern
4. Three undergraduate interns
5. One graduate intern
6. Data holders (Citywide)

Time Involved (Supervisory 164: Undergraduate Intern: 1313, Graduate intern: 330)

1. Monthly BSP check-ins
2. Monthly supervisory meetings, followed by weekly meetings, plus ave. 3 hours a week (2 staff) (132 hours)
3. 2.5 hours weekly for three months (31.5 hours)
4. 30 hours a week for two-three months in summer (3 interns), 10 hours a week for fall semester (1) (1282 hours)
5. 10 hours a week for duration (330 total hours)
6. Variable
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What Happened?

**Successes**
- Collaborative network
- Educational components
- Town-Gown relationship
- All outcomes addressed
- We finished!
  - Submitted January 15, 2015
  - Data verified: March 2015
  - Revisions expected: April 1, 2015

**Obstacles**
- Organization/Communication
- Learning Curve for Interns
- Response Rates
- Social Sustainability Data
- Upper Level Support
- Time spent and Time constraints
- Unaddressed Data (actions)
Lessons Learned

**Organization/Communication**

**Response Rates**

**Learning Curve for Interns**

**Social Sustainability Data**
Lessons Learned

Upper Level Support

Time spent and Time constraints

Unaddressed Data
Jennifer Green
Burlington Sustainability Coordinator

https://youtu.be/OwT1sgtPLFU
Moving Forward - Create Outreach and Marketing

- A Shared Priority
Thank you!