



January 30, 2020

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 2020 submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS).

With undergraduate programs in arts and sciences, business, and engineering, and graduate programs in six disciplines, Santa Clara University's curriculum blends high-tech innovation with social consciousness grounded in the tradition of Jesuit, Catholic education. Our mission as a Jesuit university today is more relevant than ever before: caring for students in mind, body, and spirit; supporting our faculty in their research and scholarship; and serving the common good by promoting a more just, gentle, and sustainable world.

Santa Clara University has a long history of action to build a sustainable future. Our first Comprehensive Policy on Sustainability (2004) was built on our Jesuit traditions of social justice and care for our common home. Fifteen years later, our Sustainability Strategic Plan (2019) deepens our commitment to infuse sustainability practices throughout our operations, curricula, student life, and community engagement--bringing tangible goals and objectives from the operational level all the way to individual actions.

Here are a few highlights:

- Over 27 percent of our courses include a sustainability component, attributable to 13 years of Sustainability Across the Curriculum programming. Our goal is to engage 100% of our students in at least one sustainability-related course during their academic career.
- Myriad waste minimization programs enable reuse of materials from office supplies to residential decorations; even fruit gleaned from campus trees stock our campus food pantries. Though SCU's waste diversion rate hovers around 70%, we are aiming for Zero Waste to be achieved through source waste reduction and improved waste practices.
- Creative energy efficiency and renewable energy programs enable us to decrease energy use, though our campus continues to grow. We have worked hard to reduce our net Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 64% per person.

- A three-year Initiative on Environmental Justice and the Common Good. This presidential initiative is grounded in our mission as a Jesuit, Catholic university that aspires to educate for justice by connecting environmental concerns with social justice issues, such as poverty, racism, and migration. It also reflects the recently announced Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Jesuits.

The goals of the Initiative, are three-fold:

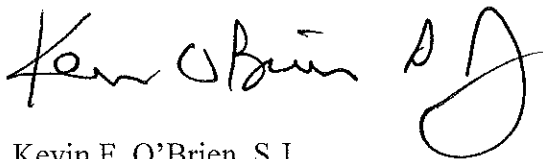
- Promoting environmental justice across SCU through faculty development initiatives and research and teaching partnerships with community-based organizations;
- Building a network to resource innovative models of research and teaching for environmental justice across Northern California through partnerships with other academic institutions and community-based organizations;
- Expanding and resourcing collaborations among faculty, staff and students at Jesuit universities in the U.S. and around the world.

We pride ourselves on the culture of sustainability we are building - creating ambassadors for reversing global climate change and equipping our students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be the next generation of leaders and global thinkers to solve real-world global problems.

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 fourth 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. And there is no better place than Santa Clara to realize the promise of a more just, gentle, and sustainable world. May God bless our labors.

Sincerely,



Kevin F. O'Brien, S.J.
President

cc: Lindsey Kalkbrenner, Director, Center for Sustainability