

November 5, 2018

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

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

The University of Waterloo has long been dedicated to being a global leader in innovation and in the spirit of challenging the status quo, advancing sustainability efforts at our institution has been a top priority.

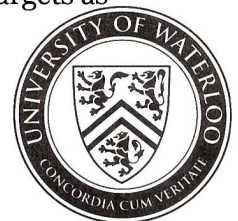
Enclosed is the University of Waterloo's first submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) for a Silver rating. The accuracy of this submission has been confirmed as our community continues to grow and develop in our long-term sustainability journey.

As one of the largest universities in Canada, home to the largest Faculty of Environment in the country and with more than 200,000 alumni in 145 countries, we believe it is our duty to set a positive example for our community and the world when it comes to building a more sustainable institution.

The University of Waterloo has taken steps over the past three years to track and benchmark our sustainability efforts through annual Environmental Sustainability Reports. These reports were integral in the creation of our University's first comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Strategy that was published in November of 2017. The Report's ultimate goal is to achieve STARS Gold certification by 2025. Through academic, operational and community engagement strategies and actions we are confident that we can make this goal a reality.

Sustainability is part of our DNA at the University of Waterloo. Our teaching and curriculum related to sustainability leverages our disciplinary strengths across hundreds of courses, while also breaking new barriers of interdisciplinarity through initiatives like our Collaborative Water Program. Hundreds of researchers from all six of Waterloo's faculties are conducting research and scholarship related to sustainability challenges, and are advancing all of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As an institution that consistently looks beyond our campus to make a positive impact, we are also inspiring all of Canada to adopt sustainability as a key pillar of future prosperity. In May of 2018 the University of Waterloo became the official home of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Canada. This hub is taking a lead to meet Canada's SDG targets as set out by the United Nations.



Earning the STARS Silver rating will be a milestone in the University of Waterloo's sustainability journey. It will be a significant achievement that will echo across our campus and into our broader community, highlighting the sustainability successes that can be achieved through effective planning and action.

On behalf of the University of Waterloo community, thank you for considering our submission as we strive to build a more sustainable community for our students, faculty and staff members now and in the future.

Sincerely,



Feridun Hamdullahpur  
President and Vice-Chancellor

