



March 4, 2021

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut St #102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Steering Committee Members:

On behalf of the University of Arkansas, I am pleased to submit our fifth Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating Systems (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). This submission reflects the dedication and commitment to sustainability made by leadership throughout our campus.

The STARS reporting process catalyzes conversations about sustainability initiatives across the many campus departments. It is always remarkable to see how widespread, yet unified, our campus push towards environmental and social stewardship is. This dialogue also helps us identify opportunities for improvement, which is equally valuable for sincere progress.

Over the past few years, the University of Arkansas has become a certified Bee Campus USA and a Gold status Bicycle Friendly University through the League of American Cyclists. Additionally, we established the University of Arkansas Resiliency Center and the Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to meet the challenges of tomorrow. In that same time, we have become the nation's leader in mass timber construction and are proving it to be a sustainable alternative to traditional construction methods.

We are proud of past accomplishments, but even more excited about the future. 2021 will bring about our fourth, and most ambitious, round of Energy Savings Performance Contracts along with multiple commercial-scale solar service agreements for the University of Arkansas system. We plan to offset the campus' scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2022, which would essentially cut our campus carbon footprint in half.

The effort needed to compile data across the university's campus and auxiliaries spanned multiple years, involved numerous partnerships, and forged new relationships. The University of Arkansas AASHE STARS report is the product of that effort. We are proud of our progress thus far and look forward to expanding our efforts year-over-year.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Steinmetz, PhD
Chancellor