

Office of the President

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February 10, 2011

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 first campus-wide assessment of sustainability programs and activities. I also affirm this report, which reflects months of gathering data and years of striving for more sustainable practices, to be an honest and accurate appraisal.

As a charter institution and 2008 pilot participant in the AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS), Portland State University has advocated for a rigorous rating system that reflects the breadth and complexity of truly integrating sustainability into the university. With STARS I believe we have achieved just that.

Our 68.51 points are enough to garner a Gold rating. But of even greater use are the baselines that we've established, from which we can measure progress and improvement.

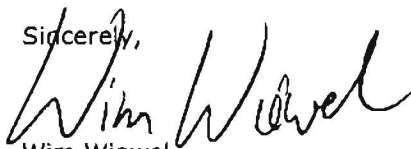
Portland State is an urban university with a growing enrollment of nearly 30,000 students. We have plans for additional on-campus housing and facilities, an aggressive research agenda and an increasingly global profile. But as we think bigger, we must also accept our responsibility to live smaller.

That means moving beyond green buildings to green neighborhoods. We're working with a host of public and private partners to form a university EcoDistrict anchored by the world's largest high-rise living building.

It means reducing waste, finding greater efficiencies in energy usage, and creating smarter travel and commuting options. Today, three in four of our students, faculty, and staff opt to commute via light rail, streetcar, bike, walking, or carpooling (at PSU, driving a car constitutes "alternative transportation"). It requires us to graduate students who are literate in sustainability, whether they major in environmental studies or computer engineering, and to adopt trans-disciplinary approaches to problem solving.

Becoming more sustainable requires that we continue to do what we do best, bringing excellence in teaching and research to partnerships that span disciplines, industry, government, and communities—in short, to live our motto of "Let Knowledge Serve the City."

Sincerely,



Wim Wiewel
President