

March 6, 2020

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 a decade UCLA has built leading programs in sustainability integrated throughout our mission of teaching, research, and service.

These efforts have been linked and coordinated through a campus wide Sustainability Committee of faculty, staff, and students and 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, 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 UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenge team and other campus researchers, along with the county's chief sustainability office and other partners, developing the first sustainability plan for Los Angeles County. The Sustainable LA Grand Challenge is a UCLA-wide initiative to achieve 100 percent renewable energy, 100 percent locally sourced water and enhanced ecosystem health for LA County by 2050.

Modeling water reclamation on a campus that doesn't have access to traditional sources of reclaimed water, Facilities Management expanded condensate capture from laboratories and HVAC equipment to save over 30 million gallons per year. On the roof of the Math Sciences building on campus, a graduate student used green roof simulation cells to test the thermal effects of different plant species in LA climate. In addition, a storm water capture system, designed by students and funded by The Green Initiative Fund, was installed on one of our parking structures.

Building on decades of award winning transportation programs, UCLA's new Active Transportation Plan aims to improve campus health, livability and safety through policy and infrastructure recommendations that increase walking, biking and other active forms of transportation. UCLA also strove to substantially increase the proportion of battery electric and other zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) in the fleet, including adding the first all-electric Mobile Surgical Instrument Reprocessing unit and three 40-foot ZEV transit buses. As one of the first locations in the country to be impacted by the electric scooter sharing launches, UCLA has been at the forefront of defining how to successfully manage this new mode of transportation.

UCLA's zero waste efforts continued to grow with new staff training, tools and containers, 32 zero waste pilot buildings, and composting in family and graduate student housing. Fifteen student groups collaborated on Waste Awareness Week, a student-run event focusing attention on the global waste crisis. The Green IT Taskforce (GriTT) partnered with Purchasing to target electronic waste and print services. A Sustainability Action Research Team helped UCLA Athletics win Most Improved in PAC-12 Green Games. The university launched a partnership with Human IT, a local non-profit who first attempts to refurbish E-Waste to donate to organizations in the community, appropriately recycling those items that aren't appropriate for reuse.

The new Bruin Plate Cookbook, featuring recipes from UCLA's award-winning, sustainability-themed dining hall, highlights fresh seasonal ingredients and nutritious, plant-forward meals. Proceeds support food security programs at UCLA.

In academic milestones, the Sustainable LA Grand Challenge team helped secure a new state-funded, \$10 million California Conservation Genomics Project, and the Institute of Environment and Sustainability launched a new interdisciplinary Ph.D. program.

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', written in a cursive style.

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