



April 30, 2021

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103
United States of America

Dear Members of the STARS Committee,

American University of Sharjah (AUS) is pleased to submit its STARS self-assessment reflecting information for the three previous academic years. As Chancellor of AUS, I affirm that the information submitted to STARS by the AUS Sustainability Office and the many others that contributed across campus is an accurate representation of our sustainability efforts.

AUS is very pleased to submit our AASHE STARS report this year. In 2018, AUS was the first university in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to be rated by AASHE STARS, receiving a bronze rating. We are proud to be continuing to lead the region and furthering our rating to silver with this submission.

Beginning with a bold move to seek AASHE STARS rating, AUS has demonstrated its continued commitment and improved our rating at every level from academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration. This AASHE STARS Report highlights the many advances, including, but not limited to the following:

- Ban on single-use plastics, initiated in January 2020, which started our journey to removing single-use plastics from campus vendors and events;
- Increase in courses with sustainability learning outcomes or sustainability inclusive content;
- Formalization of an annual sustainability literacy assessment and the subsequent research being conducted based on survey findings;
- Great strides made in the student educator's program with active and engaging peer-to-peer sustainability education across campus, which remained active even through remote learning required in order to respond to COVID-19;
- Launch of our employee educator program;
- Collaboration with procurement to incorporate sustainability metrics into new contracts which will result in better data and measurement in future reporting; and
- Enhanced support for underserved populations at AUS.

We are confident that these measures and more will ensure that AUS achieves our AASHE STARS silver rating this year and will be the motivation and inspiration for AUS to reach gold by 2024.



As one of the leading institutions in the region, AUS aims to educate the future leaders of the UAE, MENA and beyond. The knowledge and skills required to ensure sustainability are essential, and we are committed to instilling the values that will guide more sustainable professional and personal choices among students and alumni.

Updating our STARS report for this submission has engaged students, faculty, and staff across AUS in collecting data and measuring progress over the last three years. The AUS Sustainability Office led the collection and assessment of the data. The reporting process again has highlighted where we have made progress and encouraged us to focus our attention on making the campus even more sustainable. This exercise has proven very insightful. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the AASHE STARS program and are grateful for the value that the comprehensive framework brings in terms of supporting our efforts.

Sincerely,

Professor Kevin Mitchell
Chancellor