



October 17, 2012

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear AASHE STARS Committee members:

As a premier land-grant, sea-grant and space-grant research institution and Louisiana's flagship university, Louisiana State University realizes its place at the forefront of instituting methodology and practices that show commitment to making our campus and community more sustainable.

It is with this mission in mind that I proudly submit LSU's self-assessment for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) and affirm its accuracy.

Sustainability has long been recognized as an important issue on the LSU campus among administrators and campus environmental advocacy groups. Our efforts were advanced by the Governor's Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8, which addresses sustainability of state-owned facilities. LSU Campus Sustainability was established to benchmark the university's progress and facilitate activity among the campus community towards reaching our sustainability goals.

LSU's self-assessment includes a detailed review of efforts the university has taken toward creating a more sustainable environment on campus, while also educating others on how to do the same in their daily routines. These include creating more sustainable commuting options with our Tiger Trails bus system, and an Easy Streets program that reduces automobile traffic through much of the campus. LSU has also increased its waste diversion due to construction and demolition requirements, and the university utilizes an on-site cogeneration plant that produces more than 60 percent of the electricity consumed on campus. Onsite production and use of biodiesel fuels, as well as the recent installation of electric vehicle charging stations, also help to foster the use of more sustainable fuel sources.

In addition, the LSU 2003 Campus Master Plan is driven by several sustainability related goals. These include options that focus on lessening automobile traffic and offering more bicycle and "green" pedestrian travel options. The plan supports the expansion and protection of the mature tree canopy on campus, in an effort to reduce heat island effect and to improve utility efficiency within existing buildings. The plan also encourages the renovation of existing facilities in lieu of new facilities, when possible, to preserve and maximize open green spaces and mature trees.

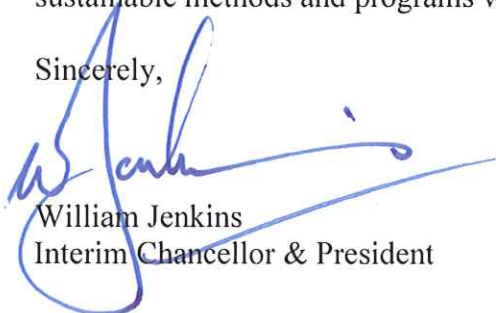
LSU brings sustainability to the classroom level by offering undergraduate programs in natural resource ecology and management, coastal environmental sciences and environmental engineering, while also offering post-secondary courses in agricultural economics, environmental sciences, oceanography and coastal sciences. The university includes many departments and organizations with a high number of students engaged in service learning activities. These include the Center for Community Engagement, Service and Leadership and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Outreach, among others.

There are also numerous programs and events held at LSU throughout the year with the goal of promoting more sustainable practices. These include the award-winning UNPLUG program, which promotes more sustainable living in LSU residence halls and apartments; taking part in the national Recyclemania program; composting at the university's annual Fall Fest event; and beautification efforts in the Clean Up and Green Up program and the annual Spring Greening Day.

We have also outlined in our self-assessment several goals for future submissions. These include continued efforts toward increased energy efficiency; streamlining more sustainable choices in purchasing through our E-procurement program; enhancing our outreach programs to a larger population of student; continuing design on two LEED projects planned for 2013 and 2014, and exploring car-sharing options. The university is also set to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a restoration plan for the Campus Lakes ecosystem.

On behalf of the LSU community, thank you for continuing to work toward a more sustainable future for higher education. LSU is proud to be a part of that ongoing mission by instituting more sustainable methods and programs within our own campus community and beyond.

Sincerely,



William Jenkins  
Interim Chancellor & President