

October 10, 2014

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear STARS Steering Committee Members:

Virginia Tech is proud to be a charter participant in AASHE's "Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System" (STARS). We are committed to maintaining our leadership role in campus sustainability. It is my pleasure to endorse and affirm that Virginia Tech's STARS submission accurately reflects the sustainability initiatives and progress to date on our campus.

We actively use STARS as the primary tool for benchmarking our progress towards a more sustainable campus. Our commitment to sustainability was initiated by students in 2007. In 2009, our Board of Visitors unanimously approved the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution (VTCAC), which was accompanied by a Sustainability Plan specific to the university. This resulted in the creation of the Office of Energy and Sustainability, establishment of targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, an emphasis on energy efficiency, increased recycling and alternative transportation rates, an institutional commitment to pursue LEED Silver certification or better for all new construction and major renovation projects, and continued student engagement in campus sustainability. We are pleased to report that we have made tremendous progress toward our goals and are continually implementing additional initiatives to achieve a more sustainable future.

The STARS program continues to evolve and offer greater opportunities for colleges and universities. We will submit an application again under version 1.2 to advance our rating from Silver to Gold. Thank you for this opportunity to continue our participation in STARS and to learn from our peers as we work together to advance sustainability in higher education.

Sincerely,



Timothy D. Sands
President

/bl

Invent the Future



MEMORANDUM

TO: Sherwood Wilson, Ph.D. → Kim

THRU: Chris Kiwus, PE, Ph.D. CKG

FROM: Jason P. Soileau

DATE: October 1, 2014

SUBJECT: STARS – Version 1.2 submittal

The Office of University Planning is currently completing an extensive campus wide assessment of sustainability efforts in preparation for the Fall 2014 STARS – Version 1.2 submittal. Virginia Tech is currently rated as STARS Silver with a score of 63.30, with 65 points required for a STARS Gold rating. I am pleased to report that with a few trailing points still coming in we are approaching a score of 70 for the Fall 2014 submittal.

Similar to previous submittals, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), which manages the STARS program, requires a letter of affirmation from the President of any institution submitting a request for a STARS rating. Please find attached a draft letter we have prepared for Dr. Sands' signature, which we will need to include with our Fall 2014 submittal to AASHE for a revised STARS rating.

It is our goal to resubmit for the STARS rating this month. I am also attaching a copy of our most current STARS tracking spreadsheet as backup documentation. We are happy to provide additional information as necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.