# Final Deliverables and Presentation

**Title: AASHE STARS Report Improvements**

**Project Information**

* 1. ***What is the project scope? Include background information if necessary to understand the task.***

*The AASHE STARS Report is a program used by universities to self-report their sustainability. The more sustainable a school is, the higher it’s point total. Different point totals correspond with different rankings (Reporter, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum). UIUC currently has a Gold rank and is aiming for Platinum.*

* 1. ***What did you accomplish?***

*This project was just meant to find aspects of the STARS report that the university could improve upon. There was already a report from last year and I used this to make my report more focused on specific categories of the STARS report that UIUC was particularly lacking in.*

* 1. ***Who did you collaborate with? (Organization titles rather than people’s names.)***

*IL Sustainable Technology, Capital Planning, Housing Division.*

* 1. ***What was the result of your project work and how will it be used in the future?***

*I wrote a report that compiled several sustainable programs at UIUC which could be reported in the next STARS report to increase the university’s score and hopefully achieve a Platinum ranking. My report also includes other information about the sustainability of specific departments on campus that can be used to help find future environmental improvements.*

**Timeline Reflection**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Hours Spent on Task** | **Reflection of Task Work** |
| Identify which point scores could be improved | 1 | This didn’t take too long since the information was all in the STARS report. |
| Research current plans/actions for these point categories | 7 | Research took some time since a lot of the information is scattered across different sites.  Also, I had to contact several different people about different categories on campus. |
| Compile information (preparation for report) | 2 | This was an organization stage to prepare for a neat report. |
| Write the report | 5 | This took quite a bit of time as well since I had to combine all of the information I had into something organized and useful. |

**Final Takeaways**

***What is your biggest takeaway from being a part of this project in collaboration with iSEE?***

*Honestly, there are way more sustainability programs going on at the university than I thought. There are so many people working to improve the university in so many different fields. Although they seem a bit small when looked at separately, overall there is a lot of effort put into sustainability at UIUC.*

**Explanation of Deliverables**

*I’m submitting the report I wrote for improvements to the STARS report. There is one section that is only partially done because I’m still communicating with faculty about university sustainability programs.*

**Presentation (50 points):**

1. **Explain what you created as a final result/deliverable for your project. (10 points)**

I wrote a report outlining sustainability programs at UIUC that could be reported in the next STARS report in order to increase the university’s score.

1. **What lessons did you learn as a consultant? (10 points)**

A lot of time is spent on just communicating with faculty and trying to gather information.

1. **What did you learn about the importance and implementation of sustainability in engineering projects? (10 points)**

It’s important to try to be as sustainable in every aspect of a project. From looking at different aspects of the university (dining vs grounds, etc.) I learned that there were many small sustainable efforts which were as much as one department could do, but combined with everyone else’s efforts, it made a big difference.

1. **How has your view of sustainability changed with your project experience? (10 points)**

A little bit I think, since I realized how important even small sustainable efforts are to sustainability as a whole.

1. ***Answer individually:* What will this experience do for you moving forward/where do you see yourself going? (10 points)**

I think that this experience helped me improve my networking skills. It’s one thing to care about the environment and it’s another thing to actually go out and try to enact change. Although I was mostly asking about sustainability programs, it was a good learning experience trying to get information from several difference sources, especially since it was all done online.