



April 4, 2022

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

Dear STARS Administrators,

It is my pleasure to present the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s second STARS report.

Over the past two years, while supporting the health and wellbeing of our campus community, continuing to educate thousands of students, and maintaining one of the nation’s largest research enterprises, we’ve made impressive strides toward becoming more sustainable. Since our first STARS submission, we have:

- Signed onto the Second Nature Resilience Commitment and are now preparing our Climate Action and Adaptation Plan;
- Convened a diverse set of stakeholders to develop a new framework for sustainability leadership through our cross-campus Sustainability Advisory Council; and
- Invested in local, renewable energy by supporting the O’Brien Solar Fields, the largest solar installation in our county and a space for both education and research.

We’ve also recognized the important role our history can play in sustainability initiatives. For example:

- In 2020, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, named for Wisconsin Governor Gaylor Nelson, whose legacy continues to inform sustainability at UW–Madison; and
- In 2021, as part of our effort to develop, and repair, our relationships with the Ho-Chunk Nation and other First Nations in Wisconsin, we raised the flag of the Ho-Chunk Nation above Bascom Hall, our central administration building, and partnered with Ho-Chunk leaders to share the history of the land on which our university sits.

Chancellor Rebecca M. Blank
Morgridge Friends Distinguished Chair of Leadership

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National and federal organizations are noticing and recognizing our institutional commitment to sustainability:

- The U.S. Department of Education named UW–Madison a 2021 winner of the Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award, calling us a *leader in environment- and sustainability-related research, education and operations*;
- We've been designated a Fair Trade University, the second school in the Big Ten to achieve this status; and
- We've been named one of the Best Universities for Commuters and have retained our recognition in the EPA's Top 30 Green Power list.

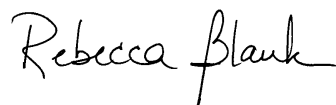
As we celebrate these achievements, more bright young minds join our campus community. We welcomed the largest, and most diverse, freshman class in our history this year, and we know that many of these students will pursue studies related to the environment. The number of current students majoring in areas related to environmental sustainability is at an all-time high.

Our students are also leaders in research. A team of UW–Madison students was one of the top winners in the Musk Foundation's XPRIZE for Carbon Removal Student Competition. Enabled by our Green Fund program, students are collaborating on dozens of campus sustainability research and design projects, such as working with facilities staff to research how curved solar panels could be placed on top of bus shelters.

The spirit of innovation and collaboration at UW–Madison is alive and well. I am proud of our commitment to education, research, and outreach related to sustainability – and our progress toward becoming more efficient and reducing our use of resources.

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I am pleased to present this second STARS report and I affirm the accuracy of the data it contains.

On, Wisconsin,



Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor
Morgridge Friends Distinguished Chair of Leadership