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September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Meghan Fay Zahniser  
Executive Director  
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Meghan,

I am pleased to present the University of Idaho's third submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS®). Since our last report in 2022, we have been working to improve upon our current rating. This submission was spearheaded by our new Office of Sustainability and reflects the strategic work of many stakeholders, all of whom are assuming leadership roles for sustainability efforts across campus. This letter serves as an endorsement of the accuracy of our submission.

The University of Idaho is dedicated to incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy across all aspects of its teaching, research, operations, and outreach. We are proud of our efforts so far and are working diligently to continue to develop and advance our work so that we can become a leader in sustainable solutions.

Since our last report, the Sustainability Working Group, which was tasked with crafting a white paper for campus-wide sustainability recommendations, has completed its work. The resulting Sustainability White Paper, published in 2022, enumerated goals related to academics, engagement, and operations. Most importantly, we have added an Office of Sustainability. The Director, who reports directly to me, has been empowered to enact sustainability initiatives across campus, with the directive of making the University of Idaho known for sustainability. She has hired two additional staff members to help her in this work.

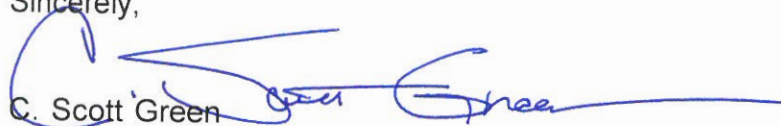
In the last year, we have focused much of our efforts on improving sustainability related to biodiversity and solid waste. We reinstated a recycling program and received a \$90,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency to assist us in the purchase of an in-vessel composting unit. Together, these two efforts should reduce the waste we are sending to the landfill by nearly 90%. In addition, we have formed both a campus Pollinator Committee and a campus Tree Committee and have achieved Bee Campus certification. We've also hired a new staff member to help us with sustainable landscaping initiatives and work to achieve several additional certifications in this area within the next year.

The University has also added three electricity-producing steam turbines at the U of I District Energy Plant that produce over 13% of the campus's electrical demand. This plant is our first carbon negative building. In addition, we have piloted a Green Cleaning Program in our Administration Building. Finally, I have added sustainability criteria to the internal performance metrics which each office regularly reports.

At the University of Idaho, our goal is to promote sustainable solutions in all that we do. This includes augmenting course offerings and providing access to an education for sustainable solutions to our students, amplifying the focus on sustainability in our research, and embodying the value of sustainability in our daily operations and campus outreach.

These goals are fundamental to our land grant mission. We look forward to reporting on the progress that we have made towards these goals each year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Scott Green", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

C. Scott Green  
President