UIC Office of Sustainability
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

State of Sustainability

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
Biennial Report 2010

Prepared by the Office of Sustainability,
University of Illinois at Chicago
February 2011

SIGNATORY OF
AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS' CLIMATE COMMITMENT

AASHE MEMBER

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Executive Summary

This report on the State of Sustainability at UIC is based on UIC's submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS) version 1.0, of which UIC is a Charter Participant. UIC elected to participate in STARS because it is a transparent, self-reporting framework that measures progress and provides a means to benchmark that progress against other similar institutions. This report describes UIC's sustainability achievements and challenges in the three STARS categories. The full report is available on the STARS website. UIC is rated at the Bronze level with a score of 39.1 out of 100. Keys successes and achievements within the past two years, broken out by STARS categories, include:

Education and Research (38.61% of credits achieved in this category)

- The Provost, along with the Colleges of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Engineering, supported a new faculty hire and created an Energy Council with the mission of "campus-wide coordination of energy and related activities, including research, curriculum, policy and events"
- The Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research has identified three proposed UIC Research/Scholarly Themes, two of which have strong sustainability connections–Community Disparities (Population Health, Successful Lives, STEM education, Social Justices, Educational and Economic Disparities)); and Urban Resilience and the Global Environment (Global Change, Infrastructure, Sustainability).

Operations (23.78% of credits achieved in this category)

- UIC was recognized for its first certified green building – Lincoln Hall – which received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) NC Gold certification.
- UIC has reduced its total energy consumption for heating and cooling, electricity and gas for other uses in buildings by 15% since 2004, while growing the physical campus footprint by 11% (nearly 1.5 million gross square feet).
- 23 state buildings (70% of the space) have electronic, real-time metered for electricity, heating and cooling; we are now able to collect baseline building level data for future analysis and planning.
- Our recycling rate, 40% in 2010, nearly doubled since 2008 with expansion of the full program into the hospital and five additional state buildings.

Planning, Administration and Engagement (54.91% of credits achieved in this category)

- UIC has three major plans that incorporate aspects of sustainability: The UIC Strategic Plan, The UIC Master Plan and the UIC Climate Action Plan.
- The campus-level Diversity Strategic Thinking and Planning Committee has been engaged in Diversity Strategic Planning for the past 18 months. This builds upon the existing infrastructure of six Chancellor-sponsored committees focused on diversity and the Office of Access and Equity oversees programs that increase access to employment and provide an environment free from discrimination.
- UIC's Office of Sustainability has partnered with the Chicago Department of Environment on its Climate Action Plan, the Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning on its 2040 Plan. It also collaborates with local, state, regional, and national groups of higher education sustainability professionals to share best practices.

Defining Sustainability:

By extension of the definition of sustainable development from the Brundtland Report (1987), sustainability in general can be defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. A sustainable university, as defined by Velazquez et al (2006), is "a higher educational institution that addresses, involves and promotes, on a regional or a global level, the minimization of negative environmental, economic, societal, and health effects generated in the use of their resources in order to fulfill its functions of teaching, research, outreach and partnership, and stewardship in ways to help society make the transition to sustainable lifestyles."

World Commission on Environment and Development Report, Our Common Future, the Brundtland Report (1987)

L. Velazquez, N. Munguia, A. Platt and J. Taddei, Sustainable University: What Can Be the Matter? Journal of Cleaner Production, 14 (2006) 810-819.

Vision:

The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to environmental sustainability in all aspects of its mission and will challenge itself to consistently perform all of its functions in the most sustainable ways.

Mission:

The University of Illinois at Chicago, as part of the local and global community, strives to be a responsible steward of the environment. As such, UIC seeks to minimize its environmental impact both now and in the future, consistent with the financial and social viability of the institution and the relevance of its academic programs. Through its academics, research and operations UIC will create a campus environment in which sustainable practices and policies are visible and evident to all.

Approved by UIC Faculty Senate, April 22, 2010 or Chancellors Committee on Sustainability and Energy, 2008

Background

UIC has a history of striving to integrate sustainability into all our operations. In the mid-1990s, the UIC Recycling Program was established, followed by the institution of the public transit U-PASS for students in the early 2000s, and the current energy conservation and renewable energy initiatives. From the 1990s and into the early 2000s, an informal Green Campus Council planned annual programming in celebration of Earth Day, brought in high profile sustainability-related speakers, partnered in a transportation symposium, and supported the recycling program.

UIC initiated interdisciplinary work in environmental sustainability with the founding of the Institute for Environmental Science and Policy in 2002. This was followed by the establishment of the Office of Sustainability (see sidebar next page) and the Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability and Energy in 2008. Also since 2008, the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum has operated an organic heirloom vegetable farm and stimulated discussion about sustainable food systems, specifically through its weekly *Rethinking Soup* forums. A cross-disciplinary faculty member in the area of sustainable energy was hired in Fall 2010 to further advance research and education in sustainability across our campus. Also during Fall 2010, Physical Plant and the Mechanical Engineering Department collaborated on an energy auditing course, where a campus facility was audited by the students. In a related area, the campus has been working on UIC's Diversity Strategic Plan which will be released in the coming year.

