

**Office of the President and Vice-Chancellor**

December 21, 2021

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
U.S.A.

Dear colleagues,

I am very pleased that Concordia University is once again submitting to the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) for a Gold ranking, as administered by AASHE.

At Concordia, sustainability is at the forefront of everything we do. When we joined the worldwide Decade of Action in October 2020, we committed to the creation of learning opportunities and research collaborations that advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We began that work in early 2021 through the launch of our Voluntary University Review, a process for mapping our activities and assets around the SDGs and for developing strategies to extend our efforts.

We also launched and began work on our Sustainability Action Plan, which lays out our long-term vision and five-year strategies to achieve Sustainable Food Systems, Zero Waste, Climate Action, Sustainability in Research, and Sustainability in Curriculum. This plan was developed and is being implemented through a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process. It will be complemented through our new Sustainability Living Lab—a framework and funding model that allows for full community participation in sustainability at Concordia.

Finally, it is worth noting that we are submitting to STARS during the unprecedented COVID-19 period. To avoid skewing data, we are using 2018-2019 figures for elements like energy use, transportation and food services. We believe that, without the pandemic, we'd have even more progress to share but are confident that will come when we can fully reopen to our community. In the meantime, we're also glad to have an opportunity to showcase what we have accomplished during these challenging times – indicators that we aren't just fair-weather sustainability advocates. We're pushing ahead with our efforts to combat other global issues such as climate change, waste reduction, and the elimination of racism.

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It is our distinct pleasure to have our sustainability achievements recorded through the STARS platform, one that provides a transparent assessment of where our efforts have led and what remains to be done. Thanks to our diverse community, we can and will rise to the challenges of forging a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a stylized "C".

Graham Carr  
President and Vice-Chancellor