

June 17, 2019

Maud S. Mandel
President
Professor of History &
Program in Jewish Studies

Ms. 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,

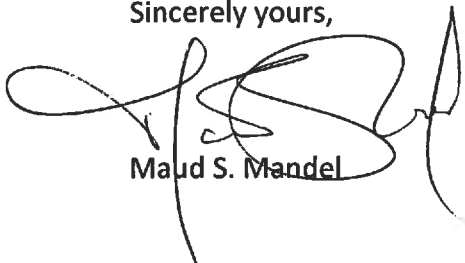
On behalf of Williams College, I am pleased to submit our third STARS report and affirm that it is an accurate reflection of the steps the college has taken towards sustainability.

We have found the STARS framework to be a valuable tool for measuring our successes and shortcomings in sustainability at Williams. Most importantly, STARS has prompted a focused conversation on our campus about the areas where we would like to improve, such as being more systematic about assessing our sustainability culture, investing in staff development, and developing a more explicit set of goals for our handling of food, water, and waste. The report provided a helpful nudge, for example, in motivating us to eliminate plastic water bottles from catered events and phasing out K-cups for coffee and tea.

The timing of the report is also excellent, given that we are in the middle of our first campus-wide strategic planning exercise. Sustainability is one of the focus areas of the process, and it is threaded throughout all other areas of the plan, including the curriculum, the co-curriculum, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have a wonderful opportunity to both build on the gains we have made since our 2015 climate goals, and also make sustainability a central part of a liberal arts education at Williams.

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

Sincerely yours,



Maud S. Mandel