

2-19-2014

Bright STARS

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Recommended Citation

"Bright STARS" (2014). *News Releases*. 2877.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/2877

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Bright STARS

02.19.2014 | Energy and Environment, Campus and Community, Hot Topics

The University of Dayton earned a STARS silver rating in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) for its sustainability achievements. STARS measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education.

The University earned positive marks for its curricular education, innovation, grounds, coordination and planning, diversity and affordability, and sustainability policies in human resources, such as employee wellness programs and options for socially responsible investing in retirement. The full report is available .

"Sustainability isn't just a trend or 'fad' on this campus; it is undeniably part of our mission," University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran said. "As a Marianist Catholic institution, the values of Catholic social teaching are infused throughout life at our University. As such, we feel a calling to develop solutions that will make us better stewards of God's creation, and to share those solutions with others to create a more peaceful and just world."

The University received a bronze rating in 2011 after implementing initiatives that provided report cards to students showing energy use, diverted more than 1,000 tons of recyclable and compost material from landfills and reduced natural gas and electric energy use. The University reduced energy use by upgrading lighting systems, removing lights without compromising brightness, installing occupancy sensors, closing buildings rarely used during the summer, and programming thermostats and heating and cooling systems to optimize savings.

Since receiving the bronze rating, Curran signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, committing the University to being carbon neutral. The University is updating an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and will develop a plan to become carbon neutral by 2050.

The University also joined a regional initiative to build a culture of sustainability in the Dayton community and reduce the region's carbon footprint through energy efficiency.

The University also constructed its first green buildings. The \$53 million GE Aviation Electrical Power Integrated Systems Center that opened last summer is the University's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified (LEED) building. Five new houses in the student neighborhoods are certified as green buildings under the National Association of Homebuilders national green building standard.

Honors for sustainability are common for the University. It also is on The Princeton Review's *Guide to 322 Green Colleges*.

Find more information about the University of Dayton's sustainability efforts on the Learn. Lead. ConServe. website in the related links.

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