



The University of Vermont

Thomas Sullivan
President

March 1, 2017

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, I am pleased to submit our second report to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). I am doubly pleased that by our own rigorous assessment, the University of Vermont has qualified once again for the STARS Gold rating.

I commend AASHE for raising the bar with the new evidence-based criteria in STARS 2.1. The application was a welcome challenge. The process of completing it required a good deal of data collection, analysis and coordinated effort across all of our academic and operational units. I am proud of the efforts of our academic and administrative leadership, and the many individuals and offices that contributed to our STARS Report. I am also proud of the lessons learned and the insights gained about what we have done well *and* what we must still do to improve. Indeed, this has been a learning process for all of us, one that will continue in the years ahead as we continually assess and refine our programs and operations to meet our sustainability goals.

UVM is known for leadership in environmental issues, social justice and sustainability, and our STARS Report will demonstrate the reputation is well deserved. Just two of the many accomplishments since our last submissions are the implementation of a General Education requirement in sustainability for all undergraduate students; and the development, by our Office of Sustainability, of an innovative Google Drive system for tracking progress across all STARS credits. The latter innovation has also helped other universities organize their STARS submissions. As you will see, there are many other highlights in the report.

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 a good faith, accurate account of our activities in sustainability.

Sincerely,

Tom Sullivan