

YALE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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On behalf of Yale University, I am pleased to submit the results of our first campus-wide assessment of sustainability programs and activities. I also affirm this report, which reflects months of gathering data and years of striving for more sustainable practices, to be an honest and accurate appraisal.

As a charter institution in the AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS), our participation in this program has helped us to better understand the University's strengths and challenges in becoming a sustainability institution.

Yale is an urban university serving over 26,000 people, including students, staff and faculty. The long term plans for the University include expanding the campus to include two new residential colleges and a new building for the School of Management, an aggressive research agenda, and an increasingly global profile. But as we think bigger, we must also accept our responsibility to manage this growth in a sustainable way.

To set the foundation, this past year Yale released a Sustainability Strategic Plan that sets visionary but achievable goals for the next three years. If we are going to meet these goals, Yale must reduce its waste, find greater efficiencies in energy use, create smarter travel and commuting options, and guide the Yale community to make sustainable choices. This plan is not just about improving Yale's environmental footprint, but is also intended to enhance the quality of life on campus while streamlining systems and processes to save resources, time, and money.

Although we must meet our immediate needs, the University also carries the responsibility to train tomorrow's leaders. We must be in the forefront not only in advancing science, technology, and education, but also in demonstrating to the world that substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are feasible and not prohibitively expensive. And by fostering a culture of sustainability, we also will be helping to create models for future generations. As we embark on this journey, we hope to instill in our students, staff, and faculty a full understanding of what it means to be a part of a sustainable tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,



Richard C. Levin