

Santa J. Ono
President

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Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

To demonstrate the University of Michigan's comprehensive commitment to sustainability and climate action, I am pleased to share our fourth STARS submission, for which we previously have earned a Gold rating. Several campus units have collaborated in creating this submission, including the Office of the President, the Graham Sustainability Institute, the Office of Campus Sustainability, and myriad other schools, colleges and units supporting university-wide efforts. The information in our submission is accurate and current.

Combating the climate crisis is our collective responsibility, which is why sustainability and carbon neutrality are at the heart of what we do—in planning and powering our buildings, deploying our buses, pursuing leading research, and making investments to fund such work.

The geographic scope of our analysis spans the university's Ann Arbor campus, with approximately 50,000 students and extensive research facilities, intercollegiate athletics venues, and the Michigan Medicine Health System.

Since our last submission, we have taken significant steps toward becoming a more sustainable university and putting forward scalable and transferable approaches for others to follow. Points of distinction include:

- **Energy.** Last year, U-M committed to university-wide carbon neutrality (covering the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses), with goals to reduce Scope 2 emissions to net zero by 2025, eliminate Scope 1 emissions by 2040, and establish targets for a wide range of Scope 3 emissions sources by 2025. U-M announced plans to implement geo-exchange heating and cooling systems across all campuses in a phased approach. The university also now procures approximately half of its purchased electricity from Michigan wind parks.
- **Buildings.** U-M unveiled a \$25 million revolving energy fund to support sustainable improvements in buildings throughout the university. In the past year, U-M identified \$15 million in energy conservation projects across 100 buildings/10 million square feet that the new fund will support.

- **Investment & Finance.** Last year, U-M announced a modified natural resource investing strategy that discontinued direct investments in companies that are the largest contributors to greenhouse gases, and new investments in funds whose primary focus is oil reserves, oil extraction, or thermal coal extraction. U-M shifted natural resource investments to renewable energy, low-carbon fuel, and other investments to help build a sustainable economy, and is working toward achieving a net-zero endowment by 2050. The university also unveiled \$300 million in “green bonds” to support capital projects that advance sustainability.

U-M views STARS as an essential resource for tracking and reporting on a comprehensive set of sustainability metrics. We appreciate the opportunity to share our successes and, crucially, to learn from institutions throughout higher education in a shared pursuit of meaningful climate action and global sustainability.

Sincerely,



Santa J. Ono
President