



SWARTHMORE

Valerie A. Smith, President

(610) 328-8314 • fax (610) 328-8547

February 28, 2017

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I write to affirm the accuracy of the enclosed Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) Report from Swarthmore College. This report reflects a rigorous process of data collection that has been verified by numerous campus stakeholders including faculty, staff, and students.

At Swarthmore, sustainability is a defining core value of our institution. In recent years, we have continually renewed our commitment to meaningful and innovative efforts to reduce carbon consumption, educate our students on the causes and consequences of climate change, and demonstrate national leadership in sustainability initiatives. Since hiring a Director of Sustainability and two support staff members, we have made significant progress in the areas of curriculum development, co-curricular programming, and operations. These initiatives include establishing a campus-wide Carbon Charge, implementing a Presidential Sustainability Research Fellowship program, and creating an Environmental Sustainability Framework.

After submitting two STARS reports for reporter status in 2011 and 2012, this is our first time applying for a rating, representing an important step in these ongoing efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035. This report will help Swarthmore better identify areas in which the College community can improve sustainability culture and performance.

We greatly appreciate AASHE's commitment to advancing sustainability in higher education, and we look forward to continuing to utilize the resources and guidance you provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie A. Smith".

Valerie A. Smith