



FURMAN

THE SHI INSTITUTE FOR  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



stars®  
a program of aashe

# 2024 Performance Insights



STARS 3.0

# Table of Contents

01	<u>What is STARS?</u> .....	3
02	<u>2024 STARS At A Glance</u> .....	4
03	<u>Where does Furman excel?</u> .....	5
04	<u>Opportunities for improvement</u> .....	6
05	<u>Looking ahead</u> .....	9

# What is STARS?



## The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System

A transparent, self reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS is a program of the Association for Advancing Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).



## Four Categories

1

Academics



2

Engagement



3

Operations



4

Planning & Administration



## Process

1. Identify objectives to pursue within each category
2. Collect data from stakeholders across campus
3. Organize data into categories
4. Document data in the STARS Reporting Tool
5. Complete a review process
6. Receive your scored report

## Furman Rating

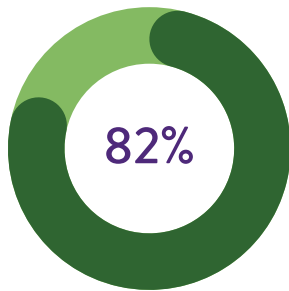


Since 2015

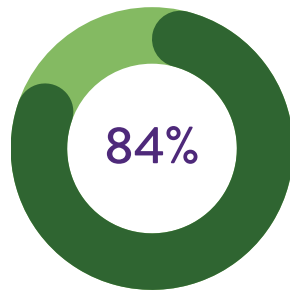
# 2024 STARS Report At A Glance

## Category Assessment

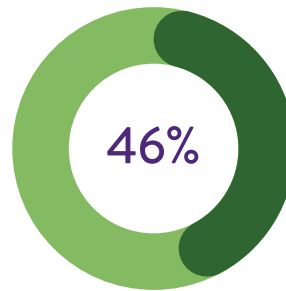
Possible Points Received



**Academics**



**Engagement**



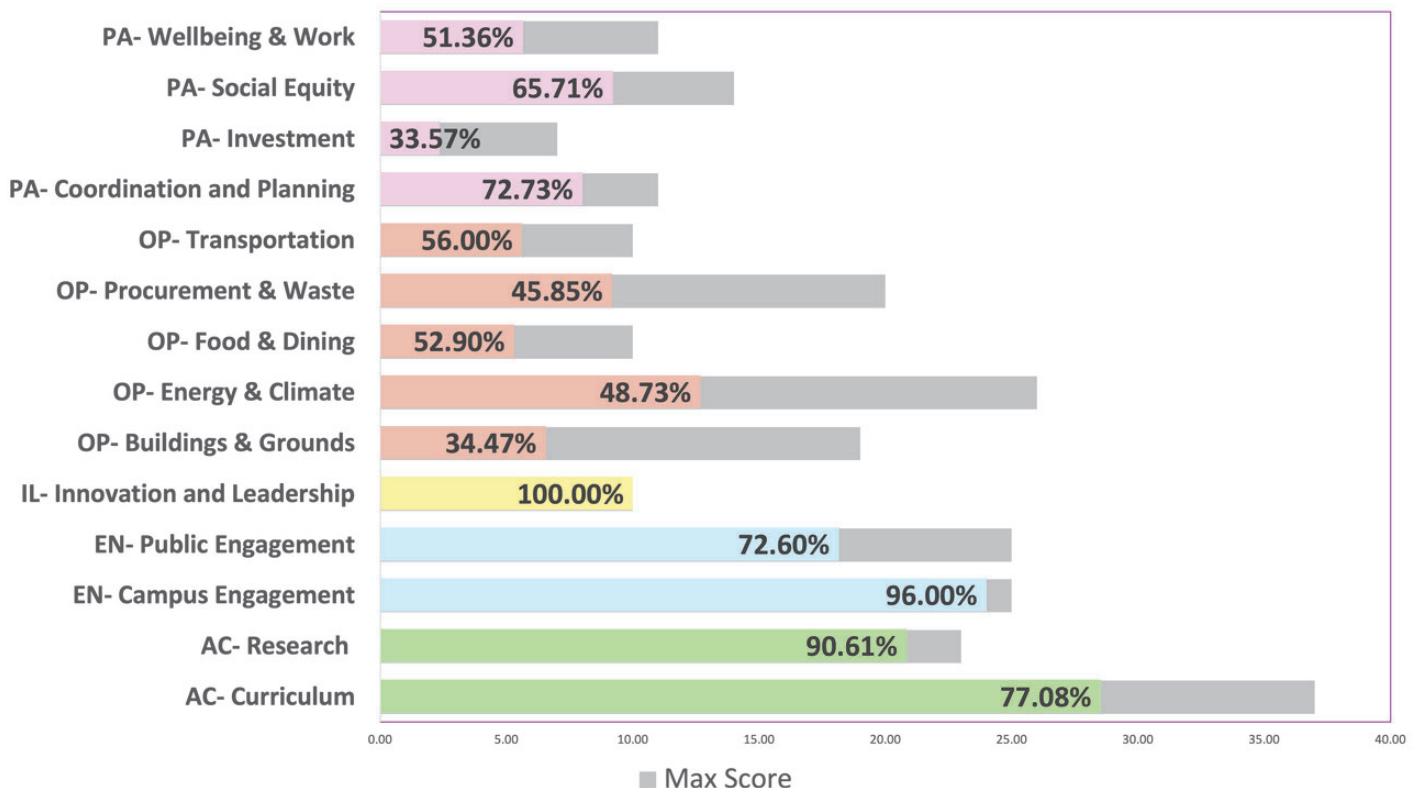
**Operations**



**Planning & Admin.**

## Category Breakdown

Furman excels in both the Academics and Engagement categories, capturing over 80% of possible points. Operations and Planning & Administration have the most opportunity for improvement, with Investment, Buildings & Grounds and Procurement & Waste showing the largest point gaps, as seen below.



# Where Does Furman Excel?



## Academics

82.3%

- Support for sustainability-based curriculum
- Sustainability-based learning outcomes
- Sustainability-based engaged learning experiences
  - Shi Institute fellowships
  - Research

## Engagement

84.3%

- Strong sustainability presence and outreach on campus
- Student opportunities
  - Programs
  - Jobs
- Staff programs for education, training and outreach
- Off-campus sustainability partnerships



# Opportunities for Improvement

## Operations

46%

54% of points still available

