



Office of the President

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May 9, 2013

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

Oregon State University is pleased to again participate in AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System. For several years, OSU has been a recognized leader in sustainability. STARS has helped us stay in a leadership position. The assessment continues to be a valuable tool in forging new conversations and relationships around issues of global importance. For example, the OSU Foundation has productively engaged with a group of students, faculty and staff interested in having the Foundation remove investments in fossil fuel-related organizations. The investment-related questions asked by STARS – and before it the Sustainable Endowments Institute – have helped prepare the Foundation for new and emerging trends within higher education.

STARS has also inspired action. With better measurement comes a more informed strategy to help our university community be more sustainable. From enhanced sustainability research to more alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle, STARS is a tool that helps fulfill OSU's commitment to advancing the Science of Sustainable Earth Ecosystems, a Signature Area within our strategic plan.

OSU personnel have expressed appreciation for the collaboration between rating and assessment organizations like the Sustainable Endowments Institute, Princeton Review, Sierra Magazine and AASHE. Having STARS as the backbone of data collection and dissemination seems to be a productive use of staff time and meets multiple organizations' objectives. The year to year consistency and standardization within STARS also helps large and complex institutions like OSU be transparent, thoughtful and complete in tracking our progress over time and see not only where we've been but where we're going.

I believe OSU's STARS submission is an accurate reflection of OSU's commitment to sustainability. I look forward to our continued participation as a Charter Participant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward J. Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Edward J. Ray
President