

July 31, 2019

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 third 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 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 growing population of over 11,000 full and part-time students commuting to campus, RVCC faces significant sustainability challenges.

RVCC has once again earned a solid Silver STARS rating, with the 4th highest rating of 2-year colleges in the US. RVCC's 2018-2021 strategic plan emphasizes the importance of equity, sustainability, collaboration, and civic engagement, and we are pleased that the STARS program recognizes our accomplishments in these areas. We are particularly proud of becoming carbon neutral in 2017 (for scopes 1 and 2) and our use of the campus as a living laboratory.

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 cogeneration plant, a 446kW solar installation, publicly-available electric car charging stations, two green roofs and 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