

Williams

December 11, 2015

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

Adam F. Falk
President

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

On behalf of Williams College, I am please to submit our second STARS report and affirm that it is an accurate reflection of the steps the college has taken towards sustainability.

We have found STARS to be a useful tool for both celebrating our sustainability successes and for prompting a critical examination of our practices in many sectors across campus. We believe that reporting on sustainability issues is important not only for our campus but also in the wider conversation about sustainability. As an institution of higher learning, the process of completing STARS reports serves as a chance to bring together educational opportunities and real-world impacts for our students, as well as for faculty, staff, and administration.

In recent years, we have worked to integrate sustainability into the general operations of the college. In 2007 the Board of Trustees of Williams unanimously voted to adopt the goal of reducing the college's emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020, and to establish sustainability as an institutional goal. In 2015, the Board announced stronger emissions goals of 35% below 1990 by 2020 through action locally and then purchase of offsets to reach carbon neutrality by the end of 2020.

In addition to our new emissions goals, progress towards making Williams more sustainable arises from all corners of campus: from student groups pushing for higher quality meat (and less meat in general) in campus dining halls, to the planning for year's theme of inquiry – Confronting Climate Change, to Dining Services piloting a pre-consumer waste reduction program. Another example of the college's commitment to further integrating sustainability into its general operations came during the summer of 2011 when the Board of Trustees approved green building guidelines. These guidelines stipulate that all projects valued at \$5 million or more should seek LEED certification (or a similar industry-accepted standard) at the level of Gold or higher.

We look forward to our continued relationship with AASHE. Thanks for your contributions to advancing the sustainability conversation in higher education.

Sincerely yours,



Adam F. Falk

AFF/alw

Enclosure