



**Oregon
Institute
of Technology**

Office of the President

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STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Re: Oregon Institute of Technology's STARS Submission

Sustainability is becoming a focus of many higher education institutions as colleges and universities realize the need for more energy efficient facilities, climate-neutral campuses, waste and water-use reductions, and local community-based food options. Universities have an obligation to educate future leaders and citizens in all aspects related to sustainability and building a sustainable campus requires the engagement of the campus as a whole.

Oregon Tech has been actively participating in sustainability efforts and education since the Geo-Heat Center began operating in 1974. The efforts of the Geo-Heat Center were complimented by the legislative establishment of the Oregon Renewable Energy Center at Oregon Tech in 2001. Since that time, there have been many initiatives in sustainability projects and efforts towards making sustainability a more integral part of all campus operations. The entire Klamath Falls campus, for example, is geothermally heated, creating significant cost savings, while also significantly reducing CO₂ emissions. Additionally, the campus has a geothermal powerplant, soon to be accompanied by a large scale photovoltaic system and a larger scale geothermal powerplant. Oregon Tech's Renewable Energy Engineering program is the first of its kind in the US, while other majors such as Civil Engineering and Environmental Sciences are including sustainability-related classes in core curriculum areas.

On behalf of the Oregon Institute of Technology, I am pleased to submit the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System Report for 2011. The report reflects data gathering, participation, and collaboration from many sectors of the institution and is an accurate and honest assessment based on the information available. Oregon Tech's Bronze STARS rating reflects its commitment to Sustainability, while also showing that much more can be done to improve sustainability efforts. The STARS baseline will be used to track future sustainability achievements.

Sincerely,

Christopher G. Maples
President