

WASHINGTON AND LEE  
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 15, 2022

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I write to affirm that Washington and Lee University's submission for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is, to the best of my knowledge, an accurate representation of our current practices, policies, and standards. Representatives from our Offices of Sustainability and Energy Education have handled project management and data collection, with input from various departments on campus.

We live and work in one of the most beautiful parts of the U.S., and we are doing all that we can to protect and preserve our spot in the world. Our motto, "non incautus futuri" – not unmindful of the future – reminds us daily that we must do what we can to protect our future environment, community, and economy.

W&L will use the data to further our efforts in sustainability and environmental stewardship, which are priorities in our 2018 University Strategic Plan. Critical initiatives, under the "Citizenship" section, include: meeting our climate commitments and outlining them in a climate action plan; building to LEED-certified standards; and studying and reducing resource consumption and waste. In addition, our 2019 Climate Action Plan updates our carbon neutrality goals and specifies how we aim to achieve them.

Our 2020 submission gave us the insight into where we could make considerable changes. Since then, we have improved tracking of our food and beverage sourcing, worked more closely with first-year residence halls in waste sorting, and increased our formal voter education and support. We know that it may take a little longer to see progress in some other areas, but we are ready for the challenge and look forward to incorporating the knowledge gained by this 2022 submission.

We appreciate the work of the AASHE to compile such a robust data collection and rating tool and are grateful for the assistance in working with this tool. We look forward to learning from and engaging with STARS and are excited to see where we can take W&L's sustainability programs in the future.

Sincerely,



William C. Dudley, President

*Founded in 1749*