

March 24, 2018

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

Dear STARS Review Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to submit the STARS Report and, in doing so, affirm that the information contained within is an accurate representation of Washington University in St. Louis' current sustainability practices, policies and commitments. The information we have submitted is collected through a collaborative process that relies on over 50 stakeholders from departments across the university. The in-depth and interdisciplinary nature of the report provides the opportunity for deep engagement, reminding us how broadly sustainability is embedded in our institutional culture.

Washington University in St. Louis has established "energy, environment, and sustainability" as one of five strategic priority areas, supported by major initiatives that transcend research, teaching, and operations. Along with the other strategic priorities of advancing human health, diversity and inclusion, global engagement, and innovation and entrepreneurship, we seek to better the world by preparing and supporting more effective leaders with the knowledge, experience, dedication and creativity to tackle complex problems.

Since our last official submission, we released the *2015-2020 Strategic Plan for Sustainable Operations*, which builds on the goals of the first strategic plan published in 2010. The document expands our sustainability commitments with new ambitious goals and objectives and serves as a roadmap for our efforts. A recently completed progress report indicates that we are well on our way to meeting the ambitious goals laid out in the plan.

We, like so many of our peers, will continue to expand our footprint as we grow our academic reach and further our community partnerships. With this comes the great responsibility to be stewards of natural resources and to make decisions that consider the impacts on generations to come. We recognize and acknowledge the responsibility of higher education institutions to continue to innovate, lead by example, and share knowledge. We believe that best-practice sharing among institutions is critical for challenging the higher education community to strive to do better and to be better. When it comes to environmental and social sustainability, we all have so much to gain with our successes and so much to lose with failure.

Sincerely yours,



Henry S. Webber