



November 18, 2021

**Association for the Advancement of  
Sustainability in Higher Education  
213 ½ N. Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507**

**Re: University of Washington Bothell STARS Submission**

Dear AASHE colleagues,

The University of Washington Bothell (UW Bothell) community has a deep and long-standing commitment to sustainability. The development of our campus started with the restoration of a cattle pasture and creek into a 58-acre floodplain wetland that has prompted an explosion in biodiversity and served as a world-class site for learning and research. We share this campus and work closely with our partners at Cascadia College.

Over the past 13 years, our sustainability activities and monitoring have been directed by a full-time Sustainability Coordinator and an [Environmental Sustainability committee](#) comprised of students, staff, and faculty drawn from all corners of the campus. All along, our Facilities Services and Campus Operations staff have demonstrated impressive sustainability-oriented leadership in the maintenance and enhancement of our infrastructure, [energy consumption](#), and [landscape management practices](#).

Sustainability remains a fundamental objective and connecting thread that will help shape and inform our efforts to strengthen diversity and equity, enhance community and campus engagement, and advance cross-disciplinary teaching and scholarship as part of our new strategic plan.

The STARS report emphasizes our recent advancements in Academics, Engagement, Operations, Planning, Administration, Innovation and Leadership.

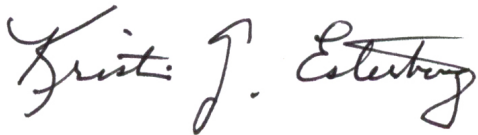
Some highlights include:

- ❑ The publishing of two new sustainability guiding documents, the [UW Bothell Sustainability Action Plan](#) and the [University-wide Sustainability Action Plan](#).
- ❑ The establishment of [new environmental BS degrees](#) like [Earth System Science](#) and [Conservation and Restoration Science](#), and a fully revised [Environmental Studies](#) BA.

- ❑ The establishment of new courses such as Introduction to Sustainability, Critical Physical Geography, Pollinator Diversity and Conservation, Political Economy and the Environment, Environment and Humanities, [Environmental Grief and Climate Anxiety](#), and Climate Change Adaptation Policy.
- ❑ Greatly reduced energy and water consumption.
- ❑ The receipt of the challenging [Community Engagement classification](#) by the Carnegie Foundation.
- ❑ The certification of campus as a [Bee Campus USA Affiliate](#), a [Certified Wildlife Habitat](#), and continued commitment to being [Salmon-Safe](#), providing a healthy environment for threatened species in our region.
- ❑ Our commitment to fulfilling both the [LEED v4](#) standards and the [University of Washington Green Building Standards](#) for the [STEM 4](#) building that is currently in the construction phase on campus.
- ❑ The initiation of a new partnership with Washington State Parks to establish the [St. Edward State Park Environmental Education and Research Center](#).
- ❑ The acquisition of grant funding by UW Bothell faculty for sustainability-related projects including: [The Use of Mushroom Mycelium to Remediate Contaminated Water](#), [The Clean Shift Toolkit for Safety and Health in Food Trucks](#), [Conservation of the Island Marble Butterfly](#), [Air Quality Impacts of Wildfires](#), among others.

UW Bothell remains committed to gaining national distinction for leadership, scholarship, community partnerships, teaching and research in all aspects of sustainability. We look forward to discovering new ways to live up to that commitment, including further collaborations with AASHE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristin J. Esterberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristin" and last name "Esterberg" clearly legible, and the middle initial "J." in between.

Kristin g. Esterberg, PhD  
Chancellor and Professor of Sociology