



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

RENU KHATOR
Chancellor and President

November 30, 2015

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: University of Houston STARS submission

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) has been guiding the University of Houston's sustainability efforts for several years. We are pleased to submit our STARS self-assessment after months of detailed data collection and review by UH staff. As the president of the University of Houston, I am confident it accurately portrays our current and ongoing sustainability efforts.

With sustainability initiatives taking off only eight years ago, the rate and impact of sustainability progress at the University has been vast. The University of Houston is consistently recognized as a sustainable campus through local and national media coverage, inclusion every year in the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges and more. We are delighted to be listed among the other colleges and universities who make campus sustainability a priority, and we look forward to continuing collaborative efforts with these institutions, and others, to ensure that future generations have vast natural resources, good health and share in an equitable and flourishing global society.

Being the House that Innovation Built, I am proud to see our university gain full points for sustainability innovation in STARS. The Texas Center for Superconductivity at UH recently developed a new thermo-electric material that more efficiently generates electric power from waste heat. The UH Coastal Center maintains 300 acres of highly endangered coastal prairie and distributes native seeds to local restoration projects. These sustainability innovations, among others, affirm the University's commitment to conduct trailblazing work that will lead to a more sustainable future.

Breakthroughs are being made every day, and the University's faculty are leading that charge with far-reaching sustainability research. Renewable energy, bioremediation, resilience, technological efficiencies, air quality and community-based endeavors are some areas among this research.

Located in the energy capital of the world, the University has an opportunity to be a leader in sustainability. The Office of Sustainability is connecting with people every day to educate them about our responsibility to lead lives that support environmental stewardship, economic vitality and social equity. Outreach and education efforts span from the campus community garden and waste minimization campaigns to engagement programs like Earth Week and Sustainability Fest.

As Houston Cougars, we now embark on a new journey to elevate sustainability on campus and in our daily lives that will impact not only the campus and local community but may also have global implications. Once sustainability is integrated in all areas of the university and sustainable behavior is an evident part of the Cougar culture, we will know that we have succeeded.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renukhator" with a horizontal line at the end of the word.

Renu Khator