



EMORY

Office of the President

20 July 2011

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability
in Higher Education
213-½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to verify that the information contained in Emory University's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) submission accurately reflects the University's ongoing commitment to sustainability initiatives. Emory has chosen to report comprehensively on the activities of our entire contiguous main campus, including our hospitals, clinics, and multiple research facilities.

Emory founded its Office of Sustainability Initiatives in 2006, but campus sustainability efforts began over a decade earlier with a number of student- and faculty-led initiatives promoting recycling, campus forest protection, alternative transportation, green purchasing, and sustainability in the curriculum. Emory's nationally-recognized Piedmont Project to foster faculty research and teaching related to sustainability just celebrated its tenth anniversary—the longest continually-running program of its type in the country. Emory was also a pioneer in green building, beginning in 2000 with the construction of the Whitehead Medical Research Building, the first LEED-certified building in the Southeast. Additionally, Emory is home to the Goizueta Business School, which in 2004 became the first building in the country to achieve a Gold rating for LEED for Existing Buildings. We currently have 20 buildings on campus constructed to meet LEED certification standards.

More recent sustainability efforts at Emory include the development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan, which will aid in reaching long- and short-term emissions and energy-efficiency goals. Emory recently instated new temperature guidelines for campus buildings, which are expected to reduce energy expenses and help us achieve our goal of reducing overall energy consumption 25% per square foot by 2015.

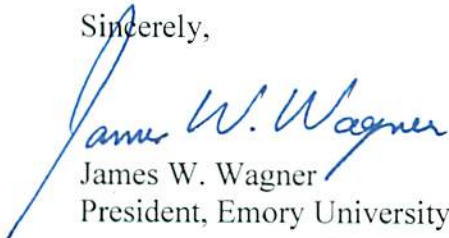
Emory is also making great strides in waste diversion and reduction, both at the University and in Emory Healthcare. In order to reach our goal of reducing Emory's total waste stream by 65% by 2015, many University events are now zero waste, including Emory's 166th Commencement celebration. In 2009, Emory launched an innovative program to compost non-infectious animal bedding and research mortalities. New programs to recycle and reduce

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biohazard waste also have been successful, with one of our hospitals reducing its biohazard waste by 20% in the first month. We also continue our work to improve public health and the environment through our Sustainable Food Initiative, as we strive to achieve 75% local or sustainable food by 2015.

Emory is thankful for the opportunity to participate as a charter member of the STARS assessment, and appreciates the work AASHE does to promote sustainability in higher education. Our participation in STARS has helped Emory identify both the areas in which we excel and the areas in which we can continue to improve. We are proud to have achieved a STARS Gold rating in recognition of our progress in sustainability. We look forward to participating in STARS in the future as we pursue our sustainability vision to help restore the global ecosystem, foster healthy living, and reduce the University's impact on the local environment.

Sincerely,



James W. Wagner
President, Emory University