

Yale University

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Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

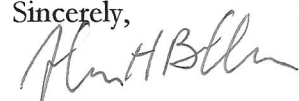
On behalf of Yale University, I am pleased to submit the results of our campus-wide assessment of sustainability programs and activities for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System (STARS). I also affirm this report 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. Since then, the University has committed to carbon neutrality by 2050. The University has issued three Sustainability Strategic Plans, 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 developing an online International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) publication called *Global Priorities, Educated Solutions: The Role of Academic in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals*; becoming a member of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative, a UN-led initiative to help strengthen the voice of academia in the UN system; and receiving an International Sustainable Campus Network award for our sustainability action planning program. Our University Task Force on Carbon Neutrality recommended an ambitious pathway to and timeline for carbon neutrality at Yale, and our Carbon Offsets Working Group developed a set of guiding principles for the purchase and creation of carbon offsets towards the University's greenhouse gas reduction commitments. In addition, the Office of Sustainability facilitated a cross-university collaboration to reduce chemicals of concern in university-furniture, and spearheaded a Pay-As-You-Throw pilot program to assess the best behavior change mechanisms for waste reduction.

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

Sincerely,



John H. Bollier
Vice President for Facilities and Campus Development
Yale University