

July 21, 2023

AASHE
PO Box 824583
Philadelphia, PA 19182-4583

Re: University of Oregon 2023 STARS Report Submission

Dear AASHE STARS Review Team:

The University of Oregon is proud to submit this Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Since 2011 the University of Oregon has been conducting a STARS evaluation every three years. This year we are again reporting a Gold designation.

Sustainability is deeply embedded in University of Oregon's operations, academics, engagement, and administration. In virtually every department and unit on our campus, we see efforts related to sustainability. Yet even with this known breadth, the data collection process, though arduous, always reveals new programs and initiatives and helps us identify areas to focus our attention going forward.

In the categories of Curriculum and Research we show over 80% of departments or programs offering at least one course in sustainability. This includes courses from such varied departments as architecture, theater arts, Earth sciences, law, English, business, and indigenous, race, and ethnic studies. Our support for research is likewise robust, including an Environment Initiative from the Office of the Provost that is new since our last STARS submission. This initiative, in tandem with our overarching institutional investment in sustainability, underscores UO's commitment to leading-edge research, teaching, and innovation for a just and sustainable world.

Within Operations we recognize the complexity of sustainably managing a large, multi-layered physical campus as well as three satellite campuses. In this category, we highlight our waste minimization and diversion efforts, cresting above a 60% diversion rate for the first time in our recycling program's 30-year history. Other notable efforts include our transition to R-99 renewable diesel for vehicles in our fleet, that almost 97% of our electronics purchased are certified EPEAT gold, and the thermal transition study and task force currently exploring options for decarbonizing our Eugene campus' heating system. Looking to the future, we were pleased to finalize a plan for restoration, research, education, and connection on a 24-acre riparian area of our north campus known as the Willamette River Natural Area, including funding for a steward to shepherd our efforts there.

As in previous reports, we are particularly proud of our efforts in the Student Life sub-category of Campus Engagement. The sheer depth and breadth of these offerings highlights our commitment to supporting our students as they become dynamic, engaged leaders and community members. We

are also proud of continued high scores in Planning and Administration (8/8) and Diversity and Access (8.32/10), even as we recognize that the work of making a high performing working and administrative environment, where *all* our faculty, staff, and students feel safe, appreciated, and empowered to do their best work is an ongoing, iterative process.

While we are gratified by these efforts and pleased to maintain our Gold designation, we do not intend to rest on our laurels. We have modestly increased our score relative to 2020 and our planned Path to Platinum will analyze our results and guide future actions for continuous improvement. Sustainability is a core value at the University of Oregon and we look forward to sharing further innovations with the STARS community in the coming years.

I confirm that our reported data accurately represent the sustainability efforts and values of the University of Oregon to the best of our reporting abilities. We believe it is a fair and comprehensive assessment of our progress to date, and we welcome any feedback or insight that can help us improve. It takes a small village to gather and report all of this data and I wish to express my appreciation for the efforts of this whole team on behalf of our institution. Any comments or questions can be directed to Steve Mital, Director of Energy and Sustainability, at smital@uoregon.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Karl Scholz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Karl Scholz
President and Professor of Economics