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Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Reviewers,

The University of Pittsburgh is honored to submit our 2024 STARS certification documentation, which reflects the strong progress that we have made embedding sustainability throughout the University since achieving our first STARS Gold certification in 2021.

Some key accomplishments include:

- Charting our strategy to reaching carbon neutrality by 2037 by generating our first Pitt Climate Action Plan (2022), while keeping greenhouse gas emissions 36.7% below baseline for Fiscal Year 2022 (keeping us on track to meet our 50% reduction goal by 2030).
- Partnering with materials company Covestro to launch and welcome the first U.S. graduate program focused on the circular economy to address global waste and its environmental and climate impact. (2022)
- Offering the first Pitt Sustainability Challenge, a \$300,000 public innovation opportunity advancing carbon neutrality to the benefit of the Pitt community. Winner Ecotone Renewables, co-led by a Pitt alum, will be implementing its anaerobic digesters on or near Pitt campuses over the next two years to convert waste into fertilizer. (2023)
- Cutting the ribbon on Vesper's Gaucho Solar farm, the largest solar power project in Southwestern Pennsylvania, which will provide 18% of the campus's annual electricity. (2023)
- Earning the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Scholarship Award, recognizing Pitt's outstanding community engagement work exemplified through The Pittsburgh Study, the largest community-partnered intervention study in the U.S. to study thriving among children and adolescents. (2023)

As a leading public research institution, we are committed to advancing learning, discovery and service through a lens of innovation and impact that enables current and future generations to thrive in a world that is environmentally responsible, socially equitable and economically robust.

Thank you for providing and supporting the continued development of STARS as a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to benchmark against, learn from and share our successes with other higher education institutions — reflecting the educational and research missions we all strive to meet.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Gabel', written in a cursive style.

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