



Dec. 16, 2015

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

Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of Stevens Institute of Technology, I am pleased to present our first submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). I affirm that the information provided in the report is accurate and provides a complete representation of all sustainability initiatives across the university.

Stevens Institute of Technology is committed to leveraging our technological expertise to find innovative solutions for a sustainable future. Completing the STARS self-assessment was a cross-functional, collaborative effort within the university that has enabled Stevens to identify strengths and increase internal awareness of existing sustainability practices and programs. It has also provided Stevens with the opportunity to identify the areas where additional work is needed. As a premier, student-centric research university, Stevens acknowledges the significant role of institutions of higher education in leading the way for sustainability efforts.

As described in our STARS report, Stevens has been working diligently on a number of sustainability initiatives. For example, Stevens has reduced dependence on “dirty” fossil fuels while reducing energy consumption, and has achieved a 20% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions since 2006. Stevens plans to further reduce emissions through increased participation in New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program, increased use of renewable energy, and construction of a LEED certified building, Stevens’ first. Additionally, this year, an interdisciplinary team of more than 60 graduate and undergraduate students and faculty designed and constructed a net-zero energy, completely sustainable, resilient, and functional home: the SU+RE (Sustainable + Resilient) HOUSE. The Stevens entry won first place in the prestigious 2015 Department of Energy Solar Decathlon competition, including winning first place in seven of the 10 contests. Inspired by the aftermath of 2012’s Superstorm Sandy, this home is built to withstand severe weather and coastal flooding, consumes 90% less energy than conventional homes, is fully solar-powered, and can serve as an energy hub following storm events.

These are only a few examples of the contributions of the Stevens community to a more sustainable campus and society. The STARS platform will aid Stevens in continuing to track and measure the impact of initiatives like these and will bring the university closer to establishing comprehensive campus-wide sustainability.

We are proud to participate in the STARS program and look forward to growing a culture of sustainability at Stevens.

Sincerely,

Nariman Farvardin
President