



March 4, 2020

STARS Review Committee:

Lewis & Clark is a private institution with a public conscience, a residential campus with global reach. Our study of and commitment to **sustainability and the natural environment** is intrinsically linked to our unique place. Our research and actions extend beyond our campus into the wider world, we build on the best available scholarship and practice in our endeavors, and we recognize the importance and interrelatedness of ecology, economy, and equity.

Reporting and external commitments, such as STARS, which are connected to our collective work and advocacy, remain an important part of our sustainability ethic. As an extension of our values at Lewis & Clark, as a demonstration of our commitment to transparency and continuous improvement, and as an opportunity to share what we have learned on this journey with the broader community. We are excited to share our progress in this report as well as a few highlights in this letter.

Students and faculty throughout all three of Lewis & Clark's schools—the undergraduate [College of Arts and Sciences](#), the [Graduate School of Education and Counseling](#), and the [School of Law](#)—pursue sustainability through education and professional practice. Our Law School with its nationally ranked Environmental Law program and Green Energy Institute, our Graduate School through its social justice-focused counseling and education programs, and in our undergraduate college, where sustainability-related courses are woven throughout the liberal arts curriculum. In the last three years we have developed an Energy, Innovation, and Sustainability Law certificate, sustainability and entrepreneurship courses and internship program, as well as hiring climate-focused faculty and a part-time Sustainability in Curriculum coordinator.

In response to the global plastic and recycling crises, we initiated several programs to reduce single-use plastics across our campus including straws, utensils, and bottles. At the same time, we have been challenged to rethink what recycling looks like on our campus as global markets for recycled materials have reduced significantly and calls for circularity in our economy increases.

On the administration side, we were proud to have cross-campus participation and support for fossil fuel divestment, approved and supported by our Board of Trustees. Initial reports indicate this has resulted in positive financial impacts in our endowment performance. Additionally, we launched an externally-focused Sustainability Advisory Board, which includes local and global partners and alums, committed to assisting the institution in developing opportunities for our students and expanding our connections and reach. And finally, I was a proud representative of Lewis & Clark and of higher education, at COP 25 in Madrid.

As we complete and submit this AASHE STARS report, we do so with a great deal of work on the horizon and the enthusiasm and fortitude to take on our greatest challenge as a global community: addressing the climate crisis. In the coming years, we will make significant progress toward both carbon neutrality and decarbonization, ensuring a just and equitable transition while integrating education into the core of our work. We look forward to sharing this journey with our higher education peers as we work toward collective impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wim Wiewel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wim Wiewel  
President  
Lewis & Clark College