

February 1, 2019

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,

We are pleased to present our 5th submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) for a renewed *Platinum* rating and associated reporting. Sustainability milestones to date can be seen in our latest annual report at <http://sustainability-year-in-review.stanford.edu/2018>, and we have included the latest detailed metrics in this STARS submission.

Stanford is steadfastly committed to continued excellence in sustainability-related academic research, campus engagement, and diversity and affordability, and has been steadily achieving results for the past decades. Today, the campus continues to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions through the Stanford Energy System Innovations initiative. The university has achieved a 68% emissions reduction since 2011 through a more efficient thermal system and a 65% renewable electricity portfolio. In 2021, the emissions reduction is expected to reach 80% with a 100% renewable electricity portfolio. In 2018, as part of Stanford's long-range planning process, university leadership also announced a zero waste goal (90% waste diversion or higher) to be achieved by 2030. Stanford also maintains an 86% alternative commute rate among students and 50% among employees and has reduced its overall potable water consumption by 45% since 2001. Finally, with over 1,000 unique sustainability courses and an award-winning sustainability engagement platform called My Cardinal Green, which rewards students, staff, and faculty for contributions to sustainability on campus, the university continues to expand its opportunities for sustainability learning and engagement.

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 for its next version. We recommend the STARS tool introduce dynamic reporting so institutions can immediately highlight new achievements in existing reports. We also recommend rewarding efforts to maximize building-level sustainability features that lower a building's environmental footprint over pursuit of building-level LEED certification to re-focus on results.

Stanford's Office of Sustainability will remain the primary contact for any questions or feedback you may have.

Warm regards,



Stephan Graham
Dean
School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences



Robert Reidy
Vice President
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