



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Ana Mari Cauce
Professor of Psychology
PRESIDENT

October 12, 2018

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

Re: University of Washington 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 named to the Princeton Review's Green Honor Roll with a perfect 99 Green Rating score for eight straight years. Achievements since our last submission that we are particularly proud of include our stadium winning the inaugural Sustainability Award from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) in 2015, and joining the "We are Still In" statement in 2017 to demonstrate our continued support of the Paris Climate Agreement.

In addition to being recognized by AASHE in the annual Sustainable Campus Index in areas such as transportation, wellness, and food and dining, for the past several years our Medical centers have been named in the Practice Greenhealth top 25 Environmental Excellence Awards; we joined the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3); and one of the newest buildings on our Seattle campus, the West Campus Utility Plant (WCUP), was the first higher education project in the United States to be rated in the Envision certification system for infrastructure. True to our school colors of purple and gold, we achieved a rating of Envision Gold.

The University's Executive Order No. 13 recognizes that environmental stewardship and sustainability are very important to the UW mission. The University 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. In addition, the University signed the Washington Business Climate Declaration in 2015 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 \$2 million dollars to student-led projects, including the foundation of an on-campus farm, environmental restoration projects, and solar panel installations.

In 2014, the UW's Board of Regents agreed to divest from coal in response to student advocacy and in 2015 the Board of Regents 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.

Our 2018 STARS data has been reviewed and approved by senior sustainability and communications leaders and is ready for submission. 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, flowing style.

Ana Mari Cauce
President
Professor of Psychology