



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
President

January 4, 2022

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

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to again verify that the University of Notre Dame'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.

During this 2021-2022 academic year, we have increased our focus on our University sustainability goals. In September, I announced our commitment to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. Our annual [Notre Dame Forum](#), sponsored by my office, has invited our entire community to explore the topic of "Care for Our Common Home: Just Transition to a Sustainable Future." In the fall 2021 semester, over 50 events were held, including three keynote events featuring [Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew](#), co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus [U.S. Senator Chris Coons](#), and a [virtual performance by Theater of War Productions](#) viewed by a global audience. More events are planned for Spring 2022.

We have taken significant steps to advance our sustainability goals since our last STARS submission in October, 2017, among them:

- We ceased burning coal more than a year ahead of schedule on October 15, 2019, achieving our goal of a 50% reduction in carbon emissions well before our 2030 goal. This marked a milestone in our progress to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions on our path to become carbon neutral before 2050.
- We installed [three geothermal well fields on campus and expanded our infrastructure](#) to include chillers and thermal energy storage. Our geothermal system is now supporting several buildings on campus.

- In Spring 2021, a [large-scale solar facility partnership between the University and Indiana Michigan Power](#) was launched, with Notre Dame committing to 40% (8 MW) of the output or the equivalent of about 10% of our current electricity demand.
- [We broke ground on a 2.5-megawatt hydroelectric generation facility](#) located in downtown South Bend, which is expected to become active in 2022 and to provide approximately 7% of our electricity needs.
- We expanded our use of green roofs, [installing the largest expanse of green roof systems in the state of Indiana \(over 79k square feet\)](#) atop our Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center.
- We received eight additional LEED certifications (five gold and three silver) recognizing our commitment to designing all new construction to environmentally-friendly standards.
- We continued to focus on reducing food waste by [increasing our donations of consumable food](#) and by [installing three Grind2Energy systems](#) to capture approximately 400 tons per year of non-consumable food waste for anaerobic digestion.

Details of our current progress can be found within this current STARS report submission, while our Comprehensive Sustainability Strategy can be found at <https://green.nd.edu/mission/strategy/>.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in STARS. It is a valuable tool that will continue to inform us as we actively move forward with our respectful stewardship of the environment and the faithful care of God's creation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John I. Jenkins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
President