Dear STARS Review Committee:

On behalf of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMass Chan), I am pleased to submit the Medical School’s fourth self-assessment report to Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). This is my first submission as Deputy Executive Vice Chancellor of Facilities Management at UMass Chan Medical School, and I could not be prouder of the initiative and progress our university achieves daily in the fields of sustainability and healthcare. This report has the most updated and accurate information to the best of UMass Chan’s knowledge at the time of submission.

UMass Chan Medical School is a leader and innovator in education, research, healthcare, and public service. It is ranked among the top 10 in the nation for medical schools and primary care education. Located in Worcester, Massachusetts, UMass Chan is the Commonwealth’s first and only public academic health science center. It is consistently ranked by the U.S. News & World Report as one of the leading medical schools. Home to three graduate schools, UMass Chan is a world-class institution and global leader to medical schools and higher education institutions alike.

This report specifically highlights UMass Chan’s accomplishments in decarbonization and sustainability coordination and planning. In 2020, UMass Chan completed the culmination of a lengthy planning process, resulting in the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP) for 2021-2026. The process began in 2019 with baseline work to form the context and foundation for planning meetings. The five-year plan has four focus areas: Transportation, Buildings and Energy, Grounds and Water Management, and Materials and Resource Management. Each focus area has specific goals, strategies, and initiatives that implementation groups are actively working on achieving today. UMass Chan Medical School is a nationally ranked medical school, an internationally renowned research institution, and the only independent medical school pursuing STARS.

As part of this plan’s implementation efforts, UMass Chan is currently developing a Decarbonization Plan to lay out a path to reaching carbon neutrality of scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2035-2040. UMass Chan is collaborating with Arup and GreenerU to develop a path for transition away from fossil fuels while continuing to meet the campus’ demands and resilience needs. The decarbonization strategic planning is scheduled to finish in the fall of 2023.

Finally, UMass Chan’s Office of Sustainability manages “Growing Green”, the campus sustainability program that informs the campus and greater community about ongoing sustainability initiatives and accomplishments. The website also provides educational resources and a campus-wide newsletter to share news about sustainability and engagement opportunities at UMass Chan.
UMass Chan thanks the AASHE community for its commitment to transparency, accountability, and leadership. UMass Chan is committed to continuing our contribution to AASHE’s mission of inspiring and catalyzing higher education to lead the global sustainability transformation.

I want to express my gratitude to all the departments at UMass Chan that contributed to the holistic assessment of sustainability of our institution. The collective effort has ensured UMass Chan is submitting the most accurate data possible and allows us to further interact with the campus community.

Sincerely,

David Flanagan
Deputy Executive Vice Chancellor of Facilities
UMass Chan Medical School