



Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

The Ohio State University, established by the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, was founded on the principle that education transforms lives. As climate change and sustainable, more innovative energy systems are among the foremost issues in our society, protecting and respecting our environment has been a focus for Ohio State since its founding in 1870.

Ohio State is committed to becoming a world leader in developing durable solutions to the pressing challenges of sustainability and in evolving a culture of sustainability through collaborative teaching, pioneering research, comprehensive outreach and innovative operations, practices and policies. In fact, in the past few weeks, we have finalized specific university-wide sustainability goals.

Ohio State has made progress toward our institutional sustainability aspirations through new coursework and outreach activities; alternative energy research; resource stewardship such as one of the largest wind power purchases in the nation and the Zero Waste program at Ohio Stadium; and improving and increasing the experiences and expertise our graduates take with them beyond the physical campus to their local and global communities.

As one of the largest universities in the United States, we embrace the opportunity and responsibility to take a leadership role in sustainability. We are committed to maintaining the access, affordability and excellence that have defined our nation's finest public institutions since their inception. We have come a long way, but there is still much more work to be done. We will continue to work tirelessly to provide our students, faculty, staff and community with opportunities to advance their understanding and awareness of sustainability.

I support and affirm the accuracy of the information gathered and submitted for the AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System. We are excited to share our progress and successes with our peers and to learn from them in return. Participating in the STARS process has aided in assessing our university's focus on sustainability from a broad, comprehensive view, helping to inform and validate our programming progress and future goals in an effective manner. The STARS program is one more step toward a truly sustainable Ohio State, leveraging opportunities across constituents, activities and divisions for a safer, more livable and sustainable future. I am proud to present The Ohio State University's STARS Report.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President