



Cornell University

Martha E. Pollack
President

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Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
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2021 Cornell University STARS 2.2 Submission

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to endorse the 2021 AASHE STARS Assessment for Cornell University using the 2.2 reporting platform. Sustainability and climate leadership are signature areas of excellence for our university, and we are proud to have received the STARS highest Platinum Rating in 2019 and 2020.

Our students, faculty, and staff have continued to advance the implementation of sustainable operations, curriculum, research, and community partnerships despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. I am especially proud of the work outlined in our STARS innovation credits, which are a testament to our ingenuity in pursuing solutions that scale beyond our campus:

Environmental Justice ‘TCAT to Trails’ Map: Architecture, Art, and Planning students created a detailed directory of public parks, nature, and other wellness locations served by public transit as an environmental justice intervention to ensure equitable access to green space for those without cars.

NY Solar Farm Study: Cornell researchers at *Cornell Cooperative Extension* are currently studying the opportunities and risks of solar energy production on New York agricultural lands. Since New York state has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 85% by 2050, this three-year project is currently informing the solar energy contracts that are necessary to meet this goal.

Climate Fellows: A hybrid MOOC-fellowship program has connected 10,000s of climate professionals across the globe in identifying methods to scale individual action and maximize climate impact. The 14-week program includes mentorship, formal learning, and collaborative action.

Cornell Botanic Buzzline: Students, staff, and researchers at campus pollinator labs worked to build *Botanic Buzzline*, a 980-square-foot flowering pathway that works to protect native biodiversity and educate visitors about pollinator decline, designed using sustainable landscaping practices.

Our Ithaca campus submits STARS annually to make our achievements and progress accessible and transparent to campus constituents, our peers, and the world. Thank you for your leadership and support in advancing higher education sustainability.

Sincerely,

Martha E. Pollack