



June 1, 2022

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Review Team,

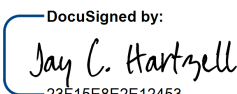
I am proud to affirm the 2022 Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submittal and data for The University of Texas at Austin (UT). I am excited that we have improved on our Gold-level achievement and look forward to continued progress across all dimensions of campus sustainability.

Earlier this month, we released our [Change Starts Here](#) 10-year strategic plan to increase the university's positive impact on the world. Sustainability is highlighted in our Strategic Plan (pg. 42) and integrated into our implementation initiatives for campus master planning and operations. Sustainability is also a focus in our collaboration with the community, government, and corporate partners. Currently, the UT Austin President's Sustainability Steering Committee is drafting a framework for a campus climate action plan. This plan will be integrated with other elements of the Strategic Plan.

Since our previous STARS submission in 2020, we have made the most progress in our Academic areas. There is exciting organic [growth in the number of courses](#) across all colleges that include sustainability themes and content. In the coming Fall 2022 semester, two new sustainability degree programs will launch from the McCombs College of Business and the Cockrell School of Engineering. There is also exciting growth in the number of faculty pursuing research and publishing their work related to sustainability. This growth reflects the values of both our faculty and our students.

Before becoming president, I served as chair of the UT Austin President's Sustainability Steering Committee and learned first-hand about the many departments and individuals committed to stewardship of our resources and innovation in how we meet our educational mission while also exemplifying sustainability principles. Their efforts have an impact and I'm excited to see how far we can go.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Jay Hartzell

Enclosure

cc: Darrell Bazzell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
David Darling, Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management
Jim Walker, Director of Sustainability

JAY HARTZELL, President