

Rectorat  
Sherbrooke (Québec) J1K 2R1

Sherbrooke, 6th december 2019

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

Dear STARS-Steering Committee:

On behalf of the Université de Sherbrooke, we are pleased to endorse our institution's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report. The information included here is the result of several months of concerted efforts managed by a dedicated team of collaborators engaged in sustainability, along with the contribution of many faculty and staff from the university community. Adhering to the STARS framework proved to be a comprehensive examination of our practices and information resources with regard to sustainable development. It demonstrated that we appear to be on par with what we had expected to have accomplished over the years and would only want to improve in the future.

Over the last forty years, the Université de Sherbrooke has earned an enviable reputation pertaining to environment and sustainability, even deserving the name of Green University. Whether through the excellence of its Environment and Sustainable Development University Training Center (*Centre universitaire de formation en environnement et développement durable*), for its program of free access to public transit available to students or for being the first university in Québec to have a Vice-Rector, Administration and Sustainable Development and a policy with regard to sustainability, it is the leading university in this field in Québec.

Sustainable development is experienced daily across all three campuses of the institution in terms of both the university management and living environment, as well as through its research missions, education, innovation and social commitment. This brings about an institutional sustainable development culture where the University is gradually transformed into a real life laboratory, connected to global issues and engaged locally. The University strategic plan reiterates the importance given to sustainable development, particularly with the following direction: "Continue to position Université de Sherbrooke as a Québec reference with regard to sustainable development."

In the wake of the achievements confirmed in our Sustainable Development Report over the last 40 years, UdeS adopted a Sustainable Development Plan for the years 2018 to 2022. This plan consists of 7 strategies to integrate sustainable development into our management practices and our ongoing operations. These 7 strategies are the result of a year of work involving nearly 100 stakeholders from our ecosystem and include more than 350 actions to be implemented in the coming years.

The challenge for the entire university community will be to live up to the University's excellent reputation by continuing to innovate and be a model for our society, particularly in the current context of climate change adaptation. With this in mind, the Université de Sherbrooke, in partnership with the City of Sherbrooke, has put into operation the largest solar energy park for research and innovation in Québec, at the heart of a concrete development strategy and management of renewable energies.

We approach our participation in STARS with much enthusiasm. Together, let's contribute to a better world by acting responsibly.

Sincerely,



Pierre Cossette  
President



Denyse Rémillard  
Vice-President, Administration and Sustainable Development