



Marc Fisher
Vice Chancellor
Administration

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March 1, 2021

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Executive Director Zahniser:

On behalf of the University of California, Berkeley, I am pleased to submit documentation for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), version 2.2. Our submission represents an accurate account of our sustainability initiatives to the best of our knowledge at the time of submission. We are proud to improve upon our first STARS report and address areas where our sustainability efforts have improved on campus, advancing our institution from STARS Gold to STARS Platinum.

UC Berkeley's 150 year commitment to the greater good drives forward our renowned scholarship and environmental solutions, making us one of the greenest public higher education institutions in the world. Our deep campus engagement in environmental issues has been integral to our progress in sustainability, and we are proud of the student and faculty sustainability achievements that uplift our enduring spirit of innovation. As UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ states in her introduction to the newly released 2020 Campus Sustainability Plan: "Because of the breadth and depth of expertise here, UC Berkeley can bring a truly interdisciplinary approach to solving global issues of climate disruption, environmental equity, water scarcity and biodiversity loss, green infrastructure, and more. We also have the opportunity to both learn from and model best practices on campus."

Our core mission – of teaching, research, and public service – provides an opportunity to use the campus as a research and learning laboratory for sustainability. In the classroom, UC Berkeley has been consistently rated the top school in the world in environmental sciences, with a wide range of departments across campus, and not just the renowned Rausser College of Natural Resources, producing world-changing scholarship. With over 900 sustainability-focused courses, our academics emphasize the integration of sustainability across diverse academic departments to increase sustainability literacy amongst students. In our world-famous laboratories, researchers are pushing our understanding of how climate change is transforming the planet and developing the kinds of energy, environmental and social solutions that will make the difference in the decades to come. UC Berkeley's vibrant environmental community seeks to

embody a diverse and inclusive campus culture of sustainability that celebrates all narratives and nurtures and empowers problem solving, interdisciplinarity, and leadership. Our 50+ sustainability related student groups and dedicated faculty engage in a multitude of learning activities to inform how sustainability is institutionalized on campus.

UC Berkeley's commitment to sustainability is reflected in operations as well. We are committed to accelerating a just and equitable transition to a resilient, clean energy, and zero carbon campus. Thus, we have taken the steps on our path to zero carbon operations by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to levels lower than they were 30 years ago, and we are in the planning stages to fully decarbonize the campus energy system. In early 2020, our campus led the way with the country's strongest single-use plastic ban, with a plan to eliminate all non-essential single-use plastic with viable alternatives by 2030. UC Berkeley has infused sustainability into campus practices by serving third party-certified sustainably sourced meat, seafood, and a plant-forward menu in our dining halls and is managing our vast campus lands with virtually no chemicals or pesticides.

Throughout its history, UC Berkeley has stepped up to the challenges of the moment. Today, it continues to take a leadership position by setting ambitious goals and implementing cutting-edge strategies to help solve the enormous carbon reductions and clean energy transitions required. UC Berkeley is committed to working with partners like the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education to make higher education institutions working examples of the change that the world requires now and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fisher', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Marc Fisher
Vice Chancellor
Administration