



State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Office of the President

June 7, 2016

Ms. Meghan Fay Zahniser  
Executive Director  
AASHE  
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

The State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) has a remarkable history of responding to emerging environmental challenges while maintaining at its core a focus on environmental science, engineering, design and management; excellence in teaching; and impact through discovery and problem-solving.

One of ESF's important efforts remains quantifying its commitments and actions over time, and benchmarking against other colleges and universities to stay informed and to lead with best practices. ESF commits to an annual cycle of assessment, planning, and implementation, guided by the industry standard for measuring campus sustainability: STARS—Sustainability Tracking and Rating System. ESF is committed to achieve a STARS Platinum rating by 2020 or earlier. ESF also recognizes that sustainability uniquely involves linking academic and physical operations of the institution for the purpose of mutually beneficial interactions. The campus as a “living laboratory” is an example of this; as such, the College will improve teaching and research by opening up operations and processes. Ultimately, this will result in the intellectual might of the College community continuously improving the physical and social operations of the College, including reducing costs.

It is my pleasure to submit our 2016 STARS report and affirm that it is an accurate reflection of the sustainability efforts at ESF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Quentin Wheeler". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Quentin Wheeler  
President