



Make Tomorrow Yours

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

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October 19, 2023

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Subject: 2023 AASHE STARS Report Submission

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

On behalf of Salisbury University, I am pleased to submit SU's first AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report for your review. This report was a campus-wide collaborative effort coordinated by SU's Office of Sustainability. Departments including Horticulture, Dining Services, the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, the Office of Institutional Equity, and University Analysis, Reporting, & Assessment all provided the necessary information and data required to complete this report. Earlier this year, Salisbury University was ranked #41 in the Princeton Review's Top 50 Green Colleges. Our ranking has motivated the SU community to identify additional opportunities to become even more sustainable. Now, more than ever, Salisbury University remains committed to demonstrating to the nation that achieving a sustainable campus community is possible. It is our hope that our report further documents our commitment to creating a sustainable campus for our present and future campus community.

Salisbury University has set the ambitious goal to be carbon neutral by the year 2045. To accomplish this, we are tracking and publicly reporting our carbon emissions using the University of New Hampshire's SIMAP program. We continue to analyze the performance of each building on campus and are identifying ways to increase efficiency. At SU, it is a requirement that all new construction projects and renovation projects meet at minimum LEED Silver standards. Starting in November 2023, we are pushing our goals even further with our Blackwell Hall renovation project. Blackwell Hall was built in 1957, expanded in 1977, and is one of the least efficient buildings on campus. Our goal is to transform Blackwell into the most efficient building on campus by making it a carbon net-zero building. In addition to this, we have set a goal to fully electrify our fleet vehicles by 2031.

Knowing that public education and awareness plays a significant role in creating a sustainable future, SU has launched various education outreach campaigns on our campus. In 2023, SU hosted multiple recycling events encouraging our students, staff, and faculty to bring all of their

recyclable materials to one centralized location. Some events awarded prizes to individual students and student organizations for most recycled material by weight. SU also participated in the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Race to Zero Waste program bringing food waste awareness to the campus community. To increase food security on campus, SU continues to promote the "Food for the Flock" program each semester. With this program the campus community can donate or receive food items Monday through Friday at The Commons.

During the Spring 2023 semester, SU conducted its first office waste audit. The waste audit revealed that a significant percentage of recyclable material was entering our waste stream. To correct the behaviors of our staff and faculty, SU is currently implementing our "Mini-Trashcan Initiative" program. We are replacing the existing office deskside trashcans with liner-free deskside recycle bins and attached mini-trashcans. Instead of having SU Facilities Services empty the office bins, we're now requiring staff and faculty to empty their own recycling and mini-trashcans into larger communal bins within each building. With the Mini-Trashcan Initiative SU hopes to increase our recycling rate, decrease the amount of waste we send to the landfill, and reduce our use of single use plastics. In 2024, SU plans to submit documentation for the National Wildlife Federation's Plastics Reduction Partner certification.

Salisbury University appreciates the opportunity to earn an AASHE STARS rating as we hope this serves as a benchmark for our current status in 2023. We will continue to use AASHE STARS to help us identify areas of improvement as we stride to reach our goal of being carbon neutral by 2045. Please contact Chris Homeister, Director of Campus Sustainability, at cshomeister@salisbury.edu or by phone at 410-546-2496 if you have any questions regarding our AASHE STARS report.

Sincerely,



Eric Berkheimer
Associate Vice-President of Facilities and Capital Management