

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor  
Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



August 16, 2013

AASHE – STARS Steering Committee  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Illinois), I am pleased to affirm our submission in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). The STARS report was led through our Center for a Sustainable Environment that coordinated data collection from across the entire campus. Achieving a Gold STARS rating demonstrates our commitment to make sustainability a core component of our multiple missions of learning, discovery and engagement.

At Illinois, we are dedicated to economic, social and environmental vitality today and into the future. We are a leader in sustainability research and practice. Our campus is home to many faculty with research expertise in areas of food, water, and energy, along with interdisciplinary research where these issues interface. Students and faculty alike are using campus land and facilities to explore innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues. In addition, we are committed to carbon neutrality by the year 2050, and are making significant progress in that area. Energy consumption is down 25% and water consumption is down 19%.

Although we are proud of our early success in cultivating a culture of sustainability on our campus, we realize there is much more to be done. In our recent campus strategic planning exercise sustainability was identified as a high priority. As an institution of higher education, we have the ability – and indeed, the obligation – to educate our students and the broader public about these issues and to devote resources to accelerate innovative discoveries for addressing these critical issues.

Illinois remains deeply committed to becoming the model of sustainability for all universities in the nation. I truly believe a cleaner, sustainable environment not only protects our health but also fuels our passions and inspires our dreams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phyllis M. Wise'.

Phyllis M. Wise  
Chancellor