



January 11, 2019

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 201
Philadelphia, PA

Re: Executive Letter of Support for Baldwin Wallace University's STARS Report

Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

As an AASHE member and proud home of the first undergraduate major in Sustainability in Ohio, Baldwin Wallace University is dedicated to leading and advancing sustainability as a significant aspect of our university's mission to prepare students to be contributing, compassionate global citizens. As our STARS report documents, our university has made noteworthy and often visible investments in sustainability infrastructure over the course of many years. We power buildings with geothermal, wind, and solar energy, engage in considerable water bioremediation efforts, protect our trees as a Tree Campus USA institution, compost our food waste, and much more. Considerations about sustainable development in our building projects, renovations, and landscaping are integrated into the fabric of how we make decisions and collaborate with our surrounding community.

In addition to the important efforts related to the physical plant, we offer a robust, interdisciplinary curriculum that involves 17 departments and influences the educational experience of hundreds of students each year. Our faculty are engaged in a broad array of research related to sustainability, with 15 departments having at least one faculty member conducting such research. As an institution with particular strengths in community engagement and study abroad, we also provide a wide variety of opportunities for students to be involved in service learning activities related to the environment and social justice both domestically and internationally.

Current and future directions of sustainability initiatives include our innovative activities related to food security, and the reduction of food waste. As a signatory member of President's United to Solve Hunger (PUSH), we have partnered with a number of organizations to redress hunger issues faced by our students and the local region. Students in our Sustainability Capstone Course this semester are working on the Real Food Challenge and our Director of Community Engagement is growing our Sustainable Food Stop Recovery Program. Other initiatives include

the Director of Residence Life leading a BW Green Pledge to reduce our institution's carbon footprint and a partnership between the Sustainability and Engineering Programs engaging students in competitions to design sustainable, biomimetic products.

Compiling this report has provided an important opportunity to assess our progress in sustainability as an institution from a holistic standpoint. We are proud of the record of investment in sustainable practices and values that this report demonstrates. Such practices and values are central to the identity of BW, and we look forward to a future where we build on our strengths and develop innovations that can provide a guiding light to our community and other institutions.

Sincerely,



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