



February 27, 2015

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

Dear Members of the AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

The George Washington University seeks to engage the world by exploring the important issues of our time, including policy and governance for sustainability, with a vision to create healthy and thriving resource systems for all people. George Washington is committed to being a model of sustainability through efforts underway in operations, engagement, teaching, and research. I am pleased to affirm the university's submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS).

Located in the heart of the nation's capital, GW is committed to promoting sustainability locally, nationally and globally. As indicated in the STARS report, the university is involved in a variety of initiatives that support a sustainable world. These initiatives encompass the issue areas of climate and energy, urban sustainability, food, water use, environmental justice, procurement, and more.

GW's biggest sustainability achievement in 2014 was the establishment of the Capital Partners Solar Project. The project includes an offsite solar farm that, once fully operational in 2016, will generate approximately half of GW's electricity needs and thereby accelerate our progress in reaching our 2025 carbon reduction goal. Additional recent sustainability accomplishments include:

- Embracing LEED for all new construction. GW now has eleven LEED certified buildings, including our first LEED Platinum building, with more currently under construction;
- Expanding community partnerships. GW's local community partnerships continue to grow in the areas of food access, climate justice, and K-12 sustainability education;

Association for the Advancement
of Sustainability in Higher Education / Page 2

- Permeating the curriculum. GW now has 400 courses that include sustainability content, and our undergraduate minor is among our most popular offerings; and
- Upscaling research. 170 GW faculty are now engaged in sustainability related research, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration.

GW appreciates AASHE's efforts to standardize measurement and reporting of university sustainability initiatives, which helps facilitate sustainability benchmarking and highlights best practices. Please contact Meghan Chapple, Director of the Office of Sustainability at (202) 994-6287 or Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director of Sustainability at (202) 994-0500, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven Knapp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "S" and "K".