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22

# ANNUAL REPORT

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION (AASHE)



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# A Message from AASHE's Executive Director

## Dear Sustainability Champion,

It is with great pleasure that we present our annual report, a reflection of AASHE's accomplishments and progress over the past year. We are grateful to our many partners who have made these wins possible.

While the pandemic continued to impact our work last year, we made significant strides in enhancing our online learning opportunities. Among the stellar programming we offered throughout the year, we held the Sustainability Leaders Impact Accelerator in June. More than 60 change agents explored transformative leadership, racial justice & healing, achieving zero carbon, and change management. The feedback was so positive that plans are underway to offer this opportunity again this year!

STARS, the global standard for sustainability reporting in higher education, continues to transform the sector. With over 570 campuses in more than 20 countries reporting their sustainability impact, STARS institutions are integrating sustainability across the board throughout curricula, research, operations, dining, and more. Check out the 2022 Sustainable Campus Index to see the work of some of the top-performing higher education institutions in the sustainability movement.

AASHE launched our third volume of “No Sustainability Without Justice: An Anthology on Racial Equity & Social Justice” in September. This publication shares perspectives on how racial equity, social justice, diversity, and



inclusion are integral and essential components of sustainability and are vital for higher education sustainability practitioners. This free resource also includes essays on environmental justice, disability justice and language access, and campus-community partnerships.

We also brought more than 3,400 sustainability champions together last October for the Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education (GCSHE). With a theme of “The Urgency of Now”, the conference made for an impactful experience for our community. We’ll soon open registration for this year's conference which will be in-person for the first time in three years! It will take place in Boston, MA from October 29-31, 2023, and we hope to see you there!

To close out the year, we held a virtual celebration to recognize the incredible work of the AASHE Award winners. It was incredible! Dr. Robert Bullard was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award and dozens of sustainability champions – researchers, academics, staff, and students – were honored for their impressive work. Be sure to check out all of the winners. I hope the work of these sustainability leaders will inspire you like they inspire me.

This year, we are looking forward to focusing on our strategy. We will review our strategic goals through a lens of racial equity & social justice to see how AASHE can better lead and integrate RESJ into everything we do and expand our impact. I’m excited to dig deeper into this question with all of you this year.

Thank you for your support this past year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meghan Fay Zahniser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meghan" being the most prominent.

Meghan Fay Zahniser  
Executive Director, AASHE



# MISSION, VISION & VALUES



## Our Mission

To inspire and catalyze higher education to **lead the global sustainability transformation.**



## Our Vision

AASHE will lead higher education to be a foundation for a **thriving, equitable and ecologically healthy world.**



## Our Values

Transparency, Collaboration, Hope,  
Stewardship, Innovation, Courage, Accountability,  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.



# AASHE STAFF

## Executive Director

Meghan Fay Zahniser



Nikia Johnson

**Membership Development  
Manager**



## Finance and Operations

Allison Jones

**Director of Finance & Operations**



Erin Hathaway

**Conference & Events Manager**



Domna Gallion

**Accounting & Operations Manager**



Julian Dautremont

**Director of Programs**



Rogelio Zuniga Rubio

**Platform & Software Development  
Manager**



Chris Pelton

**Senior STARS Program Manager**



## Marketing & Communications

Candi Reddick

**Director of Marketing &  
Communications**



Crystal Simmons

**Bulletin Editor & Program Manager**



Emily Cardinas

**Marketing Manager**



Daita Serghi

**Senior Education Manager**



Madison "Maddie" Bruns

**Marketing Coordinator**



Monika Urbanski

**Senior Manager of Resources,  
Data Quality & Publications**



## Meetings & Membership

Kimberly Smith

**Director of Meetings &  
Membership**



Aubrey Organ

**Education Intern**



Robin Frederick

**STARS & Resources Intern**





# Board of Directors

This team of leaders advises on policy and direction and assists with governance to support AASHE's mission.

## President

Jennifer Hirsch, Ph.D.



