



29 April 2014

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100  
Denver CO 80202

Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of Santa Clara University, I present our second submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS). I affirm the data is accurate, current, and representative of our campus-wide sustainability efforts.

Santa Clara University, a comprehensive Jesuit, Catholic university located in California's Silicon Valley, offers its more than 8,800 students rigorous curricula in arts and sciences, business, theology, engineering, and law. We are California's oldest operating institution of higher education and have been distinguished nationally by one of the highest graduation rates among all U.S. master's universities. Throughout our history, Santa Clara has demonstrated faith-inspired values of ethics and social justice.

I am proud to say SCU was part of the STARS pilot in 2009 and a Charter Participant in STARS 1.0. Since our last STARS submission, we have emboldened our commitment to sustainability, which is apparent in our improved rating since earning a Silver rating in 2011, as well as several notable achievements. Since 2005, Santa Clara University's sustainability efforts have produced:

- 40 percent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions per person, due to a comprehensive energy conservation and efficiency initiative, rideshare programs, incentives for biking, carpooling, and using public transportation, as well as 11 electric vehicle charging stations.
- 29 percent decrease in potable water consumed per person, due to efficient fixtures and use of recycled water throughout campus landscaping.
- 59 percent waste diversion rate (more than triple 2005 levels), and a 17 percent decrease in total waste leaving campus (includes recyclables and compostables).
- Over 20 percent of courses taught at SCU include a sustainability component (social justice, economic development, and/or environmental health).
- 80 percent of academic departments have at least one faculty member engaged in sustainability research.

Most recently, Santa Clara earned a prestigious award, the Acterra 2014 Business Environmental Award, highlighting SCU's commitment and dedication to sustainability with demonstrated environmental progress, social benefits, and influence on the business community. Programs including Experiential Learning for Social Justice, the Contemplative Leadership and

Sustainability Program, a half-acre organic campus garden, and the Frugal Innovation Lab all encourage the SCU community to engage in social justice and sustainability locally and globally. One business community highlight, the Global Social Benefit Institute, has helped social entrepreneurs in over 55 countries since 2003 impact more than 100 million people worldwide.

Our participation in STARS and the great progress we have made since the 2009 pilot are indicative of our foundational commitment to sustainability. I thank AASHE and its leadership in mobilizing sustainability efforts on campuses across the country. It is an honor to participate in STARS and advance the important work of building a more sustainable world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael E. Engh, S.J.".

Michael E. Engh, S.J.  
President

cc: Lindsey Kalkbrenner, Director, Center for Sustainability