



**Office of the President**

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February 3, 2014

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)  
213 1/2 North Limestone  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Re: Portland State University's STARS submission

On behalf of Portland State University, I am pleased to submit the results of our second STARS assessment. I affirm this report to be an honest and accurate account of sustainability programs and practices on campus.

PSU's commitment to sustainability permeates every aspect of the institution from the curriculum we provide to students to the green buildings that dot our campus. Our newly projected score of 73.21 maintains our STARS Gold rating and illustrates not only sustained momentum, but progress towards an even greater integration of sustainability across the university. This increase in points awarded (up 7 percent from 2011) represents the hard work and dedication of many employees and students. We have improved in several areas, most notably in our sustainability planning efforts, commitment to diversity, natural resource management, and expanded portfolio of sustainability research activities.

There is much more on the horizon for Portland State. In partnership with Oregon Health & Science University, we are opening this summer a state-of-the-art Collaborative Life Sciences Building that is on track to achieve a LEED Platinum rating. We are making strides in operational capacities by establishing a Green Revolving Fund, developing a strategic energy management plan, expanding our waste reduction programs, establishing policies and standards that emphasize sustainability, and designing and updating our facilities through a lens of innovation and resource efficiency.

On the academic front, our "Research to Action" program is harnessing the expertise of our students and faculty to develop sustainable solutions for campus and community challenges. We continue to build on our legacy of service and community-based learning locally through our Sustainable Neighborhoods Initiative and nationally through our Urban Sustainability Accelerator.

In all of these ways and more, we strive for a culture of stewardship and interdisciplinary thinking where we lead with our values and every member of the PSU community demonstrates sustainability literacy.

A sustainable PSU—and indeed a sustainable future—requires that we continue to excel in the areas we consider our strengths and nourish a collaborative approach to teaching, research, and developing resilient solutions to complex problems. It also requires us to continue to challenge ourselves to innovate and lead in sustainable community development. I am pleased to say that we are well on our way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wim Wiewel'.

Wim Wiewel

President, Portland State University