## Vice President

Francois Miller



## Treasurer

David Phillips



## Secretary

Meghna Tare, MBA



## Past President

V.S. (Raghu) Raghavan



## Board Member

Rania Assariotaki



## Board Member

Chris O'Brien



## Board Member

Stephania Fregosi



## Board Member

Daryl M. Pierson, PhD



## Board Member

Ashwani Vasishth



## Advisory Council

The Advisory Council (AC) is the primary mechanism for members to get involved in governance at AASHE. Volunteers work to promote and support AASHE's growth and development with guidance on strategy, programs, and services. We are grateful for our volunteers who work tirelessly to advance AASHE's mission!



# #GCSHE BY THE NUMBERS

The 2022 [Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education \(#GCSHE\)](#), themed “The Urgency of Now,” took place virtually on October 18, October 26, and November 3.

**3,400**

## **Attendees**

86% of attendees were Sustainability Staff, Campus Staff, or Faculty

**450+**

## **Institutions**

Over 450 higher education institutions were represented at this year's #GCSHE

**24**

## **Countries Represented**

Individuals from across the globe engaged in increasing knowledge and skill building

**8**

## **Keynote Speakers**

Tyson Yunkaporta, Jason Hickel & more

**180+**

## **Sessions**

8 thematic tracks presented through Live, On-Demand, and Networking & Discussion sessions

**50+**

## **Host Institutions**

We are grateful for member colleges and universities that contribute to #GCSHE

**16**

## **Sponsors & Exhibitors**

We appreciate [My Green Lab](#), [Busch Systems](#), and our [exhibitors](#) for their support



Event Admin



AASHE  
Admin  
800 Points

Lobby

Backstage

Sessions

Presenters

Expo Hall

Gamification

Networking

Account

Help

Logout

Fun Zone



WELCOME TO #GCSHE!

# Social Wall



Sustainable UF  
@sustainableuf

2022-11-04

Thank you to everyone who participated in #GCSHE with us this year! We had an amazing time @aashenews 😊. Also, if you registered and weren't able to attend all of the live sessions, don't worry because you still have access to the content on-demand until the end of 2022!



RCEATL\_HELCL  
@rceatl\_helc

2022-11-04

RT @sustainableuf Welcome to the final day of #GCSHE!. The first keynote speaker, Dr. @jasonhickel of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, will present at 11 am. We can't wait! @aashenews <https://t.co/n0op8zfoG3>



Climate Refugees  
@Climate\_Refugee

2022-11-03

RT @sustainableuf The final keynote speaker is @ToureMalikhe Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit, Climate Refugees. She speaks on the importance to approach climate displacement as a human security issue. Her presentation, at 5pm, is an excellent ending to @aashenews #GCSHE 2022. 😊



