



EMORY

Office of the President

July 22, 2014

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

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I write 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 thirteenth anniversary, making it 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 Biomedical Research Building, the first LEED-certified building in the Southeast. Emory is also 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 25 buildings on campus constructed to meet LEED certification standards.

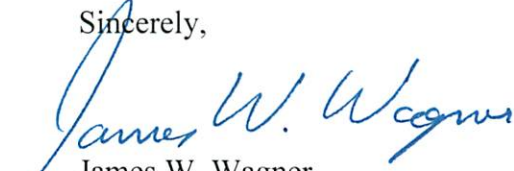
More recent sustainability efforts at Emory include the development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan, which will aid in reaching long- and short-term emissions and energy-efficiency goals. Emory is continuing with Phase IV of its Utility Reduction and Energy Conservation Agreement, is carefully applying its temperature policy and building setbacks, and has added to these efforts a new Sustainable Performance Program, all of which are expected to reduce energy expenses and help us meet our goal of reducing overall energy consumption 25% per square foot by 2015.

Additionally, Emory is 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 169th

Commencement celebration. Just a few months ago, two of Emory's largest hospitals implemented a comprehensive recycling program that includes clean recyclables from operating rooms, patient care areas, administrative spaces, and public waiting rooms and lobbies. Through our Green Labs Program, launched in the pilot phase this year, we expect our research and teaching laboratories to build upon the energy use reduction work already in place through equipment efficiency and air exchange rate reductions. This voluntary program recommends actions in waste reduction, water conservation, sustainable procurement, energy efficiency, and other innovations to address the high environmental, social, and economic impact our research buildings have because of their necessary and important functions. Emory also continues 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 proud of its charter membership in STARS 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 2.0 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
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President, Emory University