

March 1, 2020

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

As President of the University of Utah, I am pleased to submit our third sustainability assessment using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS 2.2) and I affirm the accuracy of our submission.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to participate in STARS. The metrics inherent in STARS establish a framework for measuring progress and provide a comprehensive view of sustainability measures that stimulate action. Over the past two years, I am pleased to report the University of Utah has only furthered its commitments to sustainability including creating a full-time Chief Sustainability Officer position (with Kerry Case beginning March 1), having our student and faculty councils along with our Board of Trustees and myself reaffirm our President's Climate Commitment and having been invited and subsequently joined the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) in 2019. Additionally, sustainability efforts are more integrated than ever, with dotted line reports to the Sustainability Office from critical personnel in facilities, purchasing and our Health Sciences campus, reflecting our efforts to unify the university as exemplified in the theme "1U."

These steps build upon our shift of our Sustainability Office reporting directly to our Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, integrating our interdisciplinary research center—the Global Change and Sustainability Center—under the CSO, as well as creating an education coordinator within the Sustainability Office as reported in 2017. Together, these steps reflect an increasingly integrated and comprehensive approach to sustainability across the University of Utah and we take great pride in our leadership and innovation in regard to this grand challenge.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to use the STARS tool to assess our work and efforts and for providing comparisons to peers that help compel better practices across higher education.

Sincerely,



Ruth V. Watkins
President