

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to submit Western University's second campus-wide sustainability assessment and to announce we have earned a Gold rating. The attached report is an accurate appraisal of Western's activities following months of gathering data and years of working towards becoming a leading university on the sustainability forefront.

Western is one of Canada's largest research-intensive universities occupying approximately 1,200 acres of land<sup>1</sup>, of which, 478 acres were analyzed within the scope of this report. The University is home to more than 37,000 part- and full-time undergraduate and graduate students (including 6,600 from affiliated University Colleges)<sup>2</sup>. During the busiest times of the academic year, Western employs up to 12,000 part- and full-time staff and faculty members<sup>3</sup>. With almost 350 faculty members engaged in sustainability research, Western has tremendous intellectual potential to help address many of the world's social, economic, and environmental issues. Our researchers emphasize the value of interdisciplinary collaboration across campus and with external stakeholders in addressing multifaceted challenges.

We embrace our responsibility to grow in a sustainable manner and have incorporated energy-efficient infrastructure and operations into campus expansions; for example, the new Richard Ivey Business School building and our newest residence, Ontario Hall. Our commitment to environmental sustainability is also evident in our three Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings on campus:

- Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavillion (Gold certified);
- McIntosh Gallery (Silver certified); and
- Stevenson-Lawson Building (Silver certified).

It is Western's priority to provide the best student experience while considering sustainable operations and resource allocation to minimize our ecological footprint.

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<sup>1</sup> Western University. 2014. Facts & Figures 2013. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/about/whoweare/facts.html>

<sup>2</sup> Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). 2014. Enrollment by university: 2013 preliminary full-time and part-time enrolment at AUCC member institutions (rounded to the nearest 10). Retrieved from:  
<http://www.aucc.ca/canadian-universities/facts-and-stats/enrolment-by-university/>

<sup>3</sup> Western University. 2013. Human Resources: Working at Western. Retrieved from: <http://www.uwo.ca/hr/working/index.html>

As a Charter participant in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), Western continuously strives to identify our strengths and opportunities to further our objective of becoming a more sustainability-oriented institution.

To guide and support our commitment, the President's Advisory Committee on Environment and Sustainability (PACES) has developed a 10-year sustainability vision (through 2022) and a 5-year action plan for Western (2012 through 2017). Our strategy's guiding vision is to implement a sustainable Western experience in:

- the campus community;
- teaching and learning fields;
- research opportunities; and
- operations.

Western's goals include:

- minimizing our ecological footprint while enhancing ecosystem services on campus;
- exposing every member of the Western community to a sustainable and healthy working, living and learning environment; and
- presenting students with opportunities to seek expertise in sustainability through coursework at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

In order to reach our desired outcomes, our strategy fosters creativity and innovation and encourages involvement across our campus. We hope our second STARS report will inspire further discussion and engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amit Chakma', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amit Chakma  
President & Vice-Chancellor