



## UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

*Ana Mari Cauce*  
*Professor of Psychology*  
INTERIM PRESIDENT

September 29, 2015

Association for the Advancement of  
Sustainability in Higher Education  
213 ½ N. Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507

**Re: University of Washington Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System  
(STARS) submission**

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

At the University of Washington, sustainability is in our nature. The UW is a globally recognized leader in sustainability and has been ranked in the top 10 of *Sierra* magazine's Cool School ratings six times in the past nine years, and has been named to the Princeton Review's Green Honor Roll with a perfect 99 Green Rating score for five straight years. In 2014, the University of Washington won the International Sustainable Campus Network's Excellence in Integration Award, the only U.S. school to earn an ISCN award since 2012.

UW Executive Order No. 13 recognizes that environmental stewardship and sustainability are very important to the University's mission. The UW was a charter signatory to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in 2007 and submitted our Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2009, which calls for a 15 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 2020 and a 36 percent reduction by 2035. The UW has 29 LEED-certified buildings, diverts 66 percent of our waste from the landfill through reuse, recycling and composting, and avoided \$14.51 million in utility costs in FY2015 through energy conservation measures. UW signed the Washington Business Climate Declaration committing to using energy efficiently, investing in cleaner fuels, advancing renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Students are a driving force of the UW's sustainability efforts. In 2010, our students voted to create their own Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF), a pool of money raised through fees that students pay each year in an effort to finance their own sustainability projects at the university. Since its founding, the CSF has granted more than \$1 million dollars to student projects, including the foundation of an on-campus farm, environmental restoration projects, and solar panel installation.

This year the UW's Board of Regents agreed to divest from coal in response to student advocacy and endorsed a business diversity statement promoting business transactions with local, small, minority- and women-owned businesses. This ensures that inclusiveness and equity of opportunity guide the business practices of the University of Washington.

The UW is proud to have once again earned a Gold STARS rating recognizing our sustainability accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Mari Cauce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

Ana Mari Cauce