

22 February 2016

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

Miami University is nationally recognized for its extraordinary commitment to undergraduate education enhanced by superior and select graduate programs. Sustainability has become an integral part of that commitment in our academic programs and campus operations during the past five years since our first-ever Sustainability Commitments and Goals were established in 2011.

I am pleased to affirm our submission to STARS 2.0, an effort that was coordinated by the University Sustainability Committee with campus-wide input from faculty, staff, and students. Our recent sustainability progress is reflected in an increased score from 45.4% on our first STARS 1.2 report in March 2013 to over 60% on the current STARS 2.0 report. Some of the highlights include:

- Establishment of Miami University as a Lean Institution, with “going green” as one of its breakthrough objectives, providing over \$28 million in cost savings;
- Implementation of a Utility Master Plan that included major investments into geothermal heat exchange and a commitment to discontinue burning coal by 2025;
- The development of a new carbon reduction targets informed by an optimization study that included projected alternative energy costs as well as the social costs of carbon emissions;
- Growth of sustainability across the university curriculum, including the expansion of the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability to include interdisciplinary programs in sustainability and energy, and the creation of a new Food Institute;
- Implementation of campus-wide single-stream recycling and the deployment of new technologies to facilitate disposal of organic materials in dining operations;
- Recognition by University Senate of Miami’s sustainability commitment;
- Creation of a new sustainability website as a prominent link from the Miami University homepage (<http://miamioh.edu/about-miami/sustainability/index.html>);
- Publication of a triennial sustainability report for university stakeholders.

AASHE-STARS Steering Committee
22 February 2016
Page 2

Our sustainability efforts are built upon the Miami 2020 Plan, with a unifying goal to promote a vibrant learning and discovery environment that produces extraordinary student and scholarly outcomes. Sustainability will be an important part of that learning and discovery as we develop innovative solutions to improve campus operations and our society as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Hodge", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Hodge
President

hodgedc@miamioh.edu