



February 11, 2019

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: Weber State University's STARS submission

Dear Meghan:

We at Weber State University have been grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System™ (STARS) program. We have found the program and the reporting tool to be very valuable guides as we work towards our goal of becoming a sustainable campus. On behalf of Weber State University, I am pleased to submit our STARS report which indicates that we have achieved a Silver rating. I can reassure you that the information contained in this report is accurate and up to date, reflecting the significant achievements of this institution over recent years.

Weber State has been looked to as a leader among our state institutions in its approach and actions toward reaching our goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Our focus on energy conservation and efficiency, the progressive electrification of our building systems, and development of on-site renewable energy capacity are paying off, both financially and in helping us be on target (if not ahead of schedule) with our emissions reductions. Our newest campus building Lindquist Hall, actually a rebuild on an older building footprint and skeleton, showcases these efforts with its fully electric systems tied with a ground source system and planned covered solar parking.

We're making important strides on water conservation and campus behavior as well. We have an innovative "Water Warrior" program that encourages landscaping staff to develop the best conservation strategies they can and a Green Department program that just celebrated our first "Green College" certification. Both of these are contributing toward building a culture of sustainability in all facets of our campus operations and daily life.

In the academic realm we are seeing a satisfying increase in the number of faculty who are incorporating sustainability in some way into their courses. A recent achievement in this realm is the establishment of a university-wide SUS course designator which faculty may choose to apply for to indicate the implicit attention to sustainability in their courses.

Making DREAMS happen.

Weber State has been active in both providing the campus and wider community opportunities for engagement with sustainability events, such as our current participation in Utah's "Clear the Air Challenge" geared toward reducing transport-related emissions. Our institution is also now regularly offering community programs, often run in partnership with state/non-profit organizations (e.g., an electric lawn mower exchange in partnership with county health departments).

All in all, you will see from our report that WSU is making significant progress in all four of the STARS categories. There is of course still much work to be done as we look forward to the opportunity and imperative to improve our level of sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Mortensen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brad Mortensen, PhD
President
Weber State University