



January 25, 2013

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of all the information provided in Furman University's January 2013 STARS submission. These data provide an accurate and comprehensive reflection of our institution's sustainability efforts. As a charter participant of the STARS self-assessment tool in 2011, we are proud to submit this updated calculator as evidence of the university's ongoing commitment to sustainability.

With our last submission, I reported to you that Furman's Board of Trustees embraced sustainability as a core value of the university more than a decade ago; that Furman had recently completed an innovative sustainability master plan, *Sustainable Furman*; set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2026; built the first LEED-certified building in South Carolina in 2003; and approved a new undergraduate major in Sustainability Science. I am now happy to highlight several areas of progress since our last submission. The university has significantly increased its commitment to renewable energy generation with the installation of geothermal heat pumps in most upper-class apartment buildings. Furthermore, completion of an online energy dashboard system educates the campus community regarding our effective use of solar panels in three distinct locations across campus. We have achieved a notable reduction in waste generation, largely due to introduction of reusable to-go containers in dining facilities and the implementation of a composting program for pre- and post-consumer food waste. Finally, our Sustainability Science major has proven to be incredibly attractive to the student body, with approximately forty declared majors, and many other new courses related to sustainability have been introduced across the curriculum for students of all majors.

I would like to thank the many members of the university community who contributed to the data collection process for this submission, and particularly student fellows Rebecca McDaniel, Anne-Marie Melief, and Kris Hajny, who worked with staff in the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability on sustainability data collection and reporting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Smolla".

Rod Smolla
President
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