



May 13, 2014

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,

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 of creating resource systems that are healthy and thriving for all people. The university is committed to being a model of sustainability through efforts already underway in operations, teaching, research, and outreach.

I am pleased to affirm the university's submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). This submission contains accurate and up-to-date information on the university's sustainability initiatives.

Located in the heart of the nation's capital, George Washington has a mandate of encouraging sustainability locally, nationally and globally, which we will continue to fulfill in the coming years. As included in the STARS report, the university is involved in a variety of initiatives that support a sustainable future. These initiatives encompass the issue areas of climate and energy, water use, dining, waste and recycling, green building, and procurement, among others.

In 2010, the university released the Climate Action Plan that targets a 40% reduction in on-site carbon emissions by 2025 and full carbon neutrality by 2040. The university implemented an Ecosystems Enhancement Strategy in 2012, which is intended to build institutional understanding of and commitment to sustainability at GW, and engage its external stakeholders in those efforts. We have made great strides in this area, including the construction of eight LEED-certified buildings with more currently under construction, over 140 students who have declared a minor in sustainability,

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and ongoing energy efficiency retrofits in university buildings. This Earth Day 2014, GW joined the Real Food Challenge and announced that our campus would be engaged in a robust dialogue about how our food is produced and procured.

The George Washington University appreciates the value of STARS in standardizing the measurement and reporting of university initiatives, allowing for comprehensive sustainability benchmarking. George Washington is deeply committed to addressing the challenges of sustainability. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director of Sustainability at (202) 994-0500, or Meghan Chapple, Director of the Office of Sustainability at (202) 994-6287.

Sincerely,

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