

Yale University

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30 June 2022

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

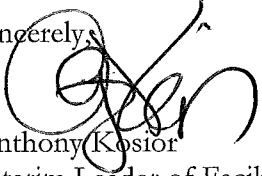
On behalf of Yale University, I am pleased to submit the results of our campus-wide assessment of sustainability programs and activities for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System (STARS). I also affirm this report to be an honest and accurate appraisal of our sustainability activities and accomplishments.

Yale has been committed to addressing climate change since 2005, when the university put forth a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2020, which we have since achieved. We are now working towards our new goal of achieving zero actual carbon emissions by 2050 with an interim target of net zero carbon emissions by 2035, and have already reduced our emissions by 28% below the 2015 fiscal year (our baseline year for reporting). The University has many other sustainability goals, as well, and has issued multiple Sustainability Strategic Plans over the years: the first in 2010, the second in 2013, and most recently, the Yale Sustainability Plan 2025, which launched in 2016. The Yale Sustainability Plan 2025 expands on the previous two Plans—which were focused exclusively on operations—to include the University’s academic mission, and prioritizes leadership in sustainability teaching, research, service, and operations. Through this Plan, Yale is committed to finding greater efficiencies in energy use; the design and maintenance of resilient buildings; ensuring sustainable consumption and disposal patterns; and engaging the Yale community in making sustainable choices.

The scope of Yale’s dedication to sustainability and the environment is broad, and continues to expand. Recent sustainability successes include establishing a new goal to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2035 and zero actual emissions by 2050; adopting fossil fuel investment principles to help facilitate a shift toward a decarbonized energy future, guiding the University’s decisions concerning companies that produce fossil fuels; and expanding Yale’s teaching and learning opportunities to address the complexity and scale of global climate challenges through The Planetary Solutions Project. In 2022, Yale announced a new Climate Impact Innovation Fund, established with \$15 million dollars from anonymous donors to help researchers respond to the urgency of the climate threat. In addition, the University awarded nearly \$1.5 million dollars to 21 proposals in its inaugural round of Planetary Solutions Project Seed Grants, which support the Yale community’s work in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and climate-linked health and justice issues.

Yale University is proud to participate in the AASHE STARS program, and we look forward to learning about our official STARS rating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AKosior', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Anthony Kosior
Interim Leader of Facilities and Campus Development
Yale University