

STARS Steering Committee  
The Association for the Advancement of  
Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street St., Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

April 22, 2016

Dear STARS Steering Committee

On behalf of the University of California, Riverside, I am pleased to verify that our submission for The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System represents an accurate account of our sustainability activities and initiatives to the best of our abilities at this time. UC Riverside welcomes the opportunity to join its fellow institutions in promoting sustainability on campus and throughout our communities. The campus continues to make strides in advancing social, environmental and fiscal sustainability, as can be appreciated by our move from a STARS Silver to Gold rating in our most recent submission.

Since our 2013 STARS rating we have increased the amount of renewable energy on campus from 500 KW to 4 MW, with plans to triple that by 2018 in support of our Carbon Neutrality 2025 goals; we have reduced our water consumption by 21.5% per capita, we have achieved over 95% waste diversion for all waste streams and we have gone from having one LEED certified building to 16 LEED certifications with six more anticipated before the end of the year.

With one of the most diverse student bodies in the country, UCR recognizes its role as a flagship institution in the Inland Empire of Southern California. The campus has opened the first new public medical school in California in more than four decades. Sustainability will play a major role in fulfilling the medical school's mission of preparing health care professionals to provide care for underprivileged communities in the region. This same demographic is most impacted by climate change.

In Fall of 2015, UCR enrolled its inaugural class for a new Master's in Environmental Policy and continues to be the only US academic institution with a Sustainability Studies major offered through Gender and Sexuality Studies. UCR's commitment to educational opportunities extends beyond the traditional classroom and laboratory into the campus and community.

UCR's R'Garden, a sustainability focused community agricultural space, serves as a living laboratory for students, faculty, staff and community members. The garden provides fresh produce for a student food pantry, for on campus dining and for the local community that is underserved.

We take great pride in these accomplishments and will endeavor to undertake still more to promote sustainability on campus and in our community.

Sincerely,

  
Associate Vice Chancellor Capital Asset Strategies