



## REFERENCE CHART:

# Opportunities to Earn STARS Points With RPN Purchasing Guides

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to recognize and gauge relative progress toward sustainability. Through purchasing, institutions may earn credits in Education & Research (ER) and Operations (OP) credit categories.

The chart below highlights ways in which purchasing can help your institution earn points toward STARS ratings.



Credit No.	Credit Title	Description	Possible/ Maximum Points	Suggested RPN Purchasing Guides
Education and Research (ER) 2	Student Sustainability Outreach Campaign	Example of qualified campaign: A challenge to reduce bottled drinking water leads to purchasing less bottled water and more reuseable containers.	5/5	<a href="#">Bottled water - University Edition</a> ; <a href="#">Computers</a> ; <a href="#">Lighting</a>
Operations (OP) 1	Building Operations & Maintenance	Usage of environmentally preferable materials and products. This credit is designed to recognize LEED certification.	7/7	Link to RPN LEED chart
OP 2	Building Design & Construction	Usage of environmentally preferable materials and products. This credit is also designed to recognize LEED certification.	4/4	Link to RPN LEED chart
OP 5	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction	Usage of various green products that reduce GHG emissions. Purchasing of third-party verified carbon offsets also apply.	14/14	<a href="#">Carbon Offsets</a>
OP 6	Food Purchasing	Purchase food from local, organic and/or sustainable sources.	6/6	<a href="#">Food Services</a>
OP Tier Two	Dining Services	Purchase food packaging and serviceware that is biodegradeable, recyclable, reusable, or compostable.	1.25/2.5	<a href="#">Food Services</a>

(chart continues on next page)

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OP 7	Building Energy Consumption	Purchase of more energy efficient products.	8/8	<a href="#">Office Electronics</a> ; <a href="#">Computers</a> ; <a href="#">LEDs</a> ; <a href="#">Lighting</a>
OP 8	Renewable Energy	Purchase of wind power or other green energy.	7/7	<a href="#">Green Power</a>
OP Tier Two	Energy Tier Two Credits	Purchase of LED lights and other energy saving or monitoring devices.	1/1.5	<a href="#">LEDs</a> ; <a href="#">Lighting</a> ; <a href="#">Office Electronics</a> ; <a href="#">Computers</a>
OP 10	Computer Purchasing	Purchase of EPEAT Silver or higher products.	2/2	<a href="#">Computers</a> ; <a href="#">Office Electronics</a>
OP 11	Cleaning Products Purchasing	Purchase of GreenSeal or EcoLogo certified products.	2/2	<a href="#">Cleaners</a>
OP 12	Office Paper Purchasing	Purchase of office paper with specified recycled content.	2/2	<a href="#">Paper</a>
OP 14	Campus Fleet	Purchase of electric , hybrid, hydrogen, biodiesel, or ethanol vehicles.	2/2	<a href="#">Fleets</a>
OP 17	Waste Reduction	Purchase remanufactured toner cartridges; eliminate bottled water purchasing.	1/5	<a href="#">Bottled Water - University Edition</a> ; <a href="#">Toner Cartridges</a> ; <a href="#">Office Electronics</a>
Innovation (IN) 1	Innovation Credit	Example: Eliminate bottled water purchasing and implement alternatives.	1/1	<a href="#">Bottled Water - University Edition</a>

Note that this chart includes only the credit categories for which the act of purchasing may earn STARS points. Institutions may earn up to an estimated 21% (63.5 out of 304 maximum points) of STARS points through the purchases associated with the above credit categories and by meeting other criteria.

Purchasing can (and should) also play an indirect or planning role in many other credit categories, such as:

- Vendor Code of Conduct (OP 13)
- Sustainability Plan (Planning, Administration and Engagement - PAE 4)
- Climate Plan (PAE 5)
- Sustainability Policy Advocacy (PAE 24)

For more information about how purchasing can help your organization earn more STARS points, contact [RPN](#) at 301-891-3683 or [rpn@newdream.org](mailto:rpn@newdream.org).

STARS was developed by AASHE, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Complete credit checklists may be found by going to the [AASHE STARS](#) website.