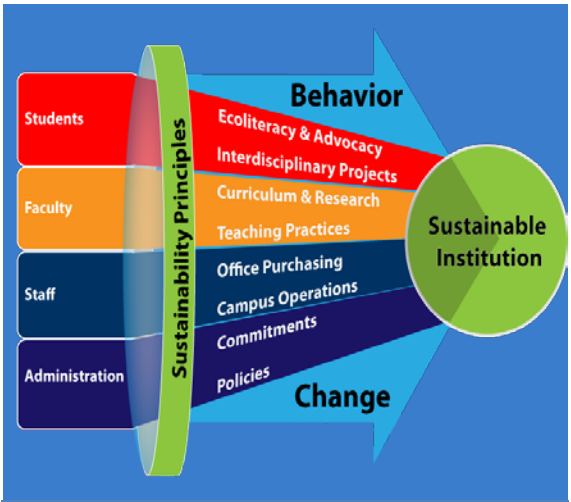
UIC's recent Chancellors have demonstrated their commitment to making UIC a more sustainable institution by making UIC signatory to:

- The Talloires Agreement (an international agreement)
- The American College and University President's Climate Commitment (a nationwide commitment)
- The Illinois Sustainable Campuses Compact

On the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2010, the UIC Faculty Senate approved the Campus Sustainability Statement (see sidebar).

In 2008, UIC participated as a pilot institution for an evaluation tool developed by Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) called the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). The first report on sustainability prepared by the Office of Sustainability was based on the STARS data collected during the pilot study.

This report on the State of Sustainability at UIC is based on UIC's submission as a STARS Charter Participant (version 1.0). UIC elected to participate in STARS because it is a transparent, self-reporting framework to measure our progress toward sustainability and will provide a means to benchmark that progress against other similar institutions. In addition, this report highlights campus sustainability accomplishments as well as challenges to meet its sustainability goals.



The Office of Sustainability's Role

The Office of Sustainability examines and focuses the activities of students, faculty, staff and the administration through a lens of sustainability principles. These activities, from ecoliteracy and advocacy to operations and policies ultimately move the entire campus toward our sustainability benchmarks. goals. Overall, this process requires behavioral changes at all levels across the institution.; the Office of Sustainability facilitates this. For our campus to truly become sustainable we must change the way we evaluate and make decisions across the institution. The real measure of success, however, will be if matriculated students make decisions and take actions in their careers and personal lives that are informed by their potential environmental, social, and economic impacts.

Scoring and Ratings

The act of participating in STARS, gathering the data, and making it available publicly is worthy of recognition in and of itself. There are five levels of STARS Ratings based on the scoring in the three major categories described below, with each category contributing about 1/3 of the points, and an additional 4 points of innovation credits that may be claimed. UIC achieved the Bronze level with a score of 39.1 (25 minimum required). The next level is Silver, requiring a score of 45. A score of 65 merits a Silver rating, and the top rating of Platinum requires 85 points. Ratings are in effect for three years, however institutions can update as often as once per year. The boxes titled "Future STARS Challenge" indicate areas where UIC is poised to gain more credits and should consider programs to fulfill those requirements.

Credits

Each credit in the system is an indicator of higher environmental, social, and/or economic performance by colleges and universities. STARS is intended to primarily rank performance over strategy and therefore uses quantitative metrics as much as possible. Strategy credits highlight approaches or processes that can improve an institution's performance. The credits also distinguish between Tier One credits that are worth one or more points and Tier Two credits that are worth 0.25 points. Tier Two credits recognize strategies that merit recognition, but tend to either have a smaller impact than Tier One or promote strategies whose benefits are already captured by a Tier One performance credit.

This report describes UIC's sustainability achievements and challenges in the framework of the STARS categories

- Education and research
- Operations
- Planning, Administration & Engagement

New Future STARS Challenges:

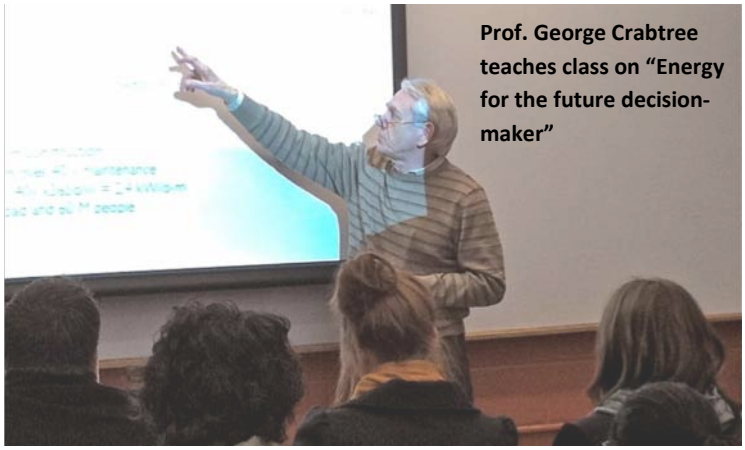
1. Create a Student Sustainability Educators Program as a peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education program for degree-seeking students.
2. Define Sustainability Learning Outcomes for degree programs. The more students that graduate from programs that have adopted at least one sustainability learning outcome, the more points are earned.
3. Develop incentives for developing new sustainability courses or integrating sustainability into existing ones.

Education and Research Credits

Educating students and conducting research are the primary functions of higher education institutions like UIC, and universities will make the largest contributions to sustainability through these activities. UIC achieved 39% of the points in this area.

