



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
SOUTHEAST**

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OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

July 7, 2022

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Review Team:

On behalf of Indiana University Southeast, I am proud to submit the results of our campus-wide sustainability report for the AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS).

IU Southeast is a regional campus of Indiana University located in the Louisville, Kentucky metropolitan area. As part of IU, we benefit from the considerable intellectual and practical advances in sustainability made at our fellow IU schools. At the same time, as a campus of 4,000 mostly commuting students in a region without a broad sustainability culture, we face challenges that compel us to think innovatively and design for the long term. Our ongoing efforts thrive on the synergy of administrative, faculty, staff, and student actors, most visible in the Campus Sustainability Committee.

Among our achievements over the past several years, I would like to highlight the work of faculty across disciplines to design and launch an undergraduate degree in sustainability and regeneration. An audit is underway to identify courses in all disciplines that might be brought into dialogue with the program, to broaden the scope and relevance of both. For its part, the administration has established funding for our AASHE membership and for a student sustainability internship. In addition, the campus held a Campus Climate Resilience Workshop in 2021 that brought together 40 faculty, staff, students, administrators, and alumni for a two-day workshop to prioritize new and ongoing sustainability initiatives. The workshop also showcased the first-ever Campus Resilience Assessment and Campus Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

We have also found ways, during a time of falling enrollment and fiscal restraint, to ensure that sustainable principles and practices are anchored in capital improvements. This commitment has enabled us to “green” our campus without taking on new expenses. Initiatives range from our recycling program to the conversion to LED lighting across campus, and from the upgrade of existing HVAC systems in five buildings to the expansion of green spaces and no-mow zones, including new grass medians in our parking lots, with plans for up to 120 new trees. We have converted electric-powered building systems to natural gas and constructed a highly functional bioswale to control and filter runoff from our main parking lot. The benefits of this work resulted in nearly a 30% reduction in energy costs.

With sustainability built into both academic programming and campus financial planning, and with a core of committed administrators, educators and students exploring next steps, IU Southeast is in a good position to expand upon its progress to date, and to become a leader in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly A. Ryan" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kelly A. Ryan, Ph.D  
Interim Chancellor