

OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Office of the President

February 15, 2012

Paul Rowland, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Rowland,


Oberlin College's dedication to sustainability grows from this institution's historic role as a driver of social progress and the commitment of the majority of our students, faculty, alumni, and staff to combating climate change. From constructing the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies, recently recognized by Architect Magazine as the most important green building built since 1980, to committing to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025, Oberlin's dedication to sustainability has become a central tenant of the college's mission. Our campus community prioritized environmental sustainability as one of Oberlin's seven strategic directions in our most recent strategic planning process. The Board of Trustees affirmed that by stating, "The core mission of Oberlin College is the education of its students. One aspect of such education is the demonstration by its actions of the College's concern for, and protection of, its physical environment."

Our commitment extends beyond the borders of our campus. In 2010, the College and the City of Oberlin jointly signed on to become one of 