### Buildings & Grounds → Efficiency, Water Use, Upkeep



Set consistent temperature guidelines for buildings across campus.



Set green building standards for all new construction, renovations and building operations.

### Energy & Climate → Investment in Renewables, Efficiency



Develop proactive maintenance and building optimization protocols to meet energy efficiency targets.



Expand on-campus solar and other forms of renewable energy generation.

### Food & Dining → Sourcing Sustainably



Align Furman's food purchasing policy with Bon Appétit's sourcing standards to source more local food.

# Opportunities for Improvement

## Operations

46%

54% of points still available

### Purchasing & Waste —————> Socially Responsible Sourcing



Include sustainability language in purchasing and procurement guidelines and contracts.

### Transportation —————> Employee Commuting, Vehicle Fleet



Transition campus fleet vehicles from gas/diesel to electric.



Incentivize sustainable employee commuting and expand remote work options.



# Opportunities for Improvement

## Planning

58%

42% of points still available

### Sustainable Investment —————> Divestment & Investing



Phase out fossil fuel investment & increase investment in renewable energy.



Improve transparency in investment holdings.

### Pay Equity & Living Wage —————> Formal Commitments



Become a certified living wage employer.

# Looking Ahead

## Path to STARS Platinum

### Top-Down: Administrative Leadership

Embed in Vision: Include STARS sustainability goals in Furman's FUture Focused Strategic Plan.

Policy & Oversight: Expand the Climate Action Plan 2.0 Team as the driving sustainability committee.

Investment & Infrastructure: Dedicate funding for infrastructure upgrades and investment in sustainable energy and purchasing.

### Bottom-Up: Student & Community Engagement

Academic Engagement: Increase student engagement in courses with sustainability content.

Student Groups: EAG, EcoReps & more - Students lead in advocacy, education, and climate action.

Cross-Campus Involvement: Increase sustainability campus partnerships.

Student Voice & Ideas: Provide a space for students to voice concerns and ideas for Furman's climate action.