



May 22, 2023

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

Montana State University (MSU) is proud to submit our second Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. As the state's land grant institution, MSU holds stewardship of the human, economic, physical, and environmental resources entrusted to us as a core value. Since Montana State University's last STARS submission, the university has continued to integrate education, the creation of knowledge and art, and service to communities in all that we do.

MSU integrates sustainability research and education into our campus operations at all levels. We strive for excellence and pursue the most environmentally benign and efficient use of natural resources, with an emphasis on creating meaningful research opportunities for our students. Each year, the Sustainability Summit features undergraduate and graduate student speakers, who through their research, inspire others with their research and its significant impact on the environmental, social, and economic vitality of our region.

Additionally, MSU has continued to work diligently toward offering beautiful and sustainable buildings for students to learn and thrive in. MSU now has 11 LEED Certified buildings, including two LEED Platinum Buildings - American Indian Hall and Norm Asbjornson Hall since the last STARS submission and is committed to continuing this trend. MSU is nationally recognized for our approach to energy conservation and reclamation with energy districting, the use of geothermal wells as well as transpired solar collectors. Due to our innovative approach to campus energy districts, we have seen significant reductions in our EUI and water use despite unprecedented growth in both FTE and building square footage.

We are very excited to share with you the programs that Montana State University detailed in this STARS report. We are especially proud of our newly adopted Sustainability Framework which includes three long-term targets to achieve a STARS Platinum rating, carbon neutrality, and zero waste. The STARS program helped lay the foundation for a future committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

We are grateful to the STARS program for recognizing our efforts and for highlighting areas of improvement on our path to Platinum.

Sincerely



Waded Cruzado
President

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