

March 2, 2023

Dear AASHE STARS,

Binghamton University is proud to participate in the AASHE STARS rating system. We have made sustainability a priority in many ways on campus including in our physical infrastructure, development of new academic programs, to an emphasis on sustainability in our research. In this letter, I will highlight some of the accomplishments of which I am most proud.

First, we continue to emphasize sustainability in our research. Researchers in our Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence (TAE) in Smart Energy were just awarded \$110 million in combined federal and state grants to establish a hub for battery technology innovation in upstate New York. We will develop a battery technology and manufacturing center in an Opportunity Zone in Endicott, NY. Additional projects will support the battery industry and its supply chain, workforce development, and environmental justice. The entire initiative is expected to have a \$2 billion economic impact.

Additionally, our TAE on Sustainable Communities continues to bring together faculty from multiple disciplines to study and impact sustainability at the community level. They are currently working on a project that will characterize over 800 communities in the US according to their sustainability outcomes, and create an online Understanding Sustainable Communities course open to the general public.

Second, we have made great strides in protecting our local ecosystem. Our Nature Preserve is a point of pride of the University. Encompassing over 300 acres, including a 20-acre wetland, the Nature Preserve is our largest and best-used laboratory on campus. We are committed to enhancing biodiversity not only in this dedicated space, but throughout campus by introducing new low/no-mow zones and implementing a newly adopted Integrated Pest Management plan.

Third, we have reorganized and expanded our Sustainability Committee. The chair now reports directly to the President. The expansion of the Committee and infusion of funds for student support has increased our sustainability course inventory and sustainable purchasing. The Committee has been charged with implementing New York State's Executive Order 22, an ambitious sustainability effort impacting energy use, waste management, biodiversity, and other aspects of sustainability. The Committee is also revising the University's Sustainability Plan with the goal of achieving Platinum status within the next three years.

Because we approach sustainability from a three Es perspective, we are not only committed to the environmental and economic goals described above, but also strive for making the world a more equitable place. To that end, we will be seeking the Carnegie Classification for Community

Engagement in 2026. Our Center for Civic Engagement will lead this initiative and several working groups have formed to take on this new challenge.

In sum, Binghamton University has made great progress in recent years to become a more sustainable campus and to promote sustainability in our research and curricula. Several new initiatives are underway which we hope to report on in upcoming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harvey G. Stenger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

Harvey G. Stenger  
President