May 2015

Dear Friend of Michigan State University:

As many around the world recently observed the 45th anniversary of Earth Day, we at Michigan State had some good things to report as part of our long-held commitment to “Being Spartan Green.”

Most significant is Michigan State’s decision to end the use of coal as fuel for our campus power plant. Our coal usage has dropped an impressive 65 percent since 2009-10. We’ll have converted in large part to cleaner-burning natural gas by the end of this year, with total conversion by the end of 2016. This will confirm our position as a leader in sustainability among top research universities.

![Coal to Natural Gas Conversion](image1)

Converting from coal is good for the environment because it curbs emissions. It’s also a good business decision. Analysis of changing energy costs and new federal emission standards determined it would cost less to convert fully to natural gas than to continue burning coal. MSU also is exploring public-private partnerships to add locally generated, renewable sources of energy to its mix as it continues to pursue its goal of 100 percent renewable energy sourcing outlined in the Energy Transition Plan.

At MSU we also demonstrate what it means to Be Spartan Green on a more personal level every day, from reusing and recycling an astonishing quantity of materials across campus to cutting food waste in our dining halls.

![Spartan Green Actions](image2)

And on Saturday, April 18, hundreds of Spartan volunteers around the world pitched in for the SPARTANS WILL. POWER Global Day of Service, with many working on community beautification and cleanup projects.

In addition to honoring the spirit of Earth Day, those volunteers demonstrated the extraordinary impact Spartans make when we come together and work for the common good. Spartans Will.

Sincerely,

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