Co-Curricular Education credits encompass learning experiences outside the formal curriculum. These experiences provide students and the broader campus community an opportunity to deepen their understanding of sustainability issues through informal events, lectures, campus media, and new student orientation.

UIC obtained all the Tier One credits in this area except for one. UIC participates in at least one outreach campaign annually, Recyclemania, a national recycling competition among colleges and universities. In 2009 and 2010, a benchmark level was established. For Recyclemania 2011, UIC is participating at the competitor level and the final results will be known in April 2011. The Office of Sustainability participated in student orientation by providing "fact" bookmarks to all incoming students that provided links to UIC's sustainability website and Facebook page. Also, as part of orientation, the Office of Sustainability participates in most of the "Market Place" exhibitions for new students held during orientation days, informing them of our programs and how to recycle on campus.



Prof. George Crabtree teaches class on "Energy for the future decision-maker"

UIC has a strong sustainability outreach program through its sustainability website (http://sustainability.uic.edu) that includes information about campus sustainability initiatives including academics, initiatives, community, reports, resources, a calendar of sustainability events on campus and in the community, and a news feed based on a blog. Figure 1 shows website activity for 2010.

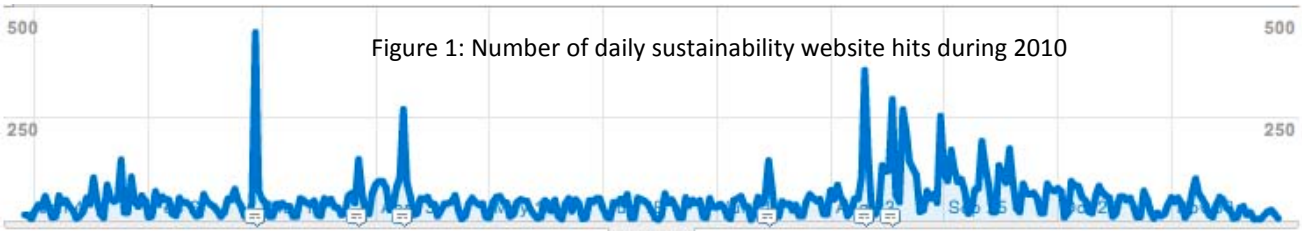


Figure 1: Number of daily sustainability website hits during 2010

Students have opportunities to participate in sustainability-related student groups such as the Green Youth Revolution, the Renewable Energy Team, and Engineers without Borders. They can volunteer at the Hull-House Museum Heirloom Farm which is an extension of the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum at UIC. The urban farm is cultivating a half-acre of land to model local food production and museum education techniques.

Curriculum credits recognize formal education programs and courses that address sustainability. By training and educating the future workforce and scholars, higher education institutions are well positioned to prepare students to understand and address sustainability challenges. **In 2010, the Provost along with the Colleges of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Engineering supported a new faculty hire, Dr. George Crabtree. It also created an Energy Council whose mission is "campus-wide coordination of energy and related activities, including research, curriculum, policy and events"..."** This partnership includes the Office of Sustainability, the Institute of Environmental Science and Policy, and the Energy Resources Center. The Council provides a forum for discussing the integration of sustainability and energy studies into the curriculum, planning events, and developing opportunities for collaborative research within UIC and with outside partners.

Definition of sustainability in the curriculum

Sustainability-focused courses concentrate on sustainability, including its social, economic, and environmental and ecological health dimensions, or examine an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens. Example: A political science class about Africa examines the economic, social and environmental challenges to those countries in the post-Colonial era.

Sustainability-related courses include modules on at least one of the components of sustainability. Example: A civil engineering course includes a module on "green" building techniques.

The Office of Sustainability conducted a survey of sustainability-related and -focused courses and, out of over 3000 courses offered in academic year 2010-2011, 34 were identified as sustainability-focused and 246 as sustainability-related; over half the departments offered at least one of these courses. This list still needs to be vetted by the department heads and instructors to confirm the findings. UIC's academic strengths lie in its Great Cities,urban and healthcare education missions that embrace social sustainability through studying and learning about social justice and equity, healthcare disparities, and the impact of the urban environment on social and economic welfare.

There are some unique sustainability-related programs such as the Landscape Ecological and Anthropogenic Processes (LEAP) multi-disciplinary graduate program that is funded through the National Science Foundation's Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT.) This program focuses on understanding ecological processes in human-altered landscapes. The goal of the program is to combine applied research with basic theory, integrate community and species level approaches, network with stewardship professionals and other stakeholders, and be involved in outreach activities to better prepare graduates to effectively protect and enhance biodiversity. Another program attracting a lot of sustainability-minded students is the Masters of Energy Engineering program including studies in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The College of Engineering also offered a course in energy auditing this year that had the students examine campus buildings as the field work component of the course. The Masters of Urban Planning and Policy program also draws many of sustainability-minded students and is working on expanding their offerings in this arena.

Research credits aim to foster interdisciplinary sustainability research by defining research questions and identifying the campus' research initiatives. This is an area of development for the Energy Council as well as for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR)), which is currently conducting a "research & scholarly interest" survey and that will establish a database of this information. **The OVCR has identified three proposed UIC Research/Scholarly Themes, two of which have strong sustainability undertones: Community Disparities (Population Health, Successful Lives, STEM education, Social Justices, Educational and Economic Disparities)); and Urban Resilience and the Global Environment (Global Change, Infrastructure, Sustainability).** The results of these endeavors will contribute to UIC's ability to strengthen sustainability research areas.

