



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 19, 2021

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

Re: University of Virginia Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of the University of Virginia and at the recommendation of the University Committee on Sustainability, I'm pleased to endorse our submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). Advancing sustainability in higher education is, like many other activities, a process of continual improvement. The STARS framework offers an effective tool to measure and report on progress toward our goals. As a long-time member of AASHE and a charter member of STARS, we are committed to both the overarching goal of advancing sustainability at UVA and to the more focused effort of contributing our experiences and learning to the further development of STARS.

Over the past three years—following our third STARS submission—the University has undertaken numerous actions to advance sustainability, including the launch of UVA's Sustainability Plan 2030. This strategic plan outlines climate goals and achievements, such as meeting our first greenhouse gas reduction goal six years early, new goals to be carbon neutral by 2030 and fossil fuel free by 2050, the implementation of two large utility-scale solar projects, the expansion of the Environmental Resilience Institute, extensive collaboration via dozens of committees and working groups, and many more new and expanded initiatives. Our latest submission to STARS represents another significant achievement and is the result of a University-wide effort.

I appreciate that AASHE recognizes higher education's role in advancing sustainability, and I am grateful to the STARS team of faculty, staff, and students who contributed to this submission. I also appreciate your efforts to confirm that an internal review process was conducted to ensure the accuracy of the information. These efforts, along with the day-to-day commitments to sustainable practices by hundreds of people in the UVA community, have given us great momentum toward a sustainable future.

Best,



James E. Ryan
President