



**DIVISION OF
ADMINISTRATION**

**OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

2119 Thomas V. Miller Jr. Administrative Building
College Park, Maryland 20742-5035
(301) 405-1105 TEL
www.adminvp.umd.edu

February 27, 2022

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

Subject: 2021 AASHE STARS Report Submission

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

I am pleased to submit the 2021 report for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), version 2.2. The University of Maryland (UMD) actively works to continuously improve its sustainability efforts to address society's grand challenges, including climate change, diversity and inclusion.

Last Earth Day (2021), our newly inaugurated president announced UMD's accelerated goal for carbon neutrality by 2025; the electrification of our campus fleet by 2035; a new \$40 million dollar initiative to recruit and retain tenured and tenure-track faculty from underrepresented backgrounds; and a plan to invest \$200 million in strengthening research in target fields including K-12 education, public health and climate science.

UMD's commitment to sustainability is reflected in our physical operations as we work to further our goal of a green and equitable campus and the redevelopment of a Greater College Park based on sound smart growth principles. Among our many initiatives, we are investing in a flexible, efficient district energy system that can accommodate a transition to net-zero as new technologies come online; sustainable food systems; ecological restoration for the Chesapeake Bay watershed; resilient stormwater infrastructure; green, energy-efficient buildings; and improvements in transportation demand management.

Faculty and students from UMD are leaders in the innovation and relationship-building that society needs to tackle sustainability challenges. All of our Schools and Colleges now offer sustainability-related courses preparing students from every discipline to collaborate effectively on tackling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Faculty and staff from UMD's Center for Global Sustainability are playing key roles in developing the United States strategies to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in partnership with the United States

Government and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Scientists from several of UMD's Schools and Colleges are directly contributing to global efforts to accurately measure and report greenhouse gas emissions; assess the human and ecological impacts associated with climate change; and develop cutting edge technologies.

True to its mission and roots as one of the country's first land-grant institutions, UMD values partnerships with state, federal, private and non-profits sectors, including organizations like the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Please let the Office of Sustainability know if you have any specific suggestions for furthering UMD's sustainability efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carlo Colella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlo Colella
Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer

Enc.

cc: A. Martens, M. Kotlas, R. Scott Lupin, S. DeLeon