

May 17, 2017

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,

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.

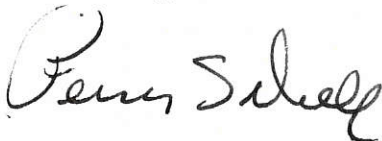
On behalf of Stanford University, we present our 4th submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) for a *Platinum* rating. Stanford is steadfast in its commitment to sustainability in academics and academic experience, as evidenced by an increasing number of sustainability courses, assessment efforts and sustainable campus living opportunities. After two years of operation of Stanford's new Central Energy Facility through the Stanford Energy System Innovations (SESI) initiative, Stanford is excited to report sustained reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and water use. Sustainability milestones can be seen in our latest annual report at <http://sustainability-year-in-review.stanford.edu/2016>; the most up to date metrics are included in our May 2017 STARS submission. The university continues to strive towards improved sustainability performance through efforts such as integration of renewables into Stanford's electricity portfolio and fleet electrification, to name a few.

We appreciate the value of the STARS platform in facilitating regular evaluation of opportunities for improvement for our campus. We also appreciate AASHE's tenacity in constantly improving the STARS tool. To that end, we ask AASHE to consider the following recommendations in the next version.

- 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.
- Distinguish some scoring criteria by university type and size. For instance, it is unrealistic to all employees to take alternative transit, and in fact local transit systems may not have capacity to support such high ridership.
- Reward maximization of sustainability features over pursuit of LEED certification.
- Introduce dynamic reporting so institutions can immediately highlight new achievements in existing reports.

Stanford maintains an unwavering commitment to a sustainable future. Stanford's Office of Sustainability will continue to report on the university's progress through STARS in the coming years.

Sincerely,



Persis S. Drell
Provost



Robert Reidy
Vice President, Land, Buildings and Real Estate