



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

SYLVIA M. BURWELL
PRESIDENT

March 2, 2021

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 2020, AU divested all of its public fossil fuel investments from its endowment, the first university to do so in the District of Columbia. Two years prior, AU achieved Carbon Neutrality, 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. At AU, we recognize that our work has not ended with either of these achievements. We continue to pursue sustainability and resiliency projects, which will expand and deepen our environmental commitments. Our actions will continue to serve as a model for sustainability, further demonstrating our leadership on the issue and how our community can make an impact in the global fight against climate change.

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 2011, and today, I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of AU's sixth 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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