

GUSTAVUS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

November 18, 2021

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

On behalf of Gustavus Adolphus College, I am pleased to submit our first Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. We look forward to utilizing our STARS report as an essential tool for advancing our commitment to sustainability.

At Gustavus, we recognize that environmental sustainability is a great challenge of our time that our students must prepare to face. The pathways to future environmental sustainability will be complex, requiring a deep understanding of how we can act together for a better future. To assist us with this challenge, in 2017, I established a President's Council on Environmental Sustainability to develop the College's environmental sustainability vision and goals, including those related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, water and soil conservation, stewardship of biological diversity and resources, and waste management and recycling. The Council is also charged with recommending policies, procedures, plans, and action steps for achieving set goals and establishing environmental sustainability benchmarks, as well as assessment and reporting procedures. This group serves as an advisory committee to the President's Cabinet.

Gustavus has focused on building sustainability efforts into strategic planning, academics, operations, and student activities. In the last several years, Gustavus has implemented strategic waste systems and developed campus-wide composting as we work towards becoming a zero-waste institution, and we are currently implementing a retro-commissioning study to identify and utilize energy conservation measures that will advance the College's efforts towards a 25% reduction in energy usage by 2024.

MAKE YOUR LIFE **COUNT**

Rebecca M. Bergman, President

Office of the President | DIRECT 507-933-7538 | FAX 507-933-7081 | president@gustavus.edu
800 West College Avenue | St. Peter, MN 56082-1498 | 507-933-8000 | gustavus.edu

Our Gustavus Acts Strategic Plan outlines three overarching institutional goals, one of which focuses on achieving financial, institutional, and environmental sustainability. Goal 3G encompasses implementing environmental stewardship across the College by engaging the campus community and emphasizing the connections between campus infrastructure, operations, and student learning. Progress on this goal is measured by five Key Performance Indicators, each detailing specific areas of sustainability growth and goals.

We have already gained valuable knowledge of our campus' sustainability efforts, goals and improvements needed throughout the process of collecting data for our first STARS report. Data was collected and compiled by the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, including co-directors Dr. Jeff Jeremiason and Dr. Chuck Niederriter, student sustainability intern Collin Carlson, and the Compost, Waste and Environmental Sustainability Manager Kari Wallin. We recognize the generous effort from all the departments involved in providing data and are looking forward to utilizing the information provided by our first STARS report for advancing sustainability at our institution.

I affirm that this report accurately reflects Gustavus Adolphus College in regards to sustainability on an institutional level. We are excited to join the STARS reporting community and are grateful for this tool to evaluate and improve our community and campus sustainability efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rebecca M. Bergman".

Rebecca M. Bergman
President