



Office of the President  
1050 North Mills Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711  
(909) 621-8198  
[PitzerPresident@pitzer.edu](mailto:PitzerPresident@pitzer.edu)

March 1, 2023

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
STARS Steering Committee  
upload via AASHE STARS Report

Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of Pitzer College, I present this letter in support of Pitzer's STARS Report, for which we have previously received a Silver rating. I confirm the information provided herein is accurate and representative of our campus sustainability initiatives. Pitzer is pleased to be a part of the global community of STARS institutions and looks forward to continual improvements in sustainability.

Founded in 1963 as the sixth institution of The Claremont Colleges, Pitzer began as a residential liberal arts campus for women and then in 1970 became coeducational. The founding faculty, students and staff designed Pitzer as an innovative liberal arts institution, with a curricular emphasis in the social and behavioral sciences. The College's pioneering programs embraced interdisciplinarity in teaching and learning, creative and cooperative classroom experience and community governance, and encouraging every voice to be heard equally and fully, all of which continues to this day.

Today, Pitzer enrolls approximately 1,200 students in more than 40 fields of co-educational study leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. In keeping with its distinctive heritage, Pitzer remains dedicated to individual growth while building community. Students are expected to engage in community service learning, and the campus is now a leader in sustainability, intercultural understanding, and global study and inquiry. Sensitivity for and preservation of the environment is a key value of Pitzer College and students shape their daily activities, programming and studies to ensure they leave the environment and the world stronger than how they found it.

By ongoing participation in STARS, Pitzer continues to further its commitment to sustainability. This ongoing commitment has been demonstrated through a few milestone achievements: adopting environmental sustainability as a core value of Pitzer College; founding the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability; being a chapter signatory to the ACUPCC; constructing LEED mixed-use buildings; and continued sustainability programs run by students.

In addition, the College:

- Partnered with students in a project to rebuild and expand the Student Garden along with a chicken coop, with the garden plants, herbs, and chicken eggs used by students in cooking and serving meals in the adjacent Grove House kitchen; and including implementing paid Student Garden student internships, student worker and fellowship positions (2021)
- Incorporated a presentation on sustainability into the new student orientation process
- Hired an Assistant Director with a focus of sustainability, with projects coordinated between the Office of Facilities and the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability (2021)
- Adopted a Fossil Fuel Divestment — Climate Action Model (2014), which:
  - Divests virtually all College endowment investments in fossil fuel stocks
  - Develops an environmental, social and governance policy to guide endowment investment decisions
  - Creates the Pitzer Sustainability Fund within the endowment to make environmentally responsible investments
- Targets Carbon Neutrality by 2050
- Removed about 20% of the turf areas on-campus to reduce water consumption
- Installed 9 electric vehicle charging stations (2018 – 2019)
- Became the first higher education institution on the west coast to install a full gym of energy generating cardio equipment (2020)
- Achieved LEED certification for the Pitzer, Atherton, & Sanborn Residence Halls (2007, Gold), and the East & West residence halls (2012, Platinum)
- Achieved LEED Platinum certification (2018) and Zero-net energy (ZNE) (2019) from ILFI for the Robert Redford Conservancy (the 1<sup>st</sup> ZNE higher education building in California and 4<sup>th</sup> in the world)

Pitzer is proud to have earned a Silver rating with STARS, and we look forward to utilizing this report as a roadmap to continue to advance sustainability on campus and in the community.

Sincerely,



Jill Klein  
Interim President