



February 14, 2019



Meghan Fay Zahniser

Executive Director

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

Montana State University is proud to submit our first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. Montana State University, the state's land grant institution, integrates education, creation of knowledge and art, and service to communities. Stewardship of the human, economic, physical and environmental resources entrusted to us is a core value of Montana State University.

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 our natural resources. Despite record-breaking student enrollment, we have seen significant reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions and reductions in water use. MSU currently has eight LEED Certified buildings and is committed to certify 100% of all new construction and renovation projects on campus.

Montana State University is truly in a class of its own. MSU is a Very High Research (R1) institution with a Very High Undergraduate enrollment profile. MSU has also been recognized as a Carnegie Engaged University, the only US institution to sit at the intersection of all three. Reflecting our integrative mission, this means that undergraduates at MSU get research opportunities typically reserved for graduate students at other schools. As you see in our report, nearly 60% of research producing departments are engaged in sustainability research, often in mutually beneficial partnerships with community stakeholders. Additionally, 80% of departments on campus offer sustainability classes, which is reflected in our Sustainability Minor as well as the incredible array of sustainability projects that directly benefit our campus and community.

Examples of this include our award-winning Sustainable Food Procurement practices and our Farm to Campus Program. Innovative, sustainability focused programs like The Design Sandbox for Engaged Learning (DSEL) classes help local farmers solve food waste by creating award-winning products like *Farmented Foods*<sup>TM</sup>.

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

deeply committed to sustainability and are excited to join the ranks of STARS reporting institutions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Waded Cruzado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Waded" being more prominent and the last name "Cruzado" following in a similar style.

Waded Cruzado  
President