



# KYOTO UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

AASHE STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop Steet  
Suite 100  
Denver, Colorado 80202

December 16, 2013

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

As President of Kyoto University, I am pleased to participate in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS) International Pilot Program of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), and to submit a report on the environmental efforts of Kyoto University.

Since its founding in 1897, Kyoto University has advanced education and research of the highest standards, cultivating a tradition of open-minded dialogue and a philosophy of academic freedom. Located in the global city of Kyoto, we have maintained a spirit of autonomy and independence for 115 years, pursuing our mission to seek harmonious coexistence among the planet's human and ecological community.

Kyoto University formulated its Environmental Charter in 2002, recognizing that global environmental conservation is one of the most important issues for the global community. Under the charter, the university endeavors to ensure that all university activities are environmentally friendly, mitigate its environmental burden, and prevent environmental pollution.

In 2008, Kyoto University drew up an Environment Plan delineating specific efforts such as the reduction of energy use and GHG emissions, mitigation of the environmental burden caused by waste, and the promotion of environmental and safety education. In the same year we also introduced an environmental tax system to encourage energy saving and GHG reduction. This is a system that implements energy efficiency measures by levying an environmental tax, which is calculated based on the energy consumption of each department of the university, including the central administration. This system greatly contributes to the reduction of our energy use on campus, and has led to the installation of photovoltaic facilities, highly efficient transformers and air conditioning, and LED lighting. Furthermore, we established our Office for a Sustainable Campus this April to comprehensively manage and develop our environmental efforts, and several new efforts have been initiated primarily through that office.

We deeply appreciate your efforts at the international level to standardize the assessment tools for the establishment of sustainable campuses, and we look forward to further developments. Based on those assessment tools, we will continue to address the various challenges involved in advancing sustainability on Kyoto University's campuses.

Sincerely yours,

Hiroshi Matsumoto  
President