



The University of Vermont

Richard H. Cate

Vice President for Finance and Treasurer

February 28, 2020

Meghan Fay Zahniser

Executive Director

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Dr. Zahniser,

On behalf of the University of Vermont (UVM), I am pleased to submit our third report to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). By our own rigorous assessment, the University of Vermont has once again qualified for the STARS Gold rating.

I commend AASHE for continuing to raise the bar with the new evidence-based criteria in STARS 2.2. The process of data collection and analysis required a coordinated and worthwhile effort across all of our academic and operational units. The good work of our academic and administrative leadership, and the many other individuals contributing to our STARS Report, resulted in thought provoking discussions about how to enhance the University's sustainability initiatives. The lessons learned and the insights gained about what we have done well, and what we must do to improve, will guide our future work. STARS provides structure for a learning process for all of us at UVM, one that we plan to continue in the years ahead, as we regularly assess and refine our programs and operations to meet our sustainability aspirations.

UVM is known for its focus on the environment, and our STARS Report demonstrates that this reputation is well deserved. Just a few of the many accomplishments since our 2017 submission include the expansion of the Gund Institute, the creation of a Sustainability Ambassadors Program, the completion of three additional LEED certified buildings, for a total of 13, and the creation of an educational module on transportation choices that will be required for anyone seeking a parking permit. In the report, you will find many other accomplishments that have advanced the integration of sustainability into academic programming and the implementation of new sustainable campus practices.

I am confident that the UVM data our team has reported will be verified at the Gold level. With this letter, I affirm that this submission is a good faith, accurate account of our activities in sustainability.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Cate