


6-2011

UNLV STARS fact sheet

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Sustainability Report Card – 2011

By earning a **Silver Rating** in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Ratings System (STARS), the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is *ahead of the curve among public universities – and improving.*

What is STARS and UNLV's Silver Rating?

STARS is a voluntary, self-reporting framework produced by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) to help measure sustainability performance over time and between schools. STARS can help UNLV to reduce energy consumption and waste, improve education, attract research, and generate jobs.

The STARS final report, submitted on June 17, 2011, represents months of work from dozens of people, overseen by the UNLV Sustainability Council. The core of the team comprised Associate Vice President for Interdisciplinary Research Tom Piechota, Sustainability Coordinator Tara Pike, Executive Director for Office of Research Integrity Aurali Dade – and undergraduate intern Josh Bielinski with graduate assistant Jim Rossi.

A rating of Silver puts UNLV in great company – with Yale, University of North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Florida, and Michigan State – and improving.



Education & Research Highlights (47%)

- UNLV has secured more than \$99 million in funding for renewable energy research over the past 10 years.
- UNLV scored high marks for its new **Renewable Energy Minor** and **Graduate Certificate program**, Outdoor Education program, and sustainability-focused courses – including international programs in Spain and Costa Rica.
- The **Urban Sustainability Initiative**, National Science Foundation **EPSCoR**, and Solar & Renewable Energy Minor Scholarships all support graduate and undergraduate students.
 - 50% of departments offer at least one sustainability-related course.
 - UNLV's 2010 **Master Plan Update** for 2011-14 identifies renewable energy, Western climate change, and water resources as top priorities.
 - Opportunities for improvement focus on attracting more students to the sustainability related majors and minors, and attracting more research.



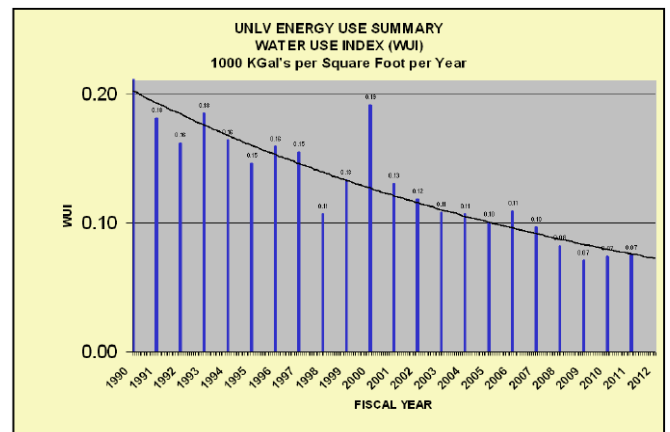
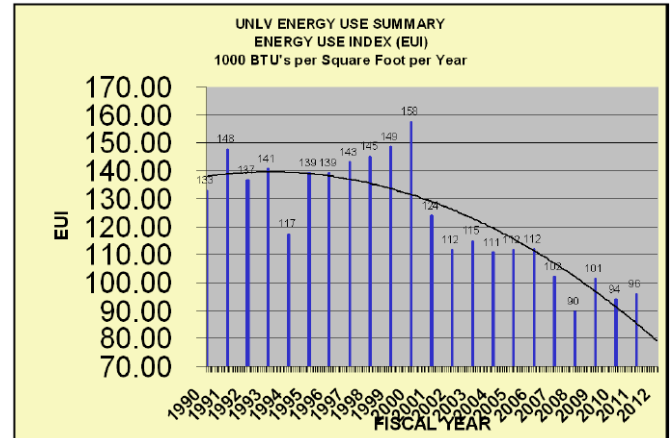


Sustainability Report Card – 2011

Operations Highlights (34%)



- UNLV scored high marks for its two LEED rated buildings, **Greenspun Hall (LEED Gold)** and the **Science and Engineering Building (LEED Silver)**.
- **Grounds & Landscape** earned a perfect score for desert-friendly xeriscaping, composting, and turf reduction.
- In 2011, UNLV was named a **Tree Campus USA** for sustainable urban forestry.
- **Rebel Recycling** diverted 693 tons of waste in 2010 – as much as the city of Mesquite.
- **Purchasing** scored high for buying energy-saving computers, green cleaning supplies, and recycled content office paper.
- Employees use nearly 150 electric golf carts to minimize on-campus fossil fuel use.
- In 2010, **Facilities, Management & Planning (FMP)** earned the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges Award for Excellence for its long-term leadership in management of educational facilities.
- STARS used 2005 as baseline year – *after* many of these energy efficiency and water conservation improvements were put into action (see *FMP Information Book* charts).



Planning, Administration & Engagement Highlights (60%)

- UNLV scored 16 out of 18 points on campus coordination.
- STARS will serve as roadmap for a **Comprehensive UNLV Sustainability Action Plan**.
- UNLV's **Las Vegas Metropolitan Area Social Survey (LVMASS)** can help guide community engagement on urban sustainability.
- Nearly 25% of UNLV's Foundation portfolio is invested in firms on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.

- The **Office of Civic Engagement & Diversity** and the **Office of Diversity & Inclusion** ensure social equity for faculty and students alike.

Innovation (4 out of 4)

- UNLV employs a **Sustainability Librarian**.
- FMP publishes an annual *Information Book*.
- The FMP **Paperless Initiative** reduces office waste.
- UNLV uses a closed-loop white paper recycling program.

To read the complete UNLV STARS report:

<http://urban21.unlv.edu/council/> or <https://stars.aashe.org>

