

August 2, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of Raritan Valley Community College, I am pleased to submit the results of our campus-wide sustainability assessment for the AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS). I affirm that this is an accurate assessment. As a charter institution for STARS and now receiving our fourth rating, RVCC enthusiastically supports this comprehensive campus sustainability program for assessing and evaluating our sustainability practices. This process provides perspective on our strengths and challenges as we strive to become a more sustainable institution.

Raritan Valley Community College is a public two-year college serving New Jersey's Somerset and Hunterdon counties. With a suburban campus situated between two tributaries of the North Branch of the Raritan River, and with a student population of over 9,000 full and part-time students commuting to campus and learning online, RVCC faces significant sustainability challenges.

With this STARS application, RVCC has earned our first gold STARS rating and the highest current rating of any two-year college in the US. RVCC's [strategic plan](#), [values](#), and [institutional learning outcomes](#) highlight our commitments to sustainability and to diversity, equity, and engagement, and we are pleased that the STARS program recognizes our accomplishments in these areas. We are particularly proud of our growing [Center for Environmental Studies](#), the newly formed Sustainability Across the Curriculum Faculty Interest Group, and the critical work being led by our first Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

The College firmly established its environmental leadership in 2009, when it was the first community college in the nation to sign an environmental stewardship agreement with the EPA. In accordance with this agreement, the College has taken numerous actions to become more environmentally sustainable. RVCC's campus is River Friendly, Bee Campus USA, and Monarch Watch certified and boasts a [new greenhouse](#), a cogeneration plant, three solar installations, publicly available electric car charging stations, a green roof, a green wall, three rainwater harvesting systems, and three buildings built to LEED Gold and Silver standards.

RVCC will continue to look for new and innovative ways to increase its sustainability and to demonstrate this leadership in the classroom, across campus, and throughout the community.

Sincerely,



Michael McDonough, Ph.D.
President