



Office of the President

Post Office Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751

503-725-4419
president@pdx.edu

March 25, 2019

STARS - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: Portland State University's STARS 2019 submission

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

PSU's remains committed to sustainability in every aspect of the institution—from curriculum and operations to research and community partnerships. This new submission of data maintains our STARS Gold rating and illustrates continued progress toward a culture of stewardship, conservation, interdisciplinary thinking, and innovative problem solving.

We have made great strides in operational sustainability through the pursuit of LEED Building Operation and Maintenance, certifying three buildings (achieving one silver and two gold certifications) and working towards future certifications in additional buildings. We opened the Viking Pavilion at Peter Stott Center, a LEED Gold building, which incorporates numerous sustainable design elements such as sustainably sourced materials, and significant reductions in energy and water use. We are in the process of renovating our former Neuberger Hall, expecting LEED Gold certification and just broke ground on a new collaborative building partnering with the City of Portland, Portland Community College, and Oregon Health and Sciences University. PSU also received its fifth Tree Campus USA recognition. Finally, we continued to prioritize and finance energy efficiency projects through our Green Revolving Fund, having invested \$1.8 million to date, with an annual energy savings of approximately \$160,000.

On the academic and research front, the University just launched two new centers of excellence, PSU Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative and the PSU Digital City Testbed Center. These centers are designed to integrate faculty and student researchers across all PSU colleges and will further enhance our already strong partnerships with the City of Portland and Multnomah County. This year, our Living Lab program, which matches students and faculty with campus staff to achieve sustainability goals, produced several high quality projects, including a detailed assessment of PSU's Climate Action Plan, and an energy analysis of a new passive building on campus. As a Second Nature Climate Commitment signatory, PSU partnered with the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association, City of Gresham, and Mt. Hood Community College on the Climate Resilience in Urban Campuses + Communities (CRUX) program, to increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change. And finally, through our student fellows program, students across disciplines were able to connect with the sustainability community and gain valuable professional skills, experience, and networks.

PSU takes seriously its motto, Let Knowledge Serve the City, and sustainability is a key part of our contribution. I appreciate the opportunity to share these highlights with your organization and I look forward to reporting on our continued innovation in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Shoureshi".

Rahmat Shoureshi

President, Portland State University