

September 6, 2023

Dear STARS Review Committee,

On behalf of the University of California, Los Angeles, I am pleased to submit our documentation for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). It is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of submission.

The mission of sustainability at UCLA is to create a culture of sustainability in which the entire UCLA community is aware of, engaged in, and committed to advancing sustainability through education, research, operations, and community partnerships. UCLA is a living laboratory for climate and sustainability research where undergraduate, graduate, and professional students engage with staff and faculty to pilot new technologies and policies on the university campus that demonstrate what is possible for the region and the globe. For over fifteen years, UCLA has built leading programs in sustainability that are integrated throughout our mission of teaching, research, and service.

These efforts have been coordinated through a Sustainability Committee of faculty, staff, and students, and guided by an Executive Sustainability Committee of key campus leadership. Sustainability programs at UCLA touch every corner of the university and beyond - from award-winning academic programs and innovative research, to green buildings, urban agriculture, and transportation programs on our campus. Our students are engaged in applied solutions through programs like the Sustainability Action Research program and over 45 student organizations. The Sustainable LA Grand Challenge (SLA GC), a UCLA-wide initiative dedicated to transforming Los Angeles into the world's first sustainable megacity by 2050, is connecting leading scholars across campus and partners outside of UCLA to solve urban sustainability challenges in Los Angeles, while training the next generation of sustainability leaders.

Some highlights from the past year include the first comprehensive university wide sustainability action plan, introduced during Earth Month in 2022; research in support of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's LA100 Equity Strategies; and the launch of SLA GC's

Transformative Research and Collaboration (TRACtion) initiative, which will begin with a two-year series of activities and funding opportunities called Transforming Transportation in Los Angeles. Additional details on these and other efforts may be viewed [here](#).

Supported by funding from the State of California, UCLA is initiating a study of the campus's energy infrastructure to identify a path beyond carbon neutrality to full decarbonization. The study's consultants will be guided by a team of UCLA staff from the Sustainability, Capital Programs and Facilities Management units, and advised by a Decarbonization Task Force made up of faculty and student advocates. The results of the study will be used to set near- and long-term targets for direct decarbonization of campus energy systems.

Building on decades of award-winning transportation programs, UCLA's new EV Readiness Plan calls for all new vehicles procured for the campus fleet — including more zero-emission BruinBuses — to be hybrid or all-electric effective immediately. The university plans to procure two additional electric buses this year and electrify the entire bus fleet by 2025. More EV charging stations are being installed in campus parking areas, with plans for a total of 1,000 charging points by 2025.

UCLA's Zero Waste efforts also are advancing - with aluminum containers replacing plastic water bottles and surplus edible items being redistributed to those in need. UCLA has made important strides in sustainability, and continuing that progress will require engagement across the university — faculty, staff, and students, and support from our community.

UCLA appreciates the work of AASHE to create the STARS reporting system. We were early participants in the program and believe in the importance of transparency and reporting. We support AASHE's efforts to facilitate information sharing about higher education sustainability practices and performance.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nurit Katz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Nurit Katz  
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