

January 29, 2015

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is an honor to submit the STARS report on behalf of the University of Missouri.

The University of Missouri embraces its role in providing a healthy and safe learning environment for its students, faculty and staff. Consistent with MU's mission and values, we are committed to demonstrating local and global environmental stewardship. MU recognizes the increasing need for policies and practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment with the goal of making the MU campus carbon neutral.

Considered one of the nation's top-tier institutions, Mizzou has a reputation of excellence in teaching and research. It is one of only 34 public universities (and the only public university in Missouri) among the 61 members of the Association of American Universities. MU is designated "Research University/Very High" and "Community Engaged" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and is one of only five universities nationwide with medicine, veterinary medicine, law and a nuclear reactor on its campus.

The National Science Foundation has recognized Mizzou as one of the top 10 universities in the country for integrating research into undergraduate education. Indeed, many undergraduate researchers were integral to completing research included in this report. Undergraduate researchers have been instrumental in collecting and recording stormwater runoff data and student researchers will have the opportunity to collect and analyze data at the recently installed demonstration solar photovoltaic and wind turbine sites on campus.

As an international leader in energy conservation, MU has made great strides in reducing energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions on campus. While campus education and general space has grown by 42 percent since 1990, energy use has been reduced by 19 percent and greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by 57 percent on a square foot basis. We are also proud to be the first large university to install a 100 percent biomass boiler and, with the help of a forestry research professor, have set a precedent for sustainable biomass procurement. Wood waste from manufacturing comprises up to 90 percent of the fuel. The remaining 10 percent is harvested from managed forests in accordance with the Missouri Woody Biomass Harvesting Best Management Practices Manual.

With the new biomass boiler, an increase in natural gas purchases and a contract to purchase wind energy, MU hopes to exceed its 2018 target of a 50 percent reduction in carbon emissions from our 2008 baseline emissions.

Each statement in our submission has been verified by relevant staff and most of the statements are documented with a link to the corresponding MU website. Our process for developing this information was transparent and the product of MU research teams. The information is accurate and portrays well our accomplishments related to the STARS process.

Warm Regards,

R. Bowin Loftin
Chancellor