



October 9, 2013

Steering Committee
Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Steering Committee Members:

On behalf of the James Madison University community, I am pleased to submit the university's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report.

All divisions of James Madison University (JMU) contribute to sustainability as inclusively interpreted by AASHE: encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations. The JMU defining characteristics related to environmental stewardship, diversity, and affordability illustrate our commitment to this vision. The STARS framework has enhanced our benchmarking of efforts related to our defining characteristics and has challenged us to consider and respond to STARS' broad set of sustainability indicators.

Our STARS report is especially valuable as we reflect on our progress over the four years since formalization of the university-wide commitment to environmental stewardship. Our environmental achievements include implementing environmental policies, adopting student environmental literacy learning outcomes and an assessment, creating a comprehensive waste reduction and education program, transforming campus transportation, and greening our facilities. The STARS framework was similarly useful for succinctly presenting many of the accomplishments from our long-standing, formal commitments to diversity and affordability. Highlights of our progress include evaluating our already extensive diversity efforts, increasing community engagement, expanding support programs for affordability and access, and strategically incorporating sustainability into the curriculum and co-curriculum. Recognitions for our environmental and/or sustainability efforts have come from the Commonwealth of Virginia governor's office, the Virginia Recycling Association, the League of American Bicyclists, the Virginia Sustainable Building Network, and the Princeton Review. Further information is available at www.jmu.edu/stewardship.

The best practices from other STARS institutions will be a valuable reference as we begin development of our next five-year environmental stewardship action plan. We appreciate your efforts to provide and continue to refine STARS.

Sincerely yours,

Jonathan R. Alger
President

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