

September 6, 2023

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

As president of the University of Utah, I am pleased to submit our fourth assessment using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS 2.2). I am delighted that, thanks to the hard work of our students, faculty and staff, our institution appears to be on track to maintain its Gold rating.

The University of Utah is the state's flagship institution of higher education, with 18 schools and colleges, more than 100 undergraduate and 90 graduate degree programs and an enrollment of more than 34,000 students. The U strives to be a model public university in delivering unmatched value in higher education and health care while making social, economic and cultural contributions that improve the quality of life throughout the state, the nation and the world. Sustainability is one of our core values, and our commitment is evident in the consistent improvement in our STARS scores over the past twelve years. Sustainability is critical to our efforts to revolutionize the student experience, engage communities and generate discoveries that improve lives and change the world.

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in STARS. The outlined metrics establish a strong framework for measuring progress, establishing accountability and prioritizing actions. Since our last STARS submission three years ago, the University of Utah has furthered its commitment to sustainability and seen significant progress. With input from over 4,000 students, faculty, staff and community members, the university is developing an updated Climate Change Action Plan, and I have accelerated our carbon neutrality target from 2050 to 2040. We have also created the Wilkes Center for Climate Science & Policy, which strives for practical, integrative and solutions-oriented research that can translate into policy. The U's health care system has emerged as a sustainability leader, earning multiple awards from Practice Green Health, and our facilities team has significantly decreased campus water use even as our total square footage and student population have grown.

I welcome the ongoing challenge presented by the STARS tool to continuously improve our sustainability performance, and I appreciate the opportunity to benchmark our institution in relation to our peers. I am excited to see the progress the U achieves over the coming 3 years that will be reflected in future STARS submissions.

Sincerely,



Taylor R. Randall  
President