



Middlebury

Laurie L. Patton

President

president@middlebury.edu

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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,

I am pleased to submit Middlebury's fourth STARS report for review and publication on the AASHE STARS website. It provides an accurate reflection of Middlebury's longstanding commitment to sustainability and our continuously evolving efforts to integrate it into the culture and character of institution and surrounding communities. Our submission supports our tentative rating of a Gold level and this report will help guide our efforts going forward.

We fully embrace the important role of higher education to prepare students to take on the most important challenges of the time, of which there are many. Our commitment to creating a more sustainable future is evident in many of the achievements noted in our report. As you know, Middlebury founded the first undergraduate environmental studies program in the country 57 years ago and that has been an important pillar in our journey. Today, we find sustainability thinking and action across many facets of the institution and are proud of how our community has generated and supported new initiatives like Energy2028, our most recent response to the climate crisis, which includes a cross-cutting theme of equity and justice to help guide its implementation.

Thanks to you and AASHE for supporting STARS. It is a valuable tool to help higher education gauge where it is collectively and individually on progress toward sustainability and to help define what leadership looks like and where to go next. We are pleased to have played a role in developing this valuable assessment tool and to have served as an early pilot site. We look forward to continuing our work with AASHE and our higher education peers and colleagues to create a more just and sustainable future.

Sincerely yours,

Laurie L. Patton
President