

March 6, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Miami University seeks to provide the best undergraduate experience in the nation, enhanced by superior and select graduate programs. Sustainability is key to that vision.

In 2011 I announced Miami's first-ever Sustainability Commitments and Goals to focus our thinking and inspire innovation in energy, classroom learning, campus culture, buildings and landscape, campus practices, transportation, and investments/endowments.

To ensure our continued progress towards a more sustainable campus, I have requested annual reporting and assessment of our strategies. In 2012 Miami issued its first annual sustainability report, a process we are happy to integrate with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking and Reporting System (STARS). This framework allows us to incorporate our own goals, consider other important metrics, measure our performance in relation to peers, and provide transparency and accountability to our stakeholders: students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community.

I am proud to attest to the accuracy of our STARS reporting for Miami's Oxford campus, including these highlights:

- Miami reduced overall greenhouse gas emissions 20% between 2005 and 2012
- Energy and utility master planning are guiding major investments in efficient geothermal heating and cooling, including 735 new wells now being drilled
- Our Institute for the Environment and Sustainability has been reorganized to focus on sustainability, including a new "Sustainability" co-major
- New "Eco-Reps" and "Sustainability Champions" programs engage students, faculty, and staff in greening where they live and work
- A systematic effort to reduce solid waste streams and increase recycling has guided new improvements, including the introduction of composting
- 30% of food purchased now comes from local vendors
- All new major building construction and renovation follow green building standards, including 355,000 square feet of LEED registered buildings now under construction
- Implementation of our Campus Circulation Master Plan is improving the safety and convenience of walking and biking, and expands transit options

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These are just a few examples of our deepening commitment to sustainability. We are proud of these accomplishments and the momentum they have created. But this is a continuing journey for Miami University and we look forward to continued progress in the future.

Sincerely,



David C. Hodge

President

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