



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 3, 2023

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Subject: STARS Submission for California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Dear Meghan:

It is my honor to submit the attached STARS report for California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. This third STARS submission for Cal Poly represents our deep commitment to sustainability in all aspects of University academics and operations, and to ensuring our graduates are prepared to be sustainability leaders and problem solvers in their chosen fields. We are pleased to report significant progress since our Gold submission in 2019, including:

- Integration of sustainability strategies throughout the 2035 Campus Master Plan (adopted in 2020).
- Completion of the University's first comprehensive Utility Master Plan, with a strong focus on carbon reduction and electrification strategies.
- Update of the campus Climate Action Plan to accelerate the path to carbon neutrality.
- Updated greenhouse gas inventory showing campus has reduced total Scope I, II, and III emissions by over 14% since 1990, despite campus more than doubling in building square footage and on-campus residency over that time.
- Completion of 430 kW of solar PV at the yak?it?ut?u student housing complex, and an additional 200 kW planned for installation at the University Union later this year.
- Creation of a High-Performance Buildings policy in Facilities to guide design and construction of low carbon, life-cycle optimized facilities using the LEED certification framework.
- LEED BD+C Gold certification of the new yak?it?ut?u student housing complex and Vista Grande Dining facility, and certification pending for the William and Linda Frost Center.
- LEED Green Associate accreditation of 12 staff members in Facilities.
- Creation of a campuswide Sustainability Awards program to recognize faculty, staff, student and department/club contributions to campus efforts.
- Creation of a Green Office Certification, administered by the student led Green Campus Program.
- Successful implementation of the CSU system-wide ban on single use plastic bottles in January 2023.
- Major improvements to campus wide waste and recycling infrastructure via a \$225K CalRecycle grant for standardized bins and educational signage.

- Expansion of campus EV charging infrastructure from 12 stations to 37.
- Receipt of an AASHE Campus Sustainability Achievement Award for leadership in creating a CSU systemwide Faculty Learning Community in Teaching Climate Change and Resilience.

Cal Poly is actively working on numerous sustainability projects, initiatives, and opportunities for improvement, including:

- Centralized reporting and tracking of data to support STARS reporting and process improvement.
- Creation of new strategic positions in Facilities including a Commissioning Manager and Water Resources Manager.
- Planning for a \$200M Deep Energy Project to be debt financed, focused on energy efficiency and electrification of infrastructure.
- Planning for another 2.7 MW of solar PV, multiple battery storage systems, and creation of an electrical microgrid.
- Planning for a dairy digester to produce biogas and an on-campus waste water reclamation facility to create Title 22 recycled water for agricultural irrigation.
- Design of Cal Poly's first large all-electric buildings, including the John Madden Football Center.
- Design of an additional 3,000 beds of on-campus student housing and 200 units of faculty/staff housing which will significantly reduce carbon emissions from commuting.
- Update of Cal Poly academic Sustainability Learning Outcomes, ongoing infusion of sustainability and climate science throughout the curriculum, and creation of a 2-year Faculty Fellow position to help lead these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight all the great work under way to make Cal Poly a more sustainable campus. As a comprehensive polytechnic with a motto of "Learn by Doing", sustainability is at the core of who we are as an institution of higher learning. We are proud to be a member of AASHE, and proud to submit this third STARS progress report for our campus on our path to Platinum – a true reflection of the work of so many passionate faculty, students, and staff in our campus community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey D. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President