

STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



May 3, 2016

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

Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of Stanford University, we present our third submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). Stanford is renewing its **Gold** rating and increasing its overall score by 6 percentage points to just over 80%. Based on current efforts, such as integration of renewables into Stanford's electricity portfolio, we fully expect Stanford's score to continue to improve in the near future. Although these efforts are not yet fully reflected in Stanford's score, it is important to Stanford to continue submitting reports on a regular basis to keep the data available to the public and used by other third party evaluators up to date.

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.

After over one full year of operation of Stanford's new Central Energy Facility through the Stanford Energy System Innovations (SESI) project, Stanford is excited to report the significant savings achieved in building energy consumption, water consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions in this report. At the same time, the STARS platform has helped Stanford develop a process to regularly evaluate opportunities for improvement.

While we applaud the positive changes made to the STARS version 2.1 framework, we also ask AASHE to continue addressing the system's limitations. Our recommendations include:

- Reward maximization of sustainability features over pursuit of LEED certification
- Distinguish some scoring criteria by university type and size. For instance, it is unrealistic to expect 15,000 employees to take alternative transit, and in fact local transit systems could not support such high ridership.
- Provide additional avenues for accountability so all institutions are held to the same standards both for this report and for other third party evaluations that draw from this data
- Introduce dynamic reporting so institutions can immediately highlight new achievements in existing reports

Stanford maintains an unwavering commitment to a sustainable future, as demonstrated by the progress the university has made not only through the SESI project but also in sustainability curriculum, research, and inter-campus collaboration, among others. Stanford looks forward to continuing to report on the university's continued progress in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of John Etchemendy, written in a cursive style.

John Etchemendy
Provost

A blue ink signature of Bob Reidy, written in a cursive style.

Bob Reidy
Vice President, Land, Buildings and Real Estate