



GREEN MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Office of the President

July 28, 2012

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

Green Mountain College's focus on sustainability began in 1995 when it adopted an environmental liberal arts mission, a mission focused on teaching all students how to take responsibility for the health and sustainability of their natural and social environments. In the last fifteen years, GMC has integrated sustainability throughout its curriculum and operations, created several sustainability-focused academic programs, and developed numerous sustainability innovations, including its Green Job Corps and fossil fuel-free agriculture project.

Throughout this time, the reporting frameworks primarily set forth by AASHE STARS and the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) have helped GMC establish priorities for building a culture of sustainability. They inspired the College to address sustainability in every aspect of the institution, from academic offerings, to facilities and grounds, to its relationship with the local community. The frameworks have also helped shape policies and spur action on campus. GMC appreciates the foresight of the thought leaders who developed these frameworks and recognizes that they share credit for the College's accomplishments as well as for providing motivation for further action.

In 2006, GMC became the first college in Vermont to sign the ACUPCC, embracing the challenge to accelerate the College's progress toward climate neutrality and sustainability. In 2007, GMC received an AASHE campus sustainability leadership award. In 2010, Sierra Magazine designated Green Mountain as the Greenest College in the nation in its annual ranking of colleges. This year, the College became only the second college in the United States to achieve climate neutrality in accordance with the framework set forth by the ACUPCC.

While the GMC community is proud of its achievements, it is also acutely aware how much more needs to be done. Its STARS submission has highlighted several areas for immediate improvement and it has informed its new sustainability plan which focuses, among other things, on waste diversion and purchasing.

I have reviewed our STARS report, spearheaded by GMC's Provost, Dr. William Throop and Sustainability Coordinator, Ms. Amber Garrard, and verify that the report is an accurate and a comprehensive reflection of GMC's persistent efforts to improve its sustainability. I am very pleased that it indicates that GMC has achieved a STARS gold rating.

Sincerely yours,

Paul J. Fonteyn
President