



April 16, 2021

Ms. Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director AASHE
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

Kent State University is pleased to submit for our first STARS rating for the Kent Campus of Kent State University. Advancing sustainability aligns with the university's stated values and with the Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State. Initiative 5.3 calls us to, "Establish a culture of sustainability and continuous improvement."

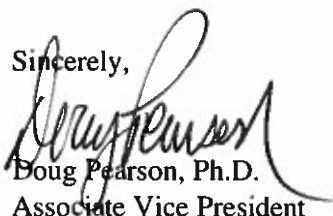
Our ongoing work to incorporate sustainability into university operations includes energy efficiency retrofits that have achieved a 24% energy use reduction. Our commitment to LEED certification for new construction and major renovation has resulted in 11 LEED certified buildings on the Kent Campus, including the LEED Platinum certified John Elliot Center for Architecture and Environmental Design which won the 2020 USGBC Ohio Green Building Legacy Award.

Kent State's airport is exemplary with its Airport Sustainability Master Plan which received an Honorable Mention at the Airports Going Green Awards. The awards recognize people, programs and projects that are leading the industry toward a greener future.

Sustainability is woven broadly into curriculum and research at Kent State. Students can benefit from sustainability courses, majors and a minor, and many experiential learning and engagement opportunities. Programs include the Center for Ecology and Natural Resource Sustainability, the Master of Technology specialization in Sustainable Systems, College of Business Administration's Responsible Leadership Initiative, and the Environmental Science and Research Design Initiative. We aspire to create a place where students see sustainability in practice, learn about it in their classes, and carry it with them into their lives beyond Kent State.

We look forward to continuing this journey to advance sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Pearson".

Doug Pearson, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President

Facilities Planning and Operations
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