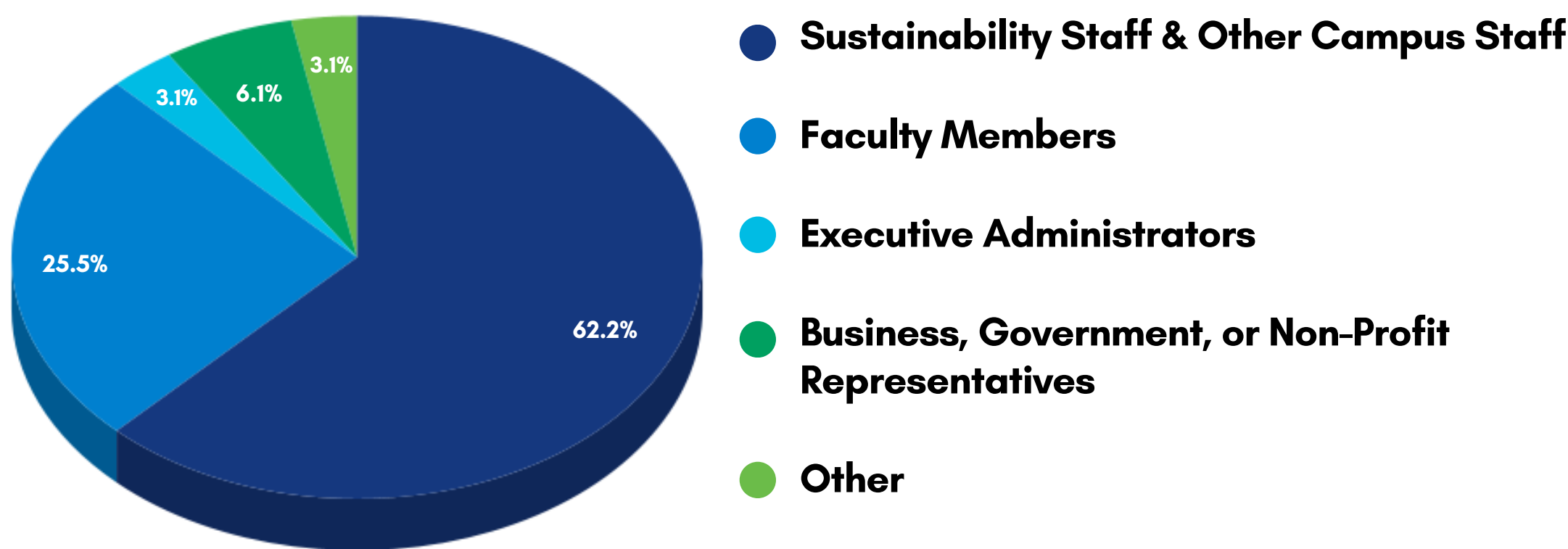
Private Chats

#GCSHE drew over 3,400 attendees from 24 countries and 450+ higher education institutions.



# THE URGENCY OF NOW

## Who Attended #GCSHE?



“This was my first AASHE conference and I learned SO much. It was heartening to see all the good work and real progress being made by people just like me working together.”

## 8 Keynotes

These speakers brought unique perspectives from diverse backgrounds, challenging us to think critically and continue fighting for change.



Tyson Yunkaporta  
Oct. 18



Dr. Peter Kalmus  
Oct. 18



Dr. Elizabeth Popp Berman  
Oct. 18



Kumi Naidoo  
Oct. 26

2022 GCSHE Keynote Speakers!



Dr. April Anson  
Oct. 26



Jason Hickel  
Nov. 3

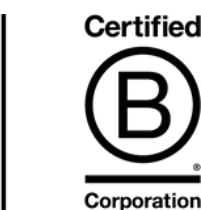


Jessica Yinka Thomas  
Nov. 3



Amali Tower  
Nov. 3

## Thank You To Our Business Partners!



Thank you Sponsors, Exhibitors, Host Institutions & Promotional Partners!



# The Value of Membership

When you **join AASHE**, you'll gain premium access to thousands of resources and like-minded professionals who are setting the standard in revolutionizing higher education sustainability. Plus, exclusive networking opportunities and savings on world-class professional development are at your fingertips. AASHE members also get access to AASHE Connect, our members-only online community with 39,000+ active online participants.

861

**Total Member Organizations**  
make up the AASHE community

112

**New Member Organizations**  
joined AASHE in 2022

51

**Previous Member Campuses**  
rejoined AASHE in 2022

32

**International Institutions**  
are currently AASHE members

16

**New International Institutions**  
joined AASHE in 2022

19

**Countries Represented**  
in the AASHE member community



# Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS)



328

## STARS-Rated Institutions

make up this global network of institutions

14

## Countries

are represented

12

## Campuses

had a STARS Platinum rating

3rd

## Year of Partnership

between AASHE and Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS)

3.0

## Version of STARS

STARS 3.0 opened for public comment and is set to launch in 2024

2

## First-Time Reporting Institutions

were recognized as top performers in AASHE's Sustainable Campus Index (National Taiwan Normal University and University of Washington, Bothell)

1st

## STARS Cohort Program

launched to guide new and returning participants through STARS reporting

## 2022 Ratings

12

Platinum

145

Gold

136

Silver

30

Bronze

18

Reporter





# Publications

In 2022, we published two new publications and added more than 1,500 new resources in the Campus Sustainability Hub!

