



Sabah Randhawa, President

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May 25, 2023

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
213 1/2 N. Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507

**RE: Western Washington University STARS Report Submission**

Western Washington University has been a leader in many areas of sustainability since it established the nation's first interdisciplinary College of the Environment in 1969. Our current STARS submission reflects a continued commitment to being a national leader through integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations into our academic, operational, and administrative practices. Some notable highlights of this report include the Green Direct partnership program, the Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund sponsoring of innovative campus projects that highlight many examples of sustainability, infrastructure improvements including initial steps to convert the campus heating system from steam to a more energy efficient hot water system and groundbreaking for a new net-zero energy Advanced Technology academic building, and the Campus as a Living Laboratory efforts within the Sustainability Minor and Energy Studies programs.

This updated submission reflects the broad spectrum of sustainability initiatives that permeate nearly every aspect of campus life. While Western has had a long tradition of such efforts, the completion of a comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan in the fall of 2017 has elevated them at a strategic level and provided a more focused roadmap for achieving our goals. In addition to aligning our commitments to infusing sustainability throughout the curriculum, and becoming proactive investors in renewable energy, the Sustainability Action Plan has made the campus more aware of the interconnection between sustainability and our other core commitments around social and economic justice. Since our last report, I have established the President's Sustainability Council, which has been tasked with ensuring WWU complies with our Climate Commitment as well as the implementation of the 2017 Sustainability Plan over time.

Western's staff have been part of AASHE's assessment framework since its inception in 2007. We are pleased to have contributed to the creation of this assessment framework, and respectfully present our updated STARS submission, recognizing that we have many opportunities to grow and demonstrate leadership in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabah Randhawa".

Sabah Randhawa  
President