

March 3, 2022

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: Michigan State University STARS Submission

Dear STARS Reviewers:

I am pleased to affirm the 2022 Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System report for Michigan State University (MSU).

As a premier land grant institution and having the foundational understanding of nature's complex relationships, sustainability remains rooted in MSU's education, research, and outreach foundations. Reaching first across Michigan and then extending globally, MSU has made long-standing commitments and progress in sustainability as a global leader through cutting-edge research, experiential learning, community engagement, and improving sustainable operations.

Our recent sustainability achievements include:

- Adopted the four-pillar sustainability framework: Campus, Curriculum, Community, and Culture. This framework exemplifies sustainability as an integral part of all university operations and enables a culture that connects students, staff, and faculty in driving continuous change to reduce the university's carbon footprint.
- Embedded sustainability throughout the university's strategic plan, prioritizing areas of focus for the next decade. The strategic plan embraces sustainability in all six strategic themes and is central to moving sustainability forward at the institution. MSU is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 from our 2010 baseline and achieving climate neutrality by 2050.
- Supported sustainable transportation and mobility by completing the first east-west complete street on campus, introducing e-scooters to campus, and continuing to offer free bus fare to students and employees.
- Completed construction of three green buildings, including the Gold-LEED certified Minskoff Pavilion, the Silver-LEED certified 1855 Place, and the STEM Teaching and Learning Facility, which received a Forest Stewardship Council Leadership Award in recognition of its mass timber construction.
- Championed change in local, sustainable procurement practices within Culinary Services through the MSU Sustainable Food Procurement Guide development.

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- Invested in creative ways to utilize campus as a living laboratory for teaching and research while improving operational efficiencies, resulting in the installation of MSU's first outdoor green walls, pollinator gardens, and solar-powered lighting.

The STARS assessment continues to be a valuable process that documents the university's progress and serves as third-party validation of our efforts, helping to build collaboration and momentum while providing a framework to identify areas of improvement for future planning efforts. MSU's progress in sustainability reflects the vision and dedication of Amy Butler, MSU's first Director of Sustainability, who passed away on January 8, 2022. This report is dedicated in her honor.

We appreciate the opportunity to showcase our fourth STARS report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Woo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Woo, PhD
Executive Vice President for Administration & Chief Information Officer
Michigan State University
President
Michigan State University Foundation