## *No Sustainability Without Justice, Volume III*

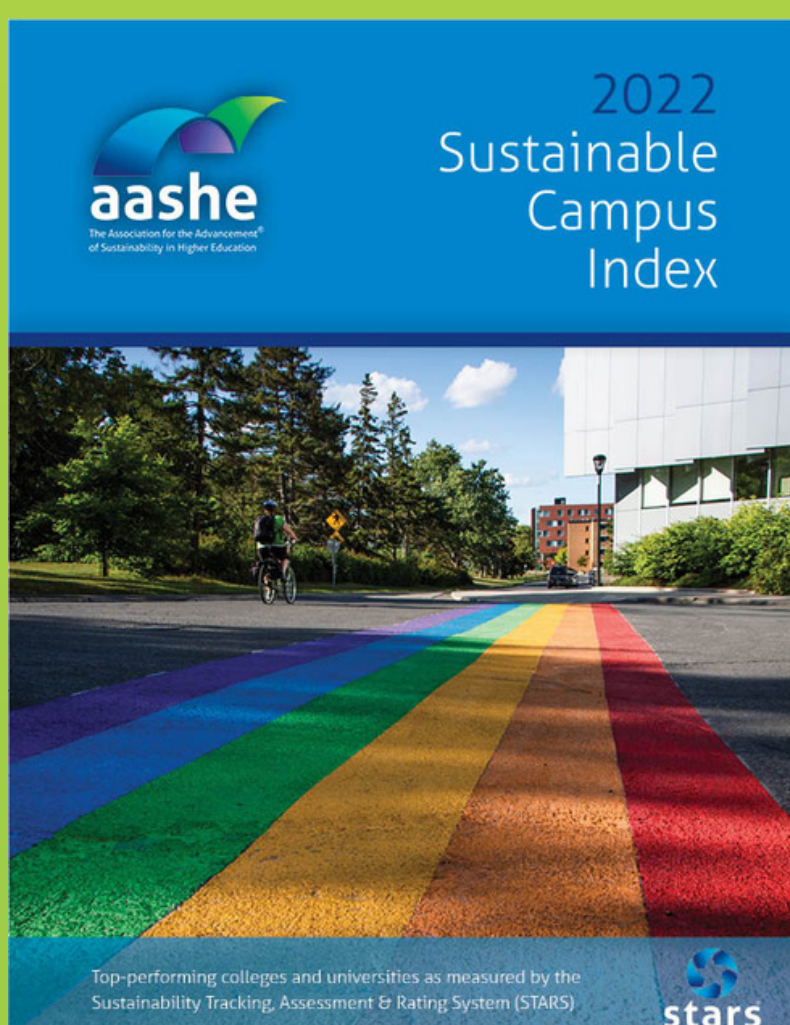
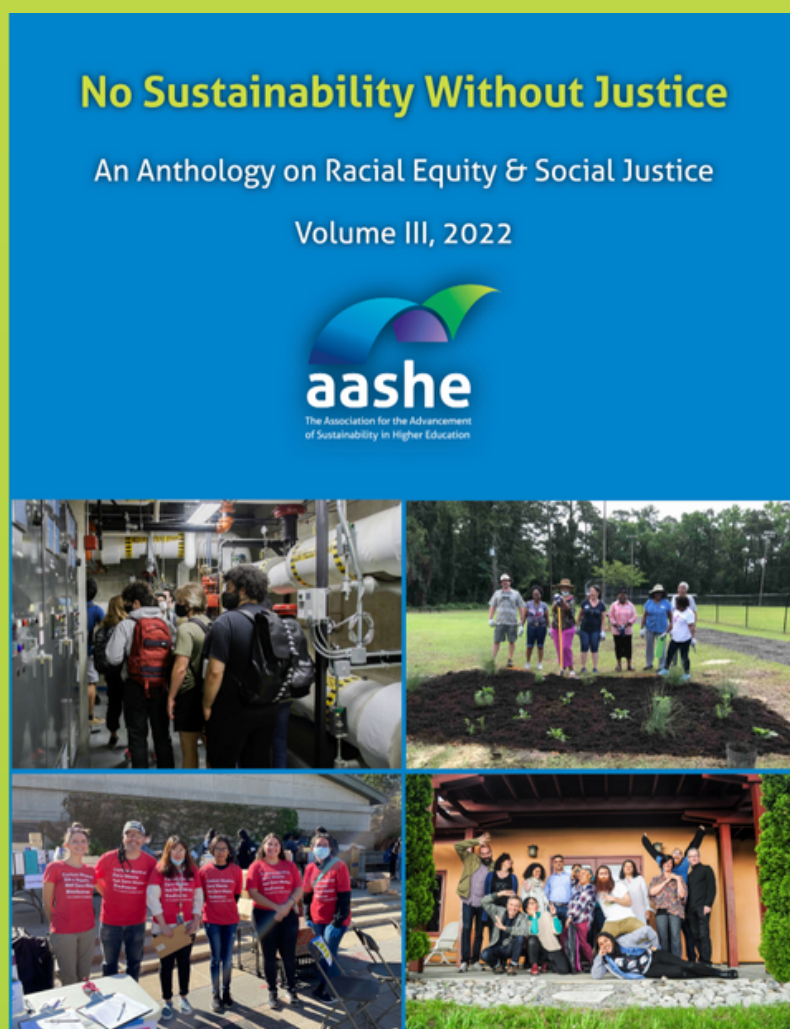
Systemic racism represents a barrier to solving sustainability challenges.

