



San Diego State University
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THE PRESIDENT

July 30, 2012

Paul Rowland
Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Dr. Rowland:

It is my pleasure to present the San Diego State University report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking and Rating System. I affirm it is an accurate representation of our sustainability efforts, which are a substantial campus-wide collaboration led by the Center for Regional Sustainability and the University Senate Sustainability Committee.

San Diego State University is committed to leading the way to a sustainable future by reducing the environmental impact of our campus, educating students to address the critical issues of today's world and supporting innovative research.

We say "Leadership Starts Here" at SDSU, and the university was proud to be a charter participant in the AASHE STARS program. We anticipate a Silver rating in this assessment, which provided an opportunity to engage our campus community, reflect on our achievements and identify areas for improvement.

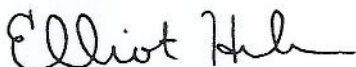
SDSU has made strides in making its campus more sustainable with investments in co-generation and alternative energy technology – such as solar photo-voltaic arrays – and waste reduction initiatives. The Aztec Student Union, which is currently under construction, has been designed to meet LEED Platinum standards.

Our progress has been significant in curriculum development and community engagement. SDSU's Center for Regional Sustainability works with faculty to integrate sustainability across the curriculum. Sustainability-themed Service Learning courses support course-based study that connects to civic action. In the upcoming term, SDSU offers a sustainability major for the first time. Its multidisciplinary training will prepare students to work with both scientists and policymakers in sustainable business, public policy, environmental education and other fields.

Student organizations, such as e3 and the Associated Students' Green Love, have been an integral part of SDSU sustainability efforts. Shannon Clark, a political science major, received a Udall Scholarship this year – a first for an SDSU student and only one of 80 selected in the U.S.

While we are proud of our achievements, we recognize sustainability is an ongoing process. The STARS report serves as a benchmark to measure our progress and an assessment to inform decisions that will take SDSU to a higher level of sustainability. Thank you for the AASHE role in this important endeavor.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliot Hirshman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Elliot Hirshman
President

EH:rjl