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March 5, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to support UMass Dartmouth's inaugural participation in AASHE's *Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System* program. Our 2021 submission is the culmination of a collaboration among the many students, faculty, and staff who are continually working to make our campus a more sustainable place. This report outlines our assessment of UMass Dartmouth's current progress towards realizing our sustainability goals.

UMass Dartmouth is proud of our numerous and growing achievements in environmental sustainability. In 2019, the University made an aspirational commitment to make significant progress towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and achieve it no later than 2050 (the standard now being considered for Massachusetts). The university won a state grant to fund the development of a comprehensive energy master plan to help understand the investment and implementation requirements of achieving this ambitious goal. UMass Dartmouth also sponsors many programs that prepare our students to live and work sustainably, conducts pathbreaking research that encourages climate sustainability and resilience, and keeps the campus community informed of our progress on sustainability initiatives.

Recently, UMass Dartmouth formed a partnership with the Climate Mayors Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative to purchase electric vehicles for campus operational use. Our dining services team restructured their purchasing and food production methodology to minimize food waste, including the donation of leftover food to local service organizations. This led our being named the 2018 "College/University Partner of the Year" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WasteWise program. The university also strongly advocates for marine renewable energy improvements during an annual symposium of industry executives, academic researchers, and public policy experts.

During the construction of our *Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System* submission, the UMass Dartmouth community has reflected on the progress we have made and identified future areas of focus for our work. We are glad to be a part of this evaluation initiative by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and look forward to continuing our progress towards our sustainability goals.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Fuller, PhD  
Interim Chancellor