**The University of Vermont**

**STARS: EDUCATION & RESEARCH (ER)**

Timothy Childs, Annie Fitzgerald, Maggie Grinnell, Justin Harris, Connor Pelletier

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**Strengths**

EcoReps is a student-run program at UVM. Members initiate campaigns advocating for sustainable action on campus. The Environmental Studies major at UVM involves classes with sustainability and environmentally-focused initiatives. UVM Sustainability Faculty Fellows aims to develop a multidisciplinary group of faculty focused on further developing sustainability in all disciplines at UVM.

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**Curriculum**

There were 55 sustainability-focused courses last year (out of the 2,589 total courses that were offered). Focused courses have sustainability as a concentration, examining course content through a social, economic, and environmental perspective, and cultivating students’ sustainable lens.

UVM has established a definition of sustainability in curriculum, sustainability-focused and related courses, and an inventory of sustainability courses is publicly available online.

The Sustainable Entrepreneurship Master of Business Administration (SE MBA) is a one-year program where students become part of the largest group of sustainable businesses in Vermont to help design new clean technology.

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**Overview: What is ER?**

The Education and Research category rates an institution’s commitment to educating their students on sustainability and includes three subcategories: curriculum, co-curriculum, and research. The curriculum subcategory evaluates how sustainability concepts are incorporated within courses. The co-curriculum subcategory aims to measure the degree to which the institution educates its students on sustainability outside of the classroom. It assesses the extent that sustainability is incorporated within the livelihoods of the students. The final subcategory, research, encompasses the institution’s commitment towards researching and advancing education on sustainability.

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**Ecological Design Collaboratory & Students-Teaching-Students**

The Ecological Design Collaboratory (EDC) is a relatively new initiative at the GreenHouse Residential Learning Community (RLC). It provides undergraduates from a variety of majors with an introduction to place-based ecological design and enables students to exercise certain hands-on skills required to bring their designs to life. The Collaboratory works with several local partners: Shelburne Farms, Vermont Design Institute, Yestermorrow Design/Build School, and the Burlington community.

Students-Teaching-Students initiatives are courses taught by students in the University’s Environmental Program. Students, usually two, design a syllabus and an in-depth teaching proposal which is then reviewed by program faculty. It was designed as a learning model intended to empower students, and the class size is usually 12 to 15 students.

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**Areas for Improvement**

With only 52 out of 2,589 courses identified as sustainability-related, UVM has a lot of room for increasing sustainability in the curriculum.

There are only 22 departments that offer sustainability courses.

UVM lacks a sustainability literacy assessment.

There are only 133 out of 3,323 graduates who have sustainability learning outcomes.

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**Co-Curricular Education & Research**

**Co-Curricular Education**

Student initiatives such as Bye-Bye Bottled Water, the Real Food Challenge, and the Follow the Leaf Campaign are prominent at UVM.

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UVM has sustainability outreach systems in place such as the sustainability website, a Campus Sustainability course to encourage student engagement, LEED building brochures, student groups (BUG, VSTEP, Outing Club), green dorms, and campus gardens.

**Research**

The UVM Transportation Research Center is dedicated to interdisciplinary research, outreach, and education on sustainable transportation system solutions. Based on a survey of the Envisioning Environment process, there are 350 out of 1,098 faculty members at UVM engaged in sustainability research.