

April 29th, 2016

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103 U.S.A

Re: University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) - Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report Submission

To the representatives of AASHE:

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) is committed to ensuring that sustainability is reflected in our policy, planning and decision making processes. UOIT has integrated sustainability throughout its operations since inception. However, it is only recently that these long-pursued activities were recognized as contributing to “sustainability”. Since 2002, UOIT has prioritized energy performance by incorporating emerging technologies and sustainable design into campus planning. From Borehole Thermal Energy Storage System (BTESS) and Grey Water Collection and Management to simple green roofs and lighting measures, UOIT has fully adopted the principles of environmental stewardship and energy conservation.¹

To further embed sustainability into the institution’s culture, the University implemented it’s first-ever Sustainability Policy in 2014. This policy set out the goals we will strive to meet in order to reach the highest possible standards of sustainability in day-to-day activities related to academic pursuits, student and staff engagement, operations, facilities, planning, administration and community outreach. In that same year, UOIT established a Sustainability Committee, which oversaw the development of our Sustainability Plan and our Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan.

With support from the Sustainability Committee, the senior leadership team, faculty, staff and students, we have been able to complete this report and demonstrate our sustainability achievements. Given our vision of advancing the discovery and application of knowledge that accelerates economic growth, regional development and social innovation and inspires graduates who will continue to make an impact on the world, as it is and as it will be², sustainability is a fundamental component of our university.

¹ University of Ontario Institute of Technology. 2015. Strategic Sustainability Plan, Phase 1. Retrieved from: <http://sites.uoit.ca/gogreen/sustainability-at-uoit/publications.php>

² University of Ontario Institute of Technology. 2016. University Vision, Mission and Values. Retrieved from: <http://uoit.ca/about/uoit-info/university-vision,-mission-and-values.php>

On behalf of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, I am pleased to authorize our first submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). It represents an extensive campus-wide effort, led by the Office of Campus Infrastructure and Sustainability (OCIS) and the UOIT Sustainability Committee to assess and report on our sustainability achievements. Collecting this invaluable data will enable us to track our future sustainable initiatives by allowing meaningful comparisons with performance baseline data. This data allows us to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our sustainability practices across all aspects of our university, with room for continual improvement and to reach higher targets. We are hopeful that our first STARS report submission will inspire further discussion and engagement.

Sincerely,



Tim McTiernan, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor