



October 19, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Environmental, social, and economic sustainability are strategic priorities at Western Michigan University. During the next two months, the Office for Sustainability will request, gather, and compile data from our leaders and experts in order to document and report on current sustainability efforts across the University. Staff and students on the Office for Sustainability reporting team will use the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) to generate WMU's second-ever STARS Report during the fall semester 2018.

Established by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, STARS is an innovative, voluntary self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to gauge progress toward sustainability and be acknowledged for leadership.

WMU earned a gold rating for sustainability efforts documented in our first STARS Report in 2014. By participating in STARS, WMU earns positive recognition for our sustainability efforts. STARS integrates sustainability activities across all campus sectors from curriculum and research to operations and administration.

WMU is able use the online STARS reporting tool and data displays to:

- Measure our current sustainability performance, create a baseline for continuous improvement, and integrate sustainability into planning and development efforts.
- Engage students, staff, and faculty in the reporting process and build a culture of sustainability on campus.
- Communicate our institution's sustainability achievements to campus and community stakeholders and share data with other organizations (e.g., The Princeton Review and Sierra magazine).
- Compare and learn from peer institutions and identify new ideas and best practices to implement locally as we work to meet our sustainability commitments (e.g., carbon neutrality by 2065, resilience).

If you or your team members are contacted, please make every effort to assist the WMU Office for Sustainability as they lead the STARS data collection and reporting effort. Their experienced campus sustainability reporting team will provide a reasonable timeline, technical guidance, data collection templates, and examples from WMU's previous STARS Report.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to and engagement in WMU's sustainability efforts as our success in this area would not be possible without your leadership and implementation. Together we can continue a positive culture of sustainability on campus and empower the University community to consider sustainability throughout all they do.

Thank you,

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