

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor  
Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



May 8, 2017

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

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

It is my pleasure to affirm the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). Staff from our Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) coordinated the data collection process with invaluable assistance from campus Facilities & Services. Maintaining our Gold STARS rating demonstrates our ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of this generation of students while preserving the environment for future generations.

I am proud to share with you just a few of the numerous achievements that Illinois has made since our last STARS Submission in March 2015.

- In fall 2015, our Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment brought together six academic units to launch an interdisciplinary sustainability minor. This spring, we also debuted an environmental writing certificate open to all majors.
- In October 2015, we signed the 2015 Illinois Climate Action Plan, updating and enhancing our action steps toward an ultimate goal of carbon neutrality by the earliest possible date.
- In November 2015, the campus brought online a 4.68-megawatt solar farm, providing 7.86 million kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually. Last fall, we signed a 10-year Wind Power Purchase Agreement to add another 25 million kilowatt-hours of wind-based energy annually, increasing our total renewable energy portfolio to nearly 9% of the University's electrical consumption.
- In February 2016, the University signed the Second Nature Climate Resilience Commitment, making us a Charter Signatory of the Second Nature Climate Commitment. In addition to our existing pledge to reduce our impact on the environment, we are spearheading community efforts to prepare for impacts from climate change.

AASHE-STARS Steering Committee

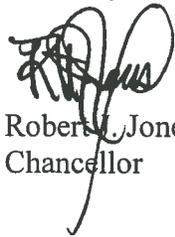
May 8, 2017

Page 2

Illinois continues to be a worldwide leader in cutting-edge research in sustainable fields. Our Energy Scholars have pioneered projects related to sustainable energy generation, energy storage, and infrastructure that is resilient to extreme weather and temperatures. Our Water Scholars have taken a leading role in ensuring safe, clean drinking water while balancing the needs for increased food and power production. Our agricultural and plant biology experts have made breakthroughs into modeling plant-based food and fuel that are more efficient and adaptable to climate change.

As a premier institution of higher education, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a profound responsibility to model sustainable education, research, and activities. I am confident we will remain a leader in this regard for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Jones", with a large, stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Robert L. Jones  
Chancellor