



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Office of the President

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March 2, 2020

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

Subject: The University of Texas at Austin Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating  
System 2.2 Submission

Dear Review Team,

I am pleased to affirm and submit the 2020 Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) data for The University of Texas at Austin (UT) that reflects our community's integration of sustainability throughout our educational and operational activities.

The University of Texas at Austin educates over 50,000 students annually by offering thousands of courses and programs in over 160 departments. As a public university, UT is committed to equity in educational opportunity. We are a First Forward Institution and most recently announced full scholarships for in-state students from families earning up to \$65,000 annually. Our partnership with the George and Cynthia Mitchell Foundation increased sustainability content in our curriculum that has reached over 10,000 students. Additionally, we launched new sustainability degree programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Cockrell School of Engineering in the last three years.

UT is a national leader in research. More than half of our departments conduct sustainability research that is led in part by our grand challenge, Planet Texas 2050, and by the Energy Institute which recently announced 11 new initiatives that support the most promising energy transition research. In the interest of both environmental stewardship and student leadership, we are partnering with BASF Inc., to expand our Green Labs program.

UT is committed to stewardship of our natural resources. Our on-campus district energy system is internationally recognized as one of the most efficient plants of its kind in the world (reaching over 85% efficiency in CY2019), recertified as a Performance Excellence in Electricity Renewal Campus last year. The plant reduced our energy consumption by over 20% over the last eight years, saving over \$17 million in fuel costs. We have constructed over 3.6 million square feet of

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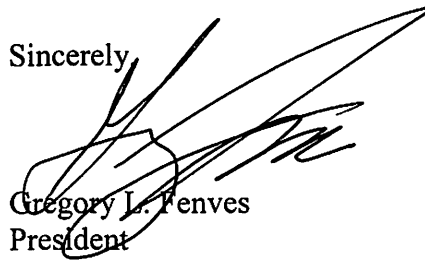
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LEED-certified space in 10 years. Our grounds are managed with a holistic approach; the Dell Medical School earned the first SITES Gold certification in Texas for landscape design and operations.

Many of UT's auxiliaries are equally-engaged sustainability leaders. For the last five years, Texas Athletics pursued zero waste goals in major sports venues and was recognized by the Green Sports Alliance two years in a row. UT University Housing and Dining recently joined the Menus of Change national coalition and continue to focus on reduced plate waste, recovery of unused food, and composting of food scraps. In order to reduce food insecurity for students, the Division of Student Affairs established the UT Outpost, increasing the students helped with food-related needs.

I was proud to approve the first UT Austin Sustainability Master Plan in 2016. I am pleased that our community builds on our successes and seeks new opportunities to integrate sustainability into our educational mission and daily operations. These collective efforts have emerged over the past ten years when UT became a charter participant in STARS. Today, our efforts are clearly reflected in this STARS 2.2 submittal.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Fenves  
President

GLF/amr

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