

April 4, 2023

Dear Association for the Advancement of Sustainability,

Sustainability efforts at Austin Peay State University are continuing to grow and expand since the institutionalization of a campus fee in 2008. The past 15 years has seen many developments and we are proud to submit to AASHE our STARS report in 2023. In the past year, our sustainability office has moved from our physical plant division into our student affairs division to shift our focus on more engagement with our student body and community to widen its impact. We feel we still have a long way to go in our journey towards a more sustainable campus culture, but are happy to report our efforts to AASHE.

In the past year, we have started several initiatives to change the conversation with our campus community about how we present our values in the experiences we provide campus. One of these initiatives is aimed at the use of one time plastic water bottles in campus programming and events. "Fill it yourself" promoted the use of reusable water bottles among the student population by providing a free water bottle to every freshman and offering every event on campus to have free water stations delivered as a fill it yourself event. In the first semester, 405 gallons of water were provided across campus for events, preventing thousands of bottles of water being used instead. This is just the start of things to come.

As Austin Peay State University continues to improve upon its reporting practices related to the STARS report, we hope to show growth moving forward.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Wills

Director, Community Engagement & Sustainability