

**Mark S. Wrighton**  
Chancellor

August 5, 2011

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability  
in Higher Education  
213½ North Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to affirm that the following information is an accurate assessment of Washington University's level of commitment to, and incorporation of, sustainable practices, policies, educational offerings, research programs, and operational initiatives into our culture and community. This report represents months of data gathering, analysis, and examination of our progress in preparing the University to play its role in affecting positive environmental change within our global community and to inspire the minds of the next generation of leaders to build upon the solid foundation we are working to lay.

Washington University's commitment to sustainability stems from the recognition that, as institutions of research and knowledge creation, we all have a responsibility to lead the way in meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to enhance human life. With this in mind, Washington University laid the cornerstone of our commitment to sustainability in 2010 with the release of the *Strategic Plan for Environmentally Sustainable Operations*. This comprehensive analysis of our achievements, goals, and aspirations for the future has helped to provide a clear direction for our environmental efforts as we continue this process of self-assessment and refinement of best practices.

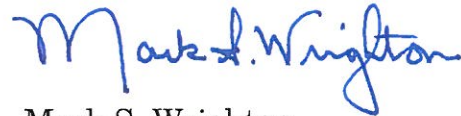
We, like so many of our peers, will continue to expand our physical footprint and environmental impact as we develop our academic reach and further our community partnerships, thus, we have a special responsibility. This involves not only the need to be even greater stewards of our shared resources, but as educators, to also train others how to meet their needs while not compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. From the establishment of collaborative international research partnerships that address the issues of energy and environment, to fostering sustainability in the student experience, Washington University is committed to continuing the dialogue on the issues surrounding sustainability. We believe this report represents a crucial step in this continued process of information sharing and collaboration.



STARS Steering Committee  
August 5, 2011  
Page 2

Washington University in St. Louis is proud to be a Charter Participant in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS). We believe STARS to be an important effort in contributing to the sharing of sustainable best practices and look forward to continued dialogue and the opportunity to learn from the impressive strides that have been made toward building more sustainable environments within our respective communities.

Sincerely yours,



Mark S. Wrighton

MSW:gfr  
Enclosure