



June 27, 2014

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of Stanford University, we present our second submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). Stanford is renewing its **Gold** rating, progressing from an overall score of 68.4% in 2012 to a 74.6% in 2014.

An AASHE member and a Charter Participant in the STARS program since 2010, Stanford is dedicated to leading and advancing campus sustainability by example. From operations to student engagement to advanced research, professionals throughout the Stanford community are involved with sustainability projects in their daily work. Our comprehensive STARS submission represents a diligent and forthright compilation of data from these respective efforts.

The data collection exercise supported Stanford's ongoing evaluation of campus-wide sustainability, enabling recognition of success and opportunities ahead. While we applaud the positive changes made to the STARS version 2.0 framework, we need AASHE to continue addressing the system's limitations. For example:

- Energy credit criteria should be reevaluated to emphasize enduring campus infrastructure improvements rather than the use of Renewable Energy Credits.
- Operations credits should set progressive as opposed to absolute scoring requirements to allow for proper recognition of leading efforts in operational sustainability.
- Point allocation for buildings based primarily on square footage of building space that is LEED certified continues to reflect a bias for certification rather than maximization of actual sustainability features.

Stanford maintains an unwavering commitment to a sustainable future, as demonstrated by the progress the university has made in the development and construction of Stanford's Energy System Innovations (SESI) program. Once the new system comes online in April 2015, the campus will reduce potable water consumption by 15 percent, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent. We look forward to reporting this progress in the 2016 submission.

Sincerely,



John Etchemendy

Provost



Bob Reidy

Vice President, Land, Buildings and Real Estate