

6 March 2023

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 1910

Re: The University of Connecticut's 2023 AASHE STARS 2.2 Report Submission

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the University of Connecticut, I am honored to submit our 2023 STARS report, which documents our institution-wide commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. Our vision is to be a global leader in the international campaign to address the existential threats posed by climate change, and we are committed to advancing sustainability in all we do.

We address the existential threats posed by climate change through a **comprehensive and holistic approach** combining education, research, technology innovation, technology deployment and demonstration through partnerships, and community engagement and advocacy.

Our clean campus strategy has yielded many improvements, including:

- Since 2000, a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions despite a 44% increase in campus square footage.
- LEED Gold building certifications for new construction.
- Implementation of sustainable energy technologies, including solar, fuel cells, and clean hydrogen across campus.
- Reductions in vehicle emissions through electric vehicle campus infrastructure, partnering with local public transit to offer emissions-free campus bus service, increased campus walkability and bikeability.
- Ecologically based filtering of stormwater and forebay development for improving habitat, water quality, and future maintenance operations on our campus's Mirror Lake.

Building on these gains, we are committed to achieving on-campus carbon neutrality by 2030 and carbon zero by 2040.

Our commitment to sustainability is also apparent in our many and growing sustainability initiatives: For example.

- In October 2022, UConn and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) launched a partnership for collaboration on clean energy innovation and grid resilience.
- Our Eversource Energy Center is conducting research at the forefront of grid resilience, grounded in forecasting and mitigation strategies to support resilience in face of natural disasters exacerbated by climate change, and our Center for Clean Energy Engineering leads research efforts in clean and sustainable fuels and systems.
- UConn is now the home of the Department of Energy's Southern New England Industrial Assessment Center, which provides companies with free energy audits and suggestions for energy savings.
- We are promoting use and adoption of hydrogen technologies through a global hydrogen alliance, scientific partnerships with universities and companies worldwide, and a partnership with states in the Northeast to build a regional hydrogen hub.
- Our Future Climate Venture Studio is leveraging the University's intellectual capital to support startup companies and innovations that support a clean and sustainable future.

I am also proud of the many initiatives around education, experiential learning, activism, and public engagement that our students, faculty, and staff support each and every day to realize our vision for a sustainable future.

As UConn's new president, I personally am dedicated to leading UConn to carbon neutrality by 2030 and carbon zero by 2040. I became a scientist and engineer so that I could develop the expertise needed to move the world to a clean energy future, and I am expert in the technical aspects of the challenges and opportunities that exist for the transition away from fossil fuels to clean alternatives. It is this vision for a sustainable and just world for future generations that motivated me to take on the challenge of leading UConn.

I look forward to working with our talented and motivated community to achieve our ambitious and necessary goals for sustainability, both at UConn and around the world.

Sincerely,



Radenka Maric
President