



March 1, 2019

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

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to present the University of Maine's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. I affirm that the report is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Spearheaded by the UMaine Office of Sustainability, this report required collaboration with faculty, staff, and students across campus. I am thankful for the commitment and effort made by all in helping UMaine achieve a STARS Silver rating.

We are excited that STARS provides the opportunity to highlight UMaine's commitment and progress as a higher education sustainability leader. UMaine's commitment to sustainability dates back to its founding, in 1865, as a land grant institution. As a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, UMaine has pledged to incorporate sustainability into the university's research, scholarship, and community service operations.

Our STARS report demonstrates that UMaine is a leader in sustainability research. Including the Sen. George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, Climate Change Institute, Advanced Structures and Composites Center, and many other units across campus, more than 25% of faculty from over 75% of departments conduct sustainability-related research. The report also identifies the strides that the university has made in reducing its environmental impact, such as diverting 48% of campus waste from landfills, reducing water use by 20% since 2007, and managing campus grounds sustainably using onsite-generated compost.

This STARS report is an invaluable tool for UMaine's future sustainability efforts. We will use it to identify areas where we can make improvements in our sustainability efforts and to accurately track and assess our future sustainability-related goals and initiatives. On behalf of

the University of Maine, I thank the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for the opportunity to be part of the AASHE STARS community.

Sincerely,



Joan Ferrini-Mundy  
President

cc: Jeff Hecker, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Robert Dana, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students  
Kody Varahramyan, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School  
R Lizzie Wahab, Vice President for Enrollment Management  
Debra Allen, Assistant Provost for Institutional Research and Assessment