

March 3, 2020

To whom it may concern:

Climate change is one of the most important and pressing challenges of our time. The urgency of this crisis demands action that redefines leadership, crosses disciplinary and intellectual boundaries, and addresses the structural inequalities that contribute to our current global predicament. As a college for women located in New York City, Barnard has made a commitment to address climate change — especially as it relates to issues surrounding gender, income, and race.

In the fall of 2019, Barnard released its Climate Action Vision, as a result of the campus-wide collaboration effort. This document takes a 360-degree approach that prioritizes the role of women, people of color, and low-income communities in defining new paradigms for climate leadership. We look forward to using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System to create a transparent baseline for improvement and to inform our programming and planning as we work towards achieving our goals.

Our Climate Action Vision focuses on three main areas: Barnard's academics, finance and governance, and campus culture and operations. Barnard joined the NYC Carbon Challenge in 2009 and is proud to be one of the first NYC institutions to reach the initial goal of 30% emissions reductions from 2005 levels. In 2017, the College signed the "We Are Still In" pledge, underscoring our effort to meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement. As we develop a comprehensive emissions reduction plan, we are working to green our campus through everything from lawn care to internal reuse programs and organics collection. At the same time, our faculty, staff, and students are actively pursuing solutions to the social inequities that women and low-income communities experience as a result of climate change.

Barnard's approach to sustainability and climate action is rooted in its long history of breaking barriers for and with women who challenge the status quo. This is the work that climate change demands, especially with respect to involving voices that have historically not been heard. I am grateful to all in our community who have worked together, and individually, to support our efforts across the campus to reverse the growing threat to our planet and build a resilient and equitable future for all. Our work with STARS will help us to define our goals and measure success as we move forward.

With gratitude and commitment,



Sian Leah Bellock
President



Linda A. Bell
Provost and Dean of the Faculty