Figure 2: UIC's Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory

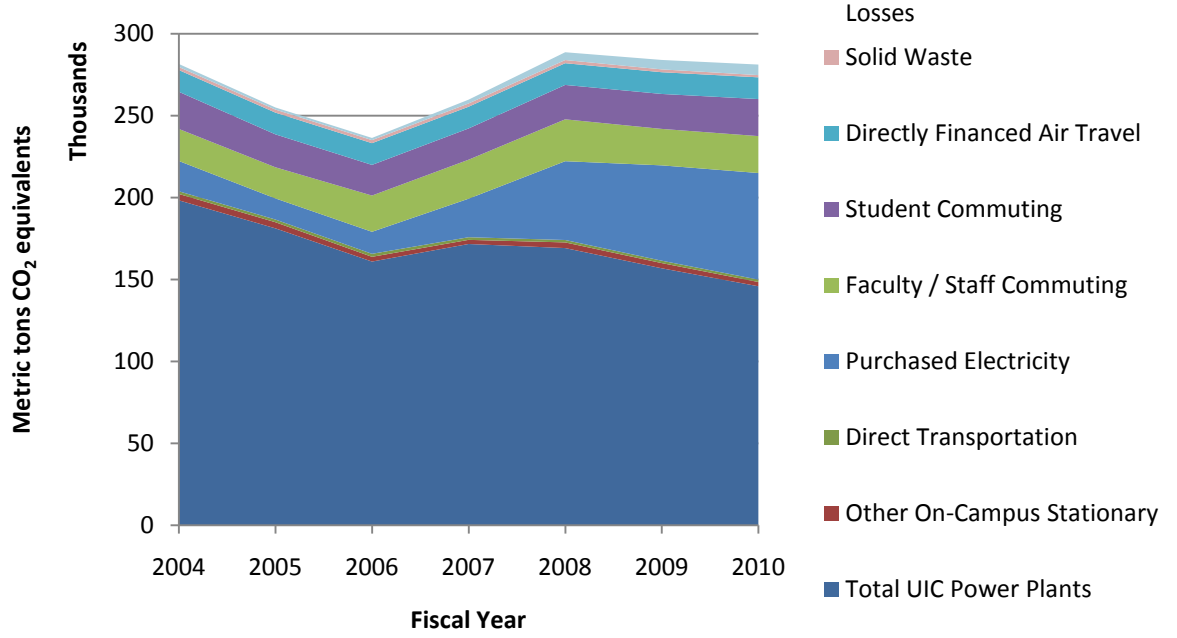
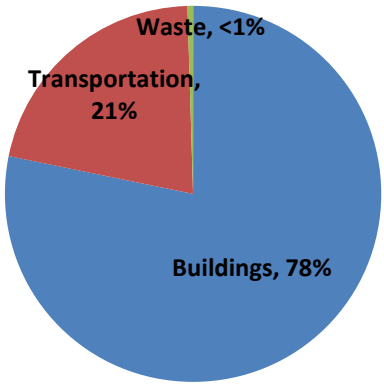


Figure 3: Summary of Greenhouse Gas Emission Sources



Responsible Energy Policies

Students, faculty, and staff will be encouraged to minimize energy consumption on campus whenever possible, by maintaining a consistent and reasonable range of indoor temperatures to include lowering thermostat settings in the winter, raising them in the summer, turning off electrical equipment when not in use and using revolving doors and stairs when possible.

Energy and related impacts will be a factor in planning for and managing campus growth, remodeling, and development.

In accordance with the UIC Building Standards and UIC Climate Action Plan, future new construction, remodeling, and renovation projects of $5 million, or greater shall meet the current Leadership and Excellence in Environmental Design (LEED) NC standard, or the most applicable standard of the LEED Family and be certified at the Silver level or better. New construction, remodeling, and renovations totaling less than $5 million should comply with the LEED Silver requirements to the greatest extent practicable including those credits UIC requires as mandatory, as they appear in the UIC building standards.

Excerpts from the UIC Energy Policy, approved November 2010

New Future STARS Challenges:

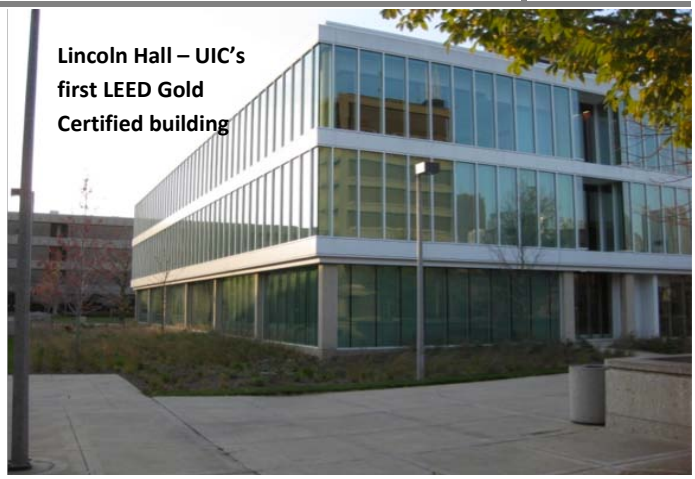
4. Implement sustainable operations and maintenance guidelines for existing buildings.
5. Add to food service contract the ability to obtain access to data that demonstrates locally grown and processed foods (within 250 miles) and reduce the use of polystyrene disposable products.

