



November 15, 2023

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

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

I'm pleased to share the STARS submission from Macalester College. This report reflects our continued commitment to prioritizing both social equity and environmental sustainability as we strive to equitably engage with members of our campus, local, and global communities. Macalester's commitment to fostering community, global citizenship, and environmental sustainability is highlighted in our new strategic plan. Under this strategic vision, Macalester's commitment to environmental sustainability is intertwined with our commitment to foster reciprocal relationships on and off campus.

In the three years since our last STARS submission, we have continued our efforts to green our campus operations in a variety of ways. For example: we have improved the energy efficiency of our campus buildings through cost-saving retrofits, we have increased the biodiversity on campus by converting underutilized lawn areas to native plantings, and we are investing in reuse initiatives that serve both the campus and greater Twin Cities community. We also are creating sustainability initiatives that allow students to take on leadership roles and engage in mutual aid initiatives focused on food access, sustainable transportation, climate justice, and access to green space. Macalester's commitment to sustainability also is embedded within the institution's recently adopted comprehensive campus facilities plan, which outlines plans for investing in renewable energy generation on campus.

Macalester strives to be a catalyst, convener, and champion of urban sustainability and environmental justice across and beyond campus. This work has created valuable hands-on learning experiences for students. We are proud of the progress we have made over the past three years as we work towards our sustainability goals.

Thank you for developing this comprehensive tool to guide and track our sustainability efforts. We are proud to be among the STARS charter participants.

Sincerely,

Dr. Suzanne M. Rivera
President