



The President

San Diego State University
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October 23, 2023

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

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to express my endorsement of San Diego State University's (SDSU) 2023 STARS Report. The completion of this report was a collective effort and represents our commitment and dedication to sustainability as a united campus. One of our main priorities during this submission period was reporting in each category to ensure transparency and collaboration among all campus entities. It is vital that the whole university is involved and supports STARS to guarantee accuracy and success of this critical report.

The California State University (CSU) system values and supports the STARS Report. By following the guidelines and principles outlined by STARS, we are able to become a more sustainable campus for students, faculty, and staff. The report facilitates action to reduce carbon emissions and bring us closer to the CSU wide goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. We have commissioned a Carbon Neutrality Study in partnership with Associated Students to assess feasibility and determine our biggest areas for improvement. This study will directly influence our 2023 update of the Climate Action Plan and set a path for climate action for SDSU. The President's Sustainability Advisory Committee, Senate Sustainability Committee, and the Office of Energy and Sustainability will be key implementers to the measures outlined in the STARS Report, the Carbon Neutrality Study, and the Climate Action Plan, with everyone in the SDSU community playing a role and participating. In April of 2023, the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee hosted the first annual [President's Update: Sustainability in Action](#), a presentation of our current and future sustainability initiatives. This will be an annual event moving forward.

Furthermore, our campus is a strong supporter of Environmental Justice. This is directly aligned with one of our core Institutional Learning Outcomes: "Demonstrate an understanding of diversity, equity, inclusion, and sustainability through local, global, and ethical perspectives." Our initiatives are not sustainable unless they are sustainable for *all*.

I am incredibly proud of the progress achieved by our campus and inspired by all of the passionate individuals without whom we would not be where we are today. We are committed to continuous improvement, engagement, and education of sustainable practices in our community. Thank you for accepting our submission and creating a platform built on accountability, transparency, and progress.

I look forward to all of the positive growth that is in store for our campus, community, and planet as a whole.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adela de la Torre
President
San Diego State University