



Bayer School of Natural  
and Environmental Sciences

**OFFICE OF THE DEAN**

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Ms. Meghan Fay Zahniser  
Executive Director, AASHE  
2401 Walnut Street Suite  
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Dear Ms. Zahniser:

At Duquesne University, sustainability is expressly tied through the Catholic commitment to stewardship towards creation. As stewards, confronting environmental and social issues is both a moral imperative and a responsibility. We are committed to providing our students with an excellent education, and opportunity to engage with the local and global community, and a safe and healthy environment in which to study, live, learn, and work.

Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in Duquesne University's Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences. The Bayer School is the hub of sustainability on campus, is the home for the Center for Environmental Research and Education, and is in process of designing undergraduate degree programs inspired by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, which are aimed in part at ending poverty, inequalities and hunger, and tackling climate change.

In order to continue to provide these opportunities to Duquesne University students, faculty, and staff, we are committed to building a sustainable campus community. This STARS certification will foster the opportunity to consider many aspects of sustainability, including our operations (including waste management, energy- and water-efficiency, and landscape management) coursework, investments, employee wellness, and more. Thanks to the framework created by the UN report, we have a better understanding of the relevance of existing campus initiatives such as a commitment to a living wage, diversity in hiring and recruiting, and dedication to community involvement in sustainability.

Focusing on the social and economic aspects of sustainability enhances our work towards environmental sustainability, such as our campus goal to reduce campus energy use by 50 percent by 2030, our commitment to working with the local community to build an Eco Innovation District in Duquesne University's neighborhood of Uptown Pittsburgh, continuing to operate our campus co-generation plant, and our commitment to purchase only renewable energy. Furthermore, Duquesne University has published a biennial Greenhouse Gas Emissions report since 2008, identifying major emission sources as well as making recommendations for improvement.

I feel that Duquesne is up to the challenge to be a leader in all aspects of sustainability. Thank you for considering our submission.

Dr. Phillip Reeder, Dean