



Claire E. Sterk, PhD  
PRESIDENT

July 21, 2017

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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 one of our hospitals, multiple healthcare clinics, and 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 has fostered faculty research and teaching related to sustainability for over fifteen years, 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 over 30 buildings totaling over 3 million square feet meeting LEED certification standards.

More recent sustainability efforts at Emory include the development of a new Sustainability Vision for 2025 that moves our campus and community to higher levels of sustainability over the coming decade. Emory continues its aggressive action for energy reduction and climate action, including exceeding our 2015 goal of 25% per square foot energy reduction from 2005 levels. In 2015, Emory also opened the award-winning Water Hub at Emory, which reclaims over 400,000 gallons of wastewater per day for our steam plant, chiller plants, and toilet flushing.

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 2.1 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Claire E. Sterk  
President Emory University