

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106-4060  
[WWW.SUSTAINABILITY.UCSB.EDU/](http://WWW.SUSTAINABILITY.UCSB.EDU/)

March 1st, 2021

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Chancellor's Sustainability Committee (CSC), we are pleased to verify that our submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is an accurate representation of our campus' sustainability initiatives and achievements. UCSB is committed to global leadership for sustainability through education, research, and action, and we are proud to be a participant in this self-assessment model which helps institutions across the nation measure their sustainability efforts and track their progress. UCSB first participated in the STARS pilot program in 2009, and we have continually benefited from this process.

UCSB has long been a leader in sustainability and continues to be a model for other institutions. In 1970, UCSB established one of the nation's first Environmental Studies Programs. In 1994, UCSB established the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, and in 2008, UCSB created the Institute for Energy Efficiency to develop innovative technologies that address energy conservation. UCSB was the first UC campus to sign the Talloires Declaration in the 1990s, and in 2013, UCSB completed the first comprehensive Campus Water Action Plan in the UC system, creating a model for our colleagues throughout the state. The Water Action plan was developed by a group of Masters Students in the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management.

UCSB is home to over 29 LEED-certified buildings, with the first LEED Platinum lab building in the country and the first residential complex in the UC system to attain Platinum certification, the highest possible rating for sustainable design under the category LEED for Homes.

In 2018, UCSB completed a project that increased its onsite renewable energy generating capacity tenfold through a multi-site Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). UCSB now has over 6.2 megawatts (MW) of on-site solar capacity, which generates more than one-third of the campus's peak electrical demand. Together, these solar installations generate over 40% of campus demand on a peak day and provide approximately 15% of UCSB's annual electricity needs through clean, on-campus power production.

Our campus is committed to reducing our impact on the climate. UCSB has reduced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions ~25% below 1990 levels and is committed to becoming carbon neutral in our operations by 2025. In July of 2020 we joined the UC Wholesale Power Program; our main campus is now powered by carbon-free electricity, which will reduce our Scope I/II greenhouse gas emissions by 50%.

UC Santa Barbara has long recognized that water is a critical resource for the state of California. We have pursued aggressive water conservation strategies for almost two decades. Nearly 90 percent of the campus is irrigated with reclaimed water, allowing us to make huge historical reductions in potable water consumption.

In 2019, UCSB received a Platinum level Bicycle Friendly certification from the League of American Bicyclists. The campus has extensive waste reduction programs that include recycling used cooking oil for biofuel, single-stream recycling, composting 100 percent of pre- and post-consumer food scraps in all dining halls, and implementing tray-less dining, all of which were initiated several years ago.

In spring 2020, UC Santa Barbara's Edible Campus Program Student Farm (a partnership of the Associated Students Department of Public Worms, Associated Students Food Bank and the Sustainability Program) was determined to be an essential service and maintained operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. UCSB Sustainability also partnered with the UCSB Food Security and Basic Needs Taskforce to develop a grocery distribution program to deliver fresh produce and groceries to students who are sick, quarantined, or immuno-compromised. These innovative programs, linking sustainability with human welfare, have helped UCSB students and other members of our community weather the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UCSB is also known for its commitment to sustainability education: in November of 2019 the UC-CSU KAN NXTerra Digital Platform and Knowledge Action Network was publicly launched. The UC-CSU Knowledge Action Network (KAN) for Transformative Climate and Sustainability Education and Action is a collaborative effort of UC and CSU educators to scale and intensify California students' literacy in climate change, climate justice, carbon neutrality/greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and critical sustainability.

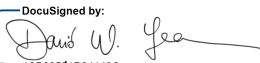
UCSB has been tracking sustainability indicators since 1995. STARS allows us to monitor and highlight many of the extraordinary efforts going on at UCSB and helps us to our achievements and progress in sustainability.

Sincerely,

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Renee E. Bahl

Associate Vice Chancellor, Design, Facilities, & Safety Services  
Co-Chair, Chancellor's Sustainability Committee

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