Operations Credits

Operations credits cover many broad areas typically included in campus greening initiatives: buildings, climate, dining services, energy, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, and water. UIC received 24% of the possible points in this area.

Buildings credits recognize steps taken to improve the sustainability performance of campus buildings, through operations and maintenance of existing buildings; building to green building criteria; and maintaining indoor air quality. UIC established a green building policy this year as part of the Energy Policy that was publicized in December 2010. Very few new construction projects have been initiated in the past few years due to lack of capital. **However, in 2010 UIC was recognized for its first certified green building - Lincoln Hall - which received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) NC Gold certification.** This building, constructed with energy efficient windows, automated lights and shades that respond to heat load, geothermal heating and cooling, a 51 kW rooftop photovoltaic solar panel system, a natural stormwater management system with native landscaping, and recycled material., is a vision of what the future of UIC's campus could be.

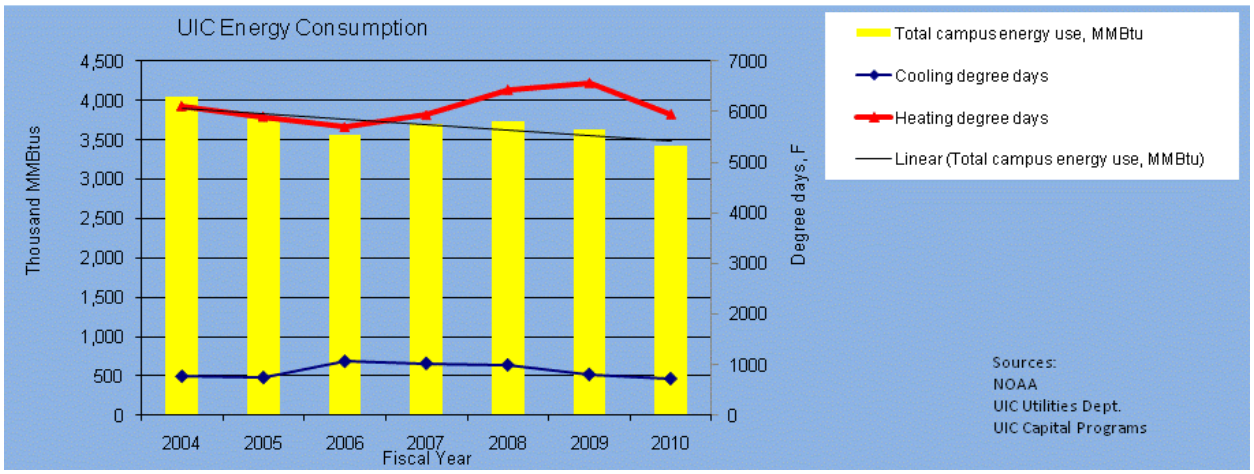
Climate credits were granted for having conducted a greenhouse gas emissions inventory. Figures 2 and 3 above show the calculated greenhouse gas emissions from FY2004 to 2010 and summarize the sources. 78% of our emissions come from energy provided to our buildings. Our purchased electricity emissions are calculated based on the mix of electricity that ComEd provides to its retail customers, which is highly nuclear (generally over 60%). In 2006 it was greater than 80%. Since nuclear energy does not emit any greenhouse gases, that partially explains the dip in emissions in 2006. However, nuclear energy does present a hazardous waste management issue that is not accounted for here. Since August 2009, UI is purchasing electricity on the wholesale market and this could change the mix of electricity we are using. However, the Office of Sustainability has not found a good way to reflect this change. We are beginning to see greenhouse gas emissions reductions and anticipate that will continue in the next few years as larger energy efficiency projects are put in place.



Lincoln Hall – UIC's first LEED Gold Certified building

The **Dining Services** section awards points for campuses that are helping build a sustainable food system by supporting local, organic, and Fair Trade certified products. Food production that uses pesticides and fertilizers has deleterious environmental impacts such as contaminated ground and surface water, and health implications for farm workers. UIC's food service provider was not able to provide data on locally-purchased foods. However, they have implemented several Tier Two programs including trayless dining, offering vegan food options, eliminating trans-fats, and donating food from catered events. In addition, most dining concessions on campus offer discounts for reusable mugs, either any mug or a particular mug sold by the vendor.

Energy credits recognize institutions that are reducing their energy consumption through conservation and



efficiency, and switching to cleaner, renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, and low-impact hydropower. UIC received points for both Tier One and all Tier Two categories. The points received in the Tier One – Building Energy Consumption and Clean and Renewable Energy were limited to a portion of the total depending on our achievements. **UIC has reduced its total energy consumption for heating and cooling, electricity, and gas for other uses in buildings by 15% since 2004, while growing the physical campus footprint by 11% (nearly 1.5 million gross square feet).** Of that energy consumption about 14% was from clean and renewable energy sources: solar photovoltaic panels on Lincoln Hall,; geothermal energy for Lincoln and Grant halls,; and co-generated electricity from natural gas turbines at campus power plants. The chart shows UIC's overall energy consumption over the last seven fiscal years, which shows an overall downward trend as displayed by the black linear trend line. The red line shows total heating degree days, a measure of the demand for heating, and the blue line shows total cooling degree days, a measure of the demand for cooling (air conditioning). The energy consumption does parallel the heating degree days but also trends downward over time. This is most likely due to the implementation of many small energy-savings projects such as lighting retrofits, upgrades to heating and ventilations sytems in Education, Performing Arts and Social Work, Nursing, Grant and Lincoln Halls, and building automation systems.