**No Sustainability Without Justice: An Anthology on Racial Equity and Social Justice, Volume III** includes six essays that share perspectives on how racial equity, social justice, diversity & inclusion are integral to higher education sustainability.

## *2022 Sustainable Campus Index*

The **2022 Sustainable Campus Index** highlights sustainable colleges and universities in 17 impact areas and by institution type, measured by STARS.

The new International Top Performers List recognizes the highest scoring institution in each country with a STARS-rated institution.





# 2022 Sustainability Awards

The AASHE Sustainability Awards recognize sustainability achievements and collaborations, research advancements, and individual leadership in higher education. By raising the visibility of high-impact sustainability projects, collaborations, and pioneering research, the awards program helps to disseminate innovations and inspire continued progress toward sustainability.

**430+** **Submissions**  
Nearly 50 judges came together to review 430 submissions and nominations

**12** **Winners**  
There were 12 winners from 9 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Fiji, Kenya, Switzerland, the United States, and Wales

**5** **Categories**  
Lifetime Achievement, Racial Equity & Sustainability Collaborations, Campus Sustainability Achievement, Campus Sustainability Student Leadership, and Campus Sustainability Research





“—

Those who are most responsible for our climate crisis must step up and see that we don't have 40 years to get this right; we have to proceed with the **urgency of now.**

- Dr. Robert D. Bullard  
2022 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner





# Education Programs

In 2022, AASHE hosted a variety of virtual education programs.

**11**

**Virtual Workshops & Courses**  
offered by AASHE in 2022

**595**

**Registrants**  
for our workshops and courses

**300**

**Organizations**  
participated in these programs

**41%**

**of Registrants**  
were new to AASHE Programs

**2x**

**Attendance Doubled**  
since 2021

**2445**

**Registrants Attended**  
one or more of our 33 webinars

— “ —

This event honestly turned me around from the brink of quitting and burning out to a feeling of renewed purpose, energy, excitement, and solidarity. I'm committed to making this an annual tradition for myself to attend. The benefits cannot be overstated.

— ” —

## 2022 Virtual Programs Spotlight



**Ultimate Cli-fi Book Club**



**Integrating Sustainability Literacy Across Your Curricula Workshop**



**Sustainability Impact Accelerator**



**Sustainability Change Leadership Development Program**



**Transition to Organic, Ecological Landscapes for Campuses Workshop**



# Collective Action

AASHE regularly collaborates with others to advocate for policies that advance sustainability in higher education and beyond.



AASHE ENDORSES A HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE  
**Mental Health Impacts of Recurrent Climate-Related Disasters on Youth**



AASHE SUPPORTS  
**Climate Change Education Funding**



AASHE SIGNS THE  
**Banking on Climate Chaos Report**



AASHE IS PARTNERING WITH THE  
**Better Climate Challenge**



AASHE SIGNS THE LETTER TO WORLD LEADERS  
**Now Is The Moment To Accelerate the Just, Renewable Energy Future and Close the Fossil Fuel Era**



AASHE ENDORSES THE  
**Exit Amazon Oil and Gas Platform**



AASHE SIGNS THE  
**Pay Equity Pledge**



AASHE SIGNS THE  
**Million Advocates for Sustainable Science**



# Acknowledgements

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to every member of the AASHE community. As we reflect on another remarkable year, we are humbled by the dedication, passion, and spirit of collaboration demonstrated by our members. Thank you for being an essential part of AASHE and for your unwavering commitment to creating a sustainable future. Your contributions inspire us every day.



The Association for the Advancement  
of Sustainability in Higher Education

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