



September 27, 2023

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Committee:

As a Mercy, Catholic Institution, Salve Regina University is committed to addressing the Mercy Critical Concerns by advancing environmental stewardship and sustainability on campus and in the community and by integrating the social, economic, and ecological values of sustainable development into institutional policies, practices, and student experience. The University Sustainability Committee (Sustainable Salve) serves as a catalyst to advance initiatives throughout campus and is central to our university mission to “work for a world that is harmonious, just, and merciful.”

Salve Regina University has committed as a University to the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor, a nationwide initiative created by the Catholic Climate Covenant. The pledge is a promise and a commitment to protect God’s creation and advocate on behalf of people in poverty who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. Salve is also committed to the Laudato Si’ Action Plan as a Laudato Si’ University. We are developing specific outcomes in each of the seven areas of this plan: response to the cry of the earth, response to the cry of the poor, ecological economics, adopting a sustainable lifestyle, ecological education, ecological spirituality, and community resilience and empowerment. These outcomes are realized through our university initiatives such as the Presidential Commission on Equity and Inclusion, the McAuley Institute for Mercy Education’s Interdisciplinary Faculty Collaboratives on Earth, Race, Women, and Immigration, and our new Salve Compass program.

As I think back on the events, programs, and service to celebrate Earth Month this past April, and as we prepare to send our third delegation from Salve to the global climate conference, the UN Conference of Parties (COP28), I am inspired and proud of our ability advocate for the Earth and deepen our practices of sustainability and climate justice.

We are grateful for your review of our report and eager to see our institution advance work on the Mercy Critical Concern of Earth through this partnership with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelli J. Armstrong'.

Kelli J. Armstrong, Ph.D.
President