

February 23, 2021

Dear STARS Review Committee,

On behalf of the University of California Riverside, I am pleased to submit our documentation for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) version 2.2. To the best of our knowledge and ability, this is a complete and accurate account of the university's activities and initiatives at the time of submission.

UC Riverside's mission of sustainability prioritizes fostering a culture of sustainability within our campus community through our research, academia, operations, and affiliations. The university is committed to addressing sustainability by practicing and participating in environmentally, socially, and economically sound actions. Since our last submission in 2016, UCR has achieved significant strides in sustainability through academic and operational avenues.

The University of California's Sustainable Practices Policy outlines the institution's goals in ten key areas: climate protection, clean energy, green building, transportation, sustainable operations, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable procurement, sustainable foodservice, sustainable water systems, standards for UC Health, and general performance assessment. Evaluated and updated by the systemwide Sustainability Steering Committee, this policy informs UC Riverside's work and efforts by providing tangible goals and resources for sustainability improvement and actions.

In terms of our educational efforts, UC Riverside proudly offers the Bending the Curve: Climate Change Solutions class on an annual basis. This class was created from a team of faculty across the University of California system and is offered on all 10 campuses. This sustainability-focused course aims to educate students about scalable solutions for carbon neutrality and climate stability. Teaching of this course at UC Riverside purposely rotates through the different colleges and schools, providing our students with a rich set of perspectives. In addition, this course is being offered to the local community for the first time through the UC Riverside's Extension Center. UC Riverside also offers a Sustainability Studies major, a Bachelor of Science program, housed in the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. This major takes a social justice approach to analyzing social, environmental, and economic issues. The program provides students with research methods, analytical tools, social theories, scientific approaches, and interdisciplinary training regarding sustainability.

In terms of our infrastructure, UC Riverside's most recent building development, the North District, is the university's first all-electric complex. Situated on 51 acres, this development replaces outdated campus residential buildings from the 1940's and pioneers an aggressive transition to building electrification. UC Riverside's North District

is projected to achieve LEED Gold certification and will house approximately 4,000-6,000 students upon completion. The first phase is set to open in Fall 2021 and will house roughly 1,500 students. This expansion of on-campus housing availability reduces the need for students to commute to campus, thereby reducing the associated emissions of greenhouse gases.

Contributing to the UC-wide Carbon Neutrality Initiative, UC Riverside continues to expand on its efforts of increasing campus renewable energy generation. Previously, UC Riverside reported on the installation of a 3.4 MW solar farm in the Agricultural Experiment Station located on campus in 2014 and a 0.5 MW solar PV parking canopy system at the Bourns College of Engineering's Center for Environmental Research Technology. In 2017, the campus installed an additional 4.3 MW solar PV carport system in parking lots 30 and 32. Collectively, the campus now has a total of 8.2 MW of on-campus solar PV, with a new project on the way to install an additional 0.85 MW of solar PV on four building rooftops.

In terms of Zero Waste, the campus has experienced a reduction of per capita waste generation to 0.74 pounds in FY 19-20, well below the 2025 target of 1.04 pounds set by the UC Sustainable Practices Policy. This is a result of concerted efforts towards uniform zero waste messaging and actions by the students, staff and faculty. In the same year, UC Riverside experienced a 45% reduction in per capita water use based on a 3-year baseline starting 2015-2016 academic year, this reduction achieves the UC system goal of 36% reduction by 2025 five years early.

UC Riverside appreciates AASHE's efforts in creating and constantly improving the STARS reporting system to efficiently evaluate university and college's diverse and impactful sustainable practices. We are grateful to participate in this effort to encourage transparency and accessibility in sustainability metrics and progress. While we are proud of our accomplishments thus far, we acknowledge that there is much room for improvement and, equipped with AASHE's sustainability assessment, we fully intend to continue our efforts in creating a more sustainable campus for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Kim A. Wilcox
Chancellor