



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

SYLVIA M. BURWELL  
PRESIDENT

January 23, 2020

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

RE: American University STARS Submission

To Whom it May Concern:

At American University, we are proud to be a leader in sustainability. Our commitment to sustainability is visible from the moment you step onto campus. All 84 acres of AU's campus make up our picturesque Arboretum and Gardens, a verdant reminder that we must teach the next generation of advocates how to best protect our planet and all those who call it home. AU's values of public service, experiential learning, and inclusive excellence translate to a culture of active engagement on campus and beyond.

In 2018, AU achieved Carbon Neutrality. Through a combination of reducing overall emissions, using and developing renewable energy, and procuring strategic offsets, we were able to reach our goal two years ahead of schedule. AU was the first university in the U.S., urban campus, and the first research university to achieve carbon neutrality. AU's path to neutrality has been achieved through community-wide efforts of commitment and leadership. From those who develop and manage the spaces on campus to faculty and staff, sustainability practices are integrated into our everyday work and processes. At AU, we recognize that our work has not ended with the achievement of carbon neutrality. We continue to pursue sustainability and resiliency projects, which will expand and deepen our environmental commitments.

We appreciate AASHE's continued efforts to advance sustainability in higher education. STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System) is a valuable tool that allows our university to benchmark and measure progress as we move forward to even greater sustainability. AU began using STARS as a Charter Participant in 2020, and today, I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of AU's fifth STARS report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia M. Burwell".

Sylvia M. Burwell

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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