



GARY S. MAY
Chancellor

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February 28, 2020

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Executive Director Zahniser:

On behalf of the University of California, Davis, I am pleased to submit our documentation for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), version 2.2. Our submission represents an accurate account of our sustainability activities and initiatives to the best of our knowledge and ability.

Our campus embraces the call to rise and use our resources to solve major and urgent sustainability challenges that our world faces – environmental, social and economic challenges. Since our last STARS submission, here are a few of the ways UC Davis is continuing to answer the call to bend the curve on climate change through forging global, regional and local partnerships; advancing social sustainability through diversity, equity and inclusion efforts; engaging and teaching our students and our whole community; and improving our operational performance.

- Faculty member Benjamin Houlton co-chaired the formation of the statewide [California Collaborative for Climate Change Solutions](#), which has the mission “to accelerate the translation of research findings into practical climate solutions, to test innovative technologies through high-impact pilot projects, and to rapidly scale promising solutions to the national and global level.”
- We launched both a [Global Affairs](#) office and a [Public Scholarship and Engagement](#) office. These units have forged over 150 partnerships and joined networks that enable our students, faculty, staff and alumni to focus on issues of **public** concern, connecting the local and the global to advance solutions to the world's challenges while inspiring curiosity and understanding.
- Our recently created [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) office is helping us take our [Principles of Community](#) to a new level. I firmly believe that we cannot achieve environmental sustainability if we do not address social sustainability and engage everyone in creating solutions that are inclusive, equitable, and embrace the strength of diversity.
- UC Davis students have access to more project-based learning classes related to sustainability topics; our Arboretum and Public Garden's [Learning by Leading](#) program uses campus landscapes as resources for students to apply classroom learning in real-world

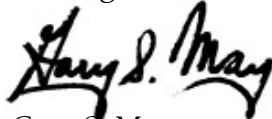
settings; and we are the first University of California campus to measure its nitrogen footprint – students partner with academic mentors and sustainability staff to create this annual metric.

- We are directing capital investment in our energy infrastructure to shift us over the next decade [from fossil-fueled steam district heating to electrified low-temperature hot water](#). We also have one of the largest on-site, behind-the-meter solar power plants of any higher education institution in the United States – the 16.3 megawatt array is sized to provide about 14% of our electricity demand. These, and other, investments and direct actions have led to a 40% in business operations-related greenhouse gas reductions since 2007.

The University of California has a [Sustainable Practices Policy](#) with ambitious goals. These goals inform and guide our work, and the STARS reporting system helps broaden our campus's understanding of the comprehensive, interconnected nature of sustainability.

UC Davis appreciates the work of AASHE to create, evolve, and improve the STARS reporting system. We are pleased to participate in this effort to provide clear, transparent metrics of our progress. We take pride in our accomplishments to date, and know that we still have more work to do. We will use the results from this assessment to continue to advance sustainability efforts through our teaching, research, public engagement and operations.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary S. May". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" at the end.

Gary S. May
Chancellor