



February 10, 2023

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut St. Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of Santa Clara University, I present our 2023 submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS).

Santa Clara University's Mission Statement's final line highlights our commitment to advocacy: "Santa Clara University will educate citizens and leaders of competence, conscience, and compassion and cultivate knowledge and faith to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world." Each of the undergraduate programs in arts and sciences, business, and engineering, and graduate programs in six disciplines focuses on blending high-tech innovation with social consciousness thanks to the university's strong Jesuit, Catholic foundation.

Santa Clara University has a long history of sustainability activism. Our first Comprehensive Policy on Sustainability (2004) was built on our Jesuit traditions of social justice and care for our common home. In 2021, SCU proudly became one of the 130+ founding universities from around the world committed to Pope Francis' 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology through the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Over the 2022-23 school year, the Center for Sustainability and Division of Mission and Ministry are working with more than 80 community and campus stakeholders to develop a sustainability action plan (a pillar of the university's new strategic plan) that will identify crucial campus changes and updates across academics, engagement, and operations. This plan will guide SCU through 2030 helping the university to more deeply incorporate the goals of the papal encyclical *Laudato Si'* focusing on integral ecology.

Here are a few highlights of our 2023 report:

- SCU is an AASHE Center for Sustainability Across the Curriculum (SAC).
 - The online course composed of small modules helps participants think about which overarching or global sustainability goals they want students to address. Participants design the sustainability learning objectives for their course, assignments, and lesson plans, as we guide them to plan

their course strategically in their program's curriculum, Ignatian Pedagogy for Sustainability (especially for Jesuit school faculty), environmental justice, using the campus as a living lab for learning, and community-based learning.

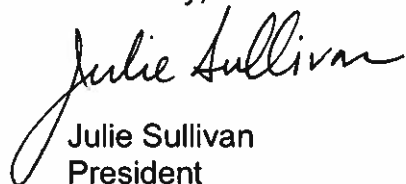
- An additional module is available for faculty and staff who work at campus Offices of Sustainability and/or who run professional development programs on sustainability across the curriculum. Participants can access a wealth of resources, including background readings about each module topic, how faculty members in their respective discipline are teaching sustainability, and curriculum repositories with example syllabi, assignments, and lesson plans.
- Over 200 faculty have been trained through this program since 2007.
- We are one of the few universities that has reached carbon neutrality of energy used for campus operations in 2020.
 - SCU has decreased energy use per square foot by roughly 30% since 2005 with plans to continue driving down our reliance on fossil fuels by reducing energy demand, expanding onsite renewable generation, and increasing onsite-energy storage capacity.
 - These efforts directly reduce the University's Scope 1 (natural gas and fuel for University fleet) and 2 (electricity) greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Thanks to a recent \$6 million gift, we will double on-site photovoltaic generation by 2025.
- In June 2022, SCU and Silicon Valley Power, the City of Santa Clara's municipal electric utility, announced a new five-year \$375,000 grant supporting the Silicon Valley Power (SVP) Sustainable Futures Program providing scholarships and fellowships to up to 35 future leaders in sustainability, clean energy and related fields. Each year, four transfer students from local community colleges receive scholarships for sustainability-related studies at Santa Clara and three students from underrepresented socioeconomic backgrounds receive funded fellowships to conduct applied research through SCU's Center for Sustainability. The first program cohort was officially launched on October 26, 2022.
 - These project-based learning and applied research experiences for the fellows are focused on sustainability, clean energy, and/or commitment to climate goals such as UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We are proud to take part in this robust benchmarking tool and proud to be a Charter participant and to have contributed to the STARS Pilot in 2009. For this, our fifth STARS

submission, I affirm the data is accurate, current, and representative of our current campus-wide sustainability efforts.

Together, we have accomplished much, but there is more work to do. We're eager to continue our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Julie Sullivan
President

cc: Lindsey Kalkbrenner, Director, Center for Sustainability