



February 15, 2012

AASHE
1536 Wynkoop St, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

We are pleased to verify that Taylor University's submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) is a complete and accurate representation of our current sustainability initiatives. The assessment was completed primarily by Kevin Crosby, Taylor's first Coordinator of Stewardship and Sustainability, and John Stanson, a graduate student in our Masters of Environmental Science (MES) program. Just as sustainability is an interdisciplinary pursuit, performing this assessment also involved information and assistance from many different departments on campus.

Taylor University is a four-year, evangelical, liberal arts college located in Upland, Indiana. Responsible stewardship is an important component in one of the University's purpose statements and one of the general education characteristics. As such, demonstrating and teaching about stewardship through our administration and operations has always been important at Taylor. Our sustainability efforts are rooted in our belief that God calls us to care for his creation along with our neighbors who are affected by the lack of environmental sustainability of the society in which we live.

In the last few years we have made considerable strides toward sustainability. In 2010 the University's first sustainability assessment and greenhouse gas inventory was completed by Kevin Crosby, as an MES thesis project. Many positive changes have taken place since then to improve our social, economic, and environmental sustainability. An example is the nearly completed Euler Science Center which will serve as a science and sustainability learning laboratory for our students and community. This new building includes several innovative sustainability features, and will likely receive a LEED silver or gold rating.

Thank you for this opportunity to be a STARS Charter Participant. We are grateful to AASHE for developing STARS as it was a useful assessment tool and will assist us in setting goals for the future. We are optimistic about the future of sustainability at Taylor University.

Sincerely,

Eugene B. Habecker, PhD, JD
President

Office of the President

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