



April 15, 2019

AASHE  
2401 Walnut Street  
Suite 102  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the students, staff, faculty, and administration of the University of Wyoming (UW), it is my pleasure to submit our first Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Our *Breaking Through: 2017-2022 Strategic Plan for the University of Wyoming* identifies a goal for a high-performing university with a performance indicator to achieve an AASHE STARS Bronze rating by 2022. We are pleased to seek an AASHE rating of Bronze or greater three years earlier than our strategic plan requires with the submission of this report. As Wyoming's land-grant university and its only public, four-year institution of higher education, UW can demonstrate leadership across the state through STARS.

While this is UW's first STARS report submission, sustainability has a long history at the University. Since 2005, a joint administrative, operational, academic, and student Campus Sustainability Committee has served the Office of the President in an advisory capacity to advance sustainability at UW. The committee completes an annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory and communicates its findings to our university community. Our operational staff have held emissions largely steady over time despite an expanding campus, and several of our buildings are LEED-certified. The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources hosts a Sustainability minor, which provides opportunities for students to use campus as a living laboratory for engaged learning. Additionally, we have a strong student sustainability presence with organizations like the Sustainability Coalition and ACRES Student Farm, both of which have provided key leadership for zero waste university events, such as the Shepard Symposium for Social Justice.

Through these and other dedicated efforts of many people across our campus, we have achieved several accomplishments that should garner us credits across Academics, Engagement, Operations, Planning and Administration, and Innovation and Leadership. However, the Campus Sustainability Committee's diligent work over the past year and a half has been integral to completing UW's STARS report, itself. With the support of students in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources' Campus Sustainability course who completed an investigation of peer institutions' reporting processes, the committee first provided a STARS feasibility report to myself and Provost Kate Miller in spring and summer 2018. Over the past academic year, a small team of student interns, together with the Campus Sustainability Committee, have collected data and completed a strong report.

While a STARS Bronze rating is our minimum goal, it is my sincere hope that this designation provides a pathway to advance sustainability at UW and achieve higher STARS ratings over time. The Campus Sustainability Committee has immediate plans to communicate the results of our STARS report to the

university community, following review, and to seek their feedback to strategically plan for those sustainability advancements. On behalf of the University of Wyoming, I appreciate AASHE's STARS program as a platform to support sustainability advancements in higher education and am pleased to submit our STARS report for your review.

Sincerely,



Laurie S. Nichols  
President