



January 29, 2024

Dear STARS Review Committee:

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, I am pleased to present our first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. We believe that this submission reflects our commitment to sustainability and our work to continuously improve Wisconsin's most beautiful campus.

In 2021, I worked with leaders on campus and in the community to develop and publish our 2025 strategic plan, *A Bold Future*, where we committed to integrating sustainability into curricula and high-impact practices across disciplines and campuses, and encouraging partnerships that intersect health and wellness, as well as equity, diversity, inclusion and student affairs (EDISA), and sustainability. Significant progress has been made towards these goals, which is now reflected in this STARS report.

Also in 2021, we adopted the recommendations of the Sustainability and Climate Action Task Force. Based on the recommendations, I established the Chancellor's Advisory Council on Sustainability and Climate Action and worked with Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration Grace Crickette to create the Administrative Office of Sustainability under the leadership of our director of risk management, safety, and sustainability and a new full-time sustainability coordinator. Together with the Student Office of Sustainability, they foster a collaborative approach to address environmental challenges, implement eco-friendly initiatives, and cultivate a culture of sustainability among students, faculty, and staff. This collective effort aims to integrate sustainable practices into every aspect of university life, fostering a greener and more environmentally responsible campus community.

Some of our most significant sustainability achievements include a carbon neutral student services center, funded by long-standing student office of sustainability, the wide variety of sustainability focused research being conducted on campus, and the strength of our sustainability adjacent commitments in EDISA and wellness.

I would like to thank AASHE for providing the tools and support necessary for our sustainability team to engage in this significant effort. We appreciate AASHE's commitment to creating a transparent and efficient sustainability reporting system, and we look forward to continuing to engage with these resources.

Finally, I want to thank the students, staff, and faculty at UW-Eau Claire who have committed themselves to sustainability. We are incredibly grateful for their contributions to advancing sustainability and creating a bolder future for our campus.

Sincerely,

James Schmidt  
Chancellor