

May 3, 2017

AASHE
Attn: STARS Steering Committee
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of Northwestern University, I am pleased to submit our first Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating (STARS) 2.0 report.

Northwestern is committed to fostering environmental and ethical stewardship, providing a living-learning environment that enables student, staff, and faculty-led green initiatives, and taking significant measures to improve our built environment and natural ecology. As one of the world's leading academic institutions, Northwestern strives to exemplify effective leadership in addressing global opportunities and challenges related to sustainability and climate change. The University is dedicated to creating a greener campus through impactful initiatives to reduce waste, conserve water and energy, and promote sustainable modes of transportation.

Northwestern recognizes that the most significant impact that an academic institution can have is through its curriculum and research. The University offers focused curriculum, research grants, and partnerships concentrating on topics of sustainability, renewable energy, water, and climate change.

In 2016, Northwestern released the University's inaugural Year in Review Sustainability Report. This report highlights the achievements of an engaged campus community dedicated to advancing initiatives and behaviors necessary to sustain the University. The report covers milestones and accomplishments from the 2015 to 2016 academic year in areas including the built environment; resource conservation; transportation; communications and engagement; and curriculum and research.

Northwestern has also sought to support the sustainability initiatives of our host communities, the City of Evanston and the City of Chicago. For example, the University collaborated with the City of Evanston to implement the Divvy bike share system throughout the city and on campus. This was a vital step in achieving Northwestern's goal of providing more environmentally responsible commuting options for our community and decreasing our greenhouse gas emissions.

This connection from our campus to the larger Evanston community helps both parties move forward toward the sustainable future we all need and deserve.

Our world, environment, and campus community face a critically important juncture, and Northwestern is committed to remain at the forefront of sustainable change.

The AASHE STARS application is extremely significant in our efforts to benchmark our current sustainability efforts, and will inspire us to reach for loftier goals moving forward.

I affirm that the data in this application is accurate and will serve to guide the future of sustainability efforts at Northwestern University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nim Chinniah", with a horizontal line underneath.

Nim Chinniah
Executive Vice President