



STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut St., Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

May 14, 2019

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of Richmond, I am pleased to endorse our 2019 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) submission. The University of Richmond believes resolutely in the value of stewardship in a changing world. In our Strategic Plan, *Forging Our Future, Building from Strength*, we committed to practices that will sustain our environmental, financial, human, and social resources. The data in this report provides strong evidence of our ongoing commitment to sustainability.

In 2018, the University announced our commitment to become the first institution of higher education in the southeast to match 100% of its electricity needs with solar energy. Initiatives like this, alongside the recent installation of an on-site solar array on the Weinstein Center for Recreation, not only move us toward our goal of carbon neutrality, but also provide abundant experiential learning opportunities for our students. The development of a living laboratory for sustainability in which our teaching and research inform campus operations and further supports community relationships is being realized.

The completion of this STARS report is invaluable as an evaluation of past performance, as well as a baseline from which we will measure future sustainability efforts. The University's first sustainability plan lays out an ambitious set of goals and strategies to integrate sustainability into the University from 2019 through 2025. We are grateful to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and the STARS Steering Committee for providing this robust framework from which we can measure, validate, and communicate our stewardship efforts throughout implementation of the plan.

I would like to express my gratitude for the students, staff, and faculty members who provided the information needed to complete this enterprise-wide assessment. Thank you also to all the stewards who work together to create a brighter future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald A. Crutcher".

Ronald A. Crutcher  
President

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