Tier Two points were awarded for having timers for temperature control, lighting sensors, LED lighting, vending machine sensors, energy management systems, and energy metering in at least one location on campus. As calendar year 2010 came to a close, UIC was completing the first stage of its major building metering project. **With 23 state buildings (70% of the space) electronically metered for electricity, high temperature hot-water or steam, and chilled water, we are now able to collect baseline, building level data in real time.** This will enable us to better understand and monitor our building energy use, plan, and implement energy conservation and efficiency projects, and incentivize energy savings.


Prairie Garden across from Medical Center

Grounds credits recognize the use of fewer chemicals and water resources to maintain grounds. In the past three to four years, UIC's practice has been to install low maintenance native plants in new renovation/ construction projects on campus grounds. The construction of Lincoln Hall is just one of the latest "green" buildings that have low maintenance, native plant areas with natural drainage surrounding the building. As new buildings/major remodeling projects occur there will be a transition to this kind of landscaping. A prairie garden was planted across from the UI Medical Center. In addition, the Department of Biological Sciences and the Grounds Department, along with students and student groups, have maintained small plots of native plants under the UIC Seed program as a pilot project for future native plant landscaping endeavors. The campus plans to develop the Tree Campus USA program in the coming year as a way of preserving our living assets that reduce urban heat island effect and mitigate carbon dioxide emissions

Purchasing refers to using universities' purchasing power to help build a sustainable economy. UIC's Facilities Management is transitioning to "Green Seal" certified products. In the last year over 50% of expenditures were for these greener products, making for a healthier workplace the UIC community while reducing our environmental impact. As an institution with decentralized purchasing operations, purchases of paper with recycled content is difficult to track. A survey conducted in 2009, found that over 60% of office paper purchased in those UIC departments had at least 10% recycled content. Another aspect of sustainable purchasing is looking at vendor practices. The Office of Business and Financial Services at UIC has been working hard to increase our participation levels in Minority and Female Business Enterprise Program.

Transportation credits acknowledge movement toward sustainable transportation systems and instituting incentives that encourage commuting via mass transit and other alternatives. At UIC 15% of our greenhouse gas emissions are from transportation due to commuting to campus and from the campus fleet.

UIC participates in Illinois' Clean Fuel Fleet program which has led to emission reductions by using natural gas buses, 10% biodiesel (B10), and E-85 hybrid vehicles. UIC is also gradually increasing the number of hybrid vehicles in the fleet.

New Future STARS Challenges:

6. Achieve Tree Campus USA recognition.
7. Develop sustainable purchasing guidelines for materials with recycled content and Electronic Produce Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Silver or higher products.
8. Improve existing incentives for employees to use alternative modes of transportation and improve bike infrastructure.

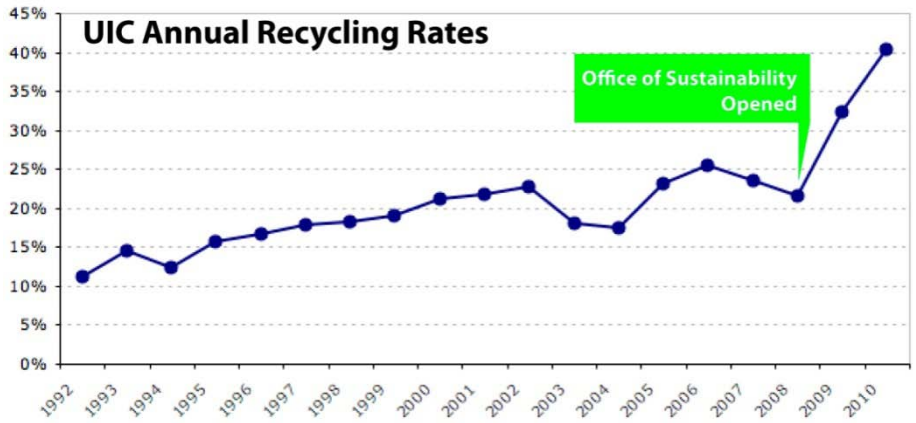
In late 2008, the Office of Sustainability completed a Campus Commuter Survey to gather information on the campus community's primary method of transportation. The percentage of commuters using different means of transportation to come to campus (commute mode split) is shown in Table 1 below. Students contribute about 7% to GHG emissions, as do faculty/staff, but UIC has halfabout twice as many students as the number of faculty and staff. This means that faculty and staff contribute about twice as much per person to our GHG emissions as students do.

Table 1: Commute Mode Split

Mode	Public transit	Walk or bike	Carpool	Drive alone
Students	49.6%	25.2%	2.7%	22.5%
Employees	25.3%	9.6%	11.3%	53.8%

UIC received some Tier Two credits for programs that promote sustainable transportation. UIC provides shower facilities for bicyclists by allowing them to use the facilities in the east and west side recreation centers simply by showing their helmet to get in. Campus Parking offers carpoolers the opportunity to share in the cost of one parking permit, rather than having to issue individual permits. The CTA U-PASS is provided to eligible students during enrolled terms.; the U-PASS provides unlimited use of CTA trains and buses during the semester. In addition, UIC also operates a free campus shuttle that provides free transportation for students, faculty, and staff to various points on campus. This service runs throughout most of the day every day of the week, with varying frequencies and routes.

UIC has operated a comprehensive **recycling** program in most campus buildings since the mid-1990s. UIC has continued to reduce waste by reducing the amount of materials destined for the landfill, even as the campus population grew. **The waste diversion (recycling) rate nearly doubled since 2008 to 40% in 2010 with expansion of the full program into the hospital and five additional buildings.**



Electronic waste includes computers, monitors, peripherals, copies, fax machines, etc. that are university property and are managed under the University's Property Accounting program. **The University disposes of electronic devices through an electronics recycler who manages the materials in an environmentally sound process.** Any equipment that is no longer needed is reported on a special form to the Office of Business and Financial Services, University Property Accounting and Reporting. Once the form is processed, equipment must be removed intact to the surplus warehouse. This material is then managed through the University of Illinois central administration in compliance with all state mandated requirements for disposal of electronics.

The University of Illinois complies with State law, which requires elimination of electronic data from scrapped items and environmentally sound disposition practices. As such, the University disposes of electronic scrap equipment through State of Illinois contracted service providers to ensure recycling of usable items and environmentally responsible disposition of unusable items.

All **hazardous, radioactive, some universal (fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, some sources of mercury), and chemical waste** (including non-regulated) is managed through the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO). A request must be submitted electronically to the EHSO. The hazardous chemical waste received from UIC laboratories is brought to a central facility managed by the EHSO Health and Safety Section. Most of the solvent waste is bulked by compatibility into 55-gallon drums. Most of the solid waste and other liquid waste is lab-packed into drums with other chemicals in the same compatibility class. All the waste is transported and prepared for final disposal by approved, permitted hazardous waste vendors. Researchers are encouraged to minimize their waste. Waste minimization is a prominent chapter in the Hazardous Waste Management manual and the laboratory safety training program. Additionally, the EHSO operates a chemical redistribution program to find new owners for unwanted, unused laboratory chemicals. They have also employed a Pollution Prevention specialist to develop campus-wide waste minimization programs such as xylene and solvent recycling.

In general, UIC has seen a downward trend in **water** use due to the installation of higher efficiency toilets, condensate return systems, limited irrigation, and reduction in non-recirculating water cooling systems in laboratories. However, due to a break in the west side chilled water loop in spring of 2010, a significant amount of water was lost before the system was repaired. Thus, our overall water consumption increased and STARS credit could not be received for this.

Planning, Administration & Engagement

This section addresses a broad range of sustainability issues that evaluate UIC's interactions with its surrounding community, and gauges the depth of its institutional commitment. Credits cover governance and finance, social responsibility and community engagement, institutional-level sustainability planning, inter-campus collaborations, community relations, student participation in community service, public policy engagement, diversity and non-discrimination policies, affordability and access programs. UIC obtained 55% of the points in this area, the most of the three STARS credit areas.

Under **Planning and Coordination** UIC received credit for having a campus sustainability committee and plans that accelerate the move towards sustainability by incorporating sustainability into its Strategic Plan and Campus Master Plan. The Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability and Energy is charged with setting priorities, suggesting new initiatives, monitoring UIC's progress towards goals and actions, assisting with the preparation of reports for the campus climate commitments, helping with the accountability of relevant sustainability initiatives and promoting environmental awareness on campus. The most recent CCSE report contains a list of recommendations that are feasible to implement in the short term and the committee feels will move the campus forward in its sustainability initiatives. **UIC has three major plans that incorporate aspects of sustainability: The UIC Strategic Plan incorporates social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. The UIC Master Plan incorporated sustainability as one of its guiding processes. UIC published its Climate Action Plan in September 2009.**

Great Stuff Exchange during Sustainability Week 2010

Diversity and Affordability recognizes institutions that are working to advance diversity, access, and affordability both on campus and in society at large. To achieve environmental justice, efforts must be made to address discrimination and promote equality. In addition, an ethnically-varied student body, faculty, and staff provide a rich resource for learning and collaboration. UIC claimed credits in all Tier One and two out of three Tier Two categories**. There are six Chancellor-sponsored committees focused on diversity. The Associate Chancellor in the Office of Access and Equity oversees programs that increase access to employment and provide an environment free from discrimination. The campus-level Diversity Strategic Thinking and Planning Committee has been engaged in Diversity Strategic Planning for the past 18 months.**

Human Resources credits ensure that sustainable compensation is paid to all employees, that employee satisfaction surveys are conducted regularly and that sustainability training is provided to employees. Sustainability is included in the on-line employee orientation program. The UIC Sustainability Lunch Series is designed to increase UIC staff, faculty and student engagement in activities that reduce negative environmental impacts both at home and on campus. By providing information that relates to their lives on and off campus, we hope to demonstrate how and why stewardship of the environment matters, and that simple actions can scale up to big impacts. The EcoReps program is a staff liaison program for departments that includes annual training opportunities and regular communications between the Office of Sustainability and the EcoReps regarding campus sustainability initiatives.

Students play games on temporary lawn in parking lot during Parking Day

Public engagement shows how the university gives back to the community through community service, engagement, and partnerships. **UIC's Office of Sustainability has partnered with the Chicago Department of Environment on its Climate Action Plan, the Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning on its 2040 Plan and the Fairchild Challenge at the Chicago Botanic Garden.** UIC collaborates with other institutions to promote campus sustainability and share best practices through the Green Universities and Colleges Subcommittee of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council, AASHE, Illinois Student Environmental Coalition, the Chicago area campus sustainability coordinators group (organized through the National Wildlife Federation), and the Big 10 Environmental Stewardship group.

New Future STARS Challenge:

9. No points were achieved under investment credits that relate to the management of the University's endowments. Creating a committee on socially responsible investment, means for shareholder advocacy, and making positive sustainability investments are ways to ensure that the University invests its funds in ways that align with its sustainability goals.

There are numerous opportunities for the student body to get involved in community service. The Office of Student Leadership, Development and Volunteer Services operates a volunteer opportunity listing. The Honors College requires its students to engage in community service each semester. UIC also has a Co-Curricular transcript program called UIC Experience. Credit for this transcript can be obtained by volunteering for service opportunities in the Chicagoland area, tutoring, etc. The amount of points obtained from this credit may be low since there is no single outlet through which students participate in community service.

Benchmarking

Thirty-one other 4-year colleges and universities have submitted their STARS report to date. They show a wide range of ratings from Bronze to Gold. No one has yet to achieve Platinum. The table on the next page displays the results.

Matching Institutions	Education & Research	Operations	Planning, Administration & Engagement	Innovation	Rating
American University (v1.0)	72.16%	52.62%	72.92%	4	Gold
Babson College (v1.0)	52.95%	35.17%	56.27%	0	Silver
DePauw University (v1.0)	17.97%	26.14%	57.15%	1	Bronze
Duke University (v1.0)	61.35%	49.48%	74.38%	4	Gold
Furman University (v1.0)	67.28%	37.32%	43.77%	2	Silver
Goshen College (v1.0)	31.35%	30.64%	67.52%	0	Bronze
Grand Valley State University (v1.0)	52.25%	41.48%	65.71%	1	Silver
Indiana University Bloomington (v1.0)	45.42%	39.30%	59.98%	4	Silver
Middlebury College (v1.0)	73.10%	50.31%	65.36%	4	Gold
New York University (v1.0)	55.07%	56.01%	76.23%	4	Gold
Oregon State University (v1.0)	69.74%	48.33%	68.40%	4	Gold
Pacific Lutheran University (v1.0)	25.88%	46.09%	63.12%	0	Silver
Portland State University (v1.0)	79.03%	46.34%	68.28%	4	Gold
Royal Roads University (v1.0)	82.19%	29.15%	65.77%	0	Silver
Santa Clara University (v1.0)	63.78%	38.15%	71.70%	4	Silver
St. John's University (v1.0)	71.33%	33.43%	58.85%	0	Silver
State University of New York at Fredonia (v1.0)	36.66%	22.35%	45.05%	0	Bronze
University of Arkansas (v1.0)	49.47%	39.73%	57.33%	4	Silver
University of Colorado, Boulder (v1.0)	66.33%	48.48%	85.50%	2	Gold
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (v1.0)	65.87%	31.52%	63.99%	0	Silver
University of Florida (v1.0)	66.97%	45.97%	69.73%	2	Silver
University of Houston - University Park (v1.0)	57.04%	32.95%	70.93%	0	Silver
University of Illinois, Chicago (v1.0)	38.61%	23.78%	54.91%	0	Bronze
University of Louisville (v1.0)	54.59%	28.54%	67.21%	0	Silver
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (v1.0)	49.18%	39.02%	59.13%	4	Silver
University of Northern Iowa (v1.0)	77.88%	35.18%	74.84%	4	Gold
University of Oregon (v1.0)	46.82%	37.03%	72.45%	4	Silver
University of South Florida (v1.0)	70.32%	44.11%	74.60%	4	Gold
University of Texas at Arlington (v1.0)	46.43%	42.42%	41.82%	2	Silver
University of Texas at Austin (v1.0)	42.11%	45.45%	60.02%	2	Silver
Wake Forest University (v1.0)	44.97%	35.93%	75.24%	1	Silver
Wilfrid Laurier University (v1.0)	45.40%	30.95%	39.69%	0	Bronze

Conclusion

The STARS evaluation has revealed that the University of Illinois at Chicago has a strong administrative basis for sustainability and has many programs and initiatives that set the campus on a path towards sustainability. The Bronze rating shows that while we have begun to demonstrate tangible results with our sustainability programs that cross curriculum, research, human resources, outreach, community service, etc., we have a ways to go to be a top-rated institution in this framework. In the quantifiable areas of operations UIC shows some progress, such as the beginnings of energy savings, a significant use of alternative transit options, recycling and use of recycled products. Timely access to data, such as building-level energy and recycling rates, is still a challenge. Baby steps have been made in the curriculum area. A broader outreach will emerge from faculty involvement.

Engaging in a campus-wide sustainability strategic planning process would go a long way to integrating sustainability into all that UIC does.