

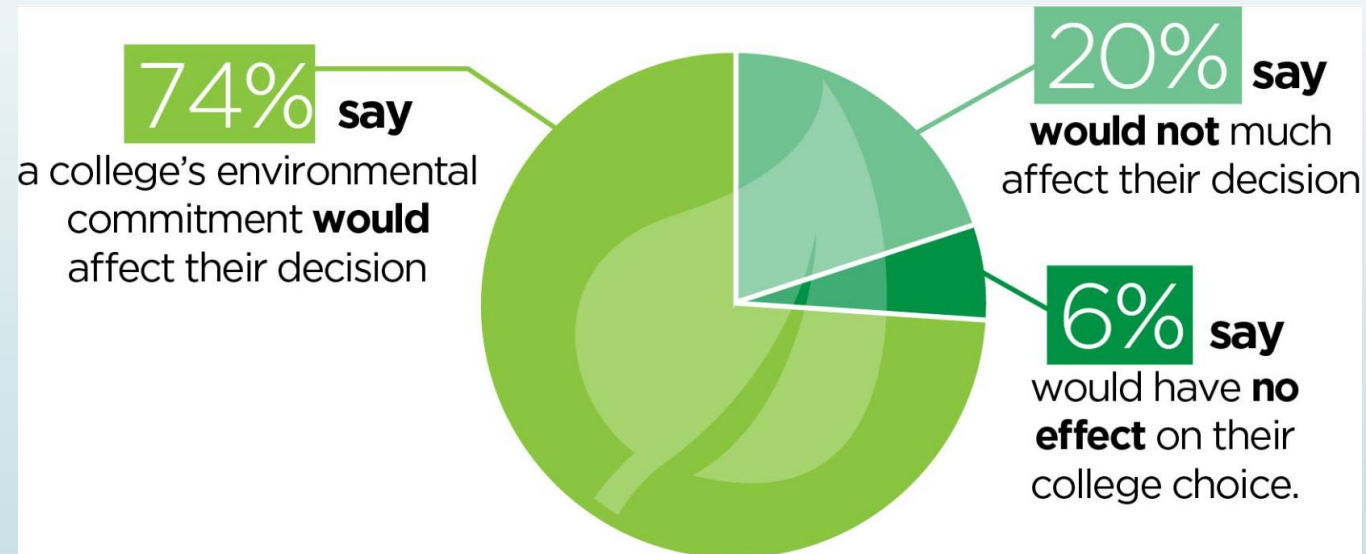


# Sustainability Commission

Report to the EMU Board of Regents

# Commission Created September 2018

Sustainability is the principles and practices that promote and maintain the responsible use of natural resources by current generations to ensure the availability and well-being of those resources for our future generations.



2022 Princeton Review College Hopes and worries survey of the 14,148 college applicants



# Mission

- ▶ The commission has adopted STARS as the framework for fostering sustainability at the university.
- ▶ The commission will develop a sustainability plan guided by this framework to implement measures through policy recommendations directly to the president for continuous improvement of our STARS rating.
- ▶ *“STARS reporting and STARS score have a positive impact on reputation (enrollment), finances (endowments) and environmental performance (emissions) of the HEIs.”<sup>1</sup>*



<sup>1</sup> Minutolo, M.C., Ivanova, A. and Cong, M. (2021), "Signaling sustainability: impact that learning how to report has on enrollment, endowment and emissions of North American higher education institutions", Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal, Vol. 12 No. 5, pp. 1140-1158.

# STARS Data Positives

- ▶ AC5 Immersive experience = 2/2
- ▶ EN10 Community partnerships (SEMIS, Family Empowerment Program) 3/3
- ▶ Op22 Rainwater management (retention ponds, bioswales, green roof, rain gardens) 2/2
- ▶ PA7 Support for underrepresented groups (numerous listed on website) 3/3
- ▶ IN-14 Food Bank (Swoops) 0.5



# STARS Data Room for Improvement

- ▶ Op1 Greenhouse Gas emissions scope 1 (37,693 MtCO<sub>2</sub>) and 2 (54,891 MtCO<sub>2</sub>) [WMU scope 1 (76,124 MtCO<sub>2</sub>) and 2 (12,037 MtCO<sub>2</sub>)]
- ▶ AC 10 Support for sustainability research = 0/4
- ▶ 7 Engagement criteria with zero points 0/17
  - ▶ EN1 Student educators program,
  - ▶ EN2 student orientation,
  - ▶ EN5 outreach campaign,
  - ▶ EN6 assessing sustainability culture,
  - ▶ EN7 employee educators program,
  - ▶ EN8 employee orientation,
  - ▶ EN9 staff professional development and training



# Commission Initiatives

- ▶ Creating website, [www.emich.edu/sustainability](http://www.emich.edu/sustainability), Facebook page @EMUSustainability, and Instagram @emichsustainability.
- ▶ Passing resolution recommending that the replacement for the utilities manager have a background that includes sustainability-related experience.
- ▶ Passing resolution recommending that every RFP requests information on how proposals would improve our STARS score.
- ▶ Passing resolution recommending that the university becomes a member of AASHE and subscribe to the STARS reporting tool.
- ▶ Near Completion of STARS report.



# Commission Members

- ▶ Thomas Kovacs: Chair of the Commission, Academic Chair (Faculty, Geography and Geology)
- ▶ Katy Greenwald: Academic (Faculty, Biology)
- ▶ Ronald Rich: Academic (Faculty, Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology)
- ▶ Kasim Korkmaz: Academic (Faculty, School of Visual and Built Environments)
- ▶ Anke Wolbert: Academic (Faculty, Communication, Media, and Theater Arts)
- ▶ Mary Jane Fallot: Engagement Chair (Alumni)
- ▶ Luke Yates: Engagement (Engage @ EMU)
- ▶ Mike Valdes: Operations Chair (Business and Finance)
- ▶ Stephanie Bell: Operations (Parking)
- ▶ Chris Grant: Operations (Facilities)
- ▶ Paula Sears: Operations (Dining)
- ▶ Emily Lescilius: Operations (Housing)
- ▶ Kirsten Olson: Operations (Alumni)
- ▶ Eric Bruski: Operations (Student Representative)
- ▶ Alexandria Parsons: Operations (Student Representative)
- ▶ Kevin Kucera: Planning and Administration Chair (Enrollment)
- ▶ Chris Finch: Planning and Administration (Children's Institute)
- ▶ Jessica Kwek: Planning and Administration (Student Representative)

