



## The University of Vermont

**Thomas Sullivan**  
*President*

February 26, 2014

Stephanie Herrera  
Executive Director  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Dr. Herrera:

Today the University of Vermont is submitting its first report to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). The University of Vermont (UVM) is well known for academic strengths in the liberal arts, environment, healthcare, leadership, and public service. We have been nationally recognized for our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusivity. UVM was the first institution of higher education to declare public support for freedom of religion, and the first university to admit women and African-Americans into Phi Beta Kappa honor society. UVM was also among the first institutions to establish an Environmental Program, measure greenhouse gas emissions, create an Eco-Reps program, establish a Clean Energy Fund, and establish a Sustainability Faculty Fellows program. Recent campus sustainability efforts include creating a \$13 million energy revolving fund and eliminating sales of bottled water. These successes and others documented within our STARS submission have come from the many dedicated activities of students, faculty and staff across campus. It is their commitment that lies at the heart of this report.

In 2012 the Provost and I charged an Envisioning Environment Work Group to develop recommendations regarding environmental research, education, and outreach at University. In February 2013, I approved the group's first recommendation: to enroll UVM in STARS. The Office of Sustainability staff members have been documenting our metrics in a number of areas for the past five years. They have been instrumental in identifying strengths and opportunities for improving our performance. I am delighted to be submitting the first STARS report for the University of Vermont compiled by the Office of Sustainability. I am confident that our data as reported to me will be verified at the Gold level. With this letter, I affirm that this submission is an accurate account of our activities to the best of our knowledge.

Let me offer my thanks to AASHE for supporting sustainability in higher education and for creating and maintaining STARS, a robust tool for documenting and sharing progress. We anticipate moving our campus forward in many dimensions outlined by the AASHE metrics and look forward to attaining ever higher degrees of excellence in campus sustainability.

Sincerely,

Tom Sullivan