

March 24, 2020

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to present Drexel University's first STARS report. In the past year, Drexel has embarked on an institutional effort to elevate climate and sustainability concerns in our core functions. While we have much work to do in this area, we believe this first STARS report establishes a valuable baseline and will help direct us as we improve and expand our efforts.

Drexel has a long tradition of engaging students in applied learning and problem-solving approaches, and we believe that in prioritizing climate and sustainability, we will inspire our students to become climate problem-solvers whatever their career pathways. Our leadership in the institutional anchor mission space means that we already have important experience in what it takes to transform a university around a set of core values. We anticipate that our anchor mission experience will inform our incorporation of climate values.

We have dedicated a team of full-time professional staff to build Drexel's capacity in this work, and we are on track to launch the interdisciplinary Environmental Collaboratory in the coming year. This center for research, student learning, and public engagement will be able to drive new programming, curricular development, research efforts, and stakeholder engagement around critical issues in sustainability.

As we reflect on our first report, we note that we have strengths in faculty research, and we have room for improvement in campus community engagement. Our reporting team is already beginning to analyze our gaps and consider the work ahead to improve in those areas. The reporting process itself has already brought together our administrative offices and departments around the basic questions of our institutional sustainability performance. We have also learned that our students, faculty, and staff are fully supportive and enthusiastic about engaging in this self-study. The Drexel community is ready to pursue creative ideas to better support our University as a campus that prioritizes sustainability.

Sincerely,



John A. Fry  
President