

March 22, 2023

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop Street  
Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Members of the AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to affirm The George Washington University's submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). The George Washington University (GW) seeks to engage the world in the collaborative and creative exploration of solutions to the most pressing sustainability challenges. Our STARS submission represents the culmination of more than a decade of work to advance the critical work of sustainability at GW.

As a research university located in the heart of the United States capital, GW recognizes its unique opportunity and responsibility to lead peer institutions and communities in this country and around the world as we shape the future we hope to see. As demonstrated in this STARS submission, the university is deeply invested in a broad range of activities, policies, and systems aimed at improving sustainability across academics, operations, engagement, and more. Some highlights from our submission include:

- As of FY2022, roughly two-thirds of GW's electricity demand is met through renewable generation, largely through a 500-acre off-site solar array.
- In 2020, GW stopped taking on new investments in businesses that derive the majority of their revenues from the extraction of fossil fuel. GW has reduced such existing investments to less than two percent of the total endowment, and is on track to fully divest the university endowment from fossil fuel companies by 2025.
- GW offers more than 900 sustainability-focused and sustainability-inclusive courses. The undergraduate student body includes nearly 100 sustainability minors.
- In 2021, the university adopted a progressive policy eliminating single-use plastics from its campuses as part of its zero waste approach.

GW appreciates the value of STARS in standardizing the measurement and reporting of sustainability in higher education, both as a tool for peer benchmarking and for internal performance management. Please contact Josh Lasky, Director of the Office of Sustainability, at (202) 994-1164 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sharon Reich Paulsen  
Executive Vice President and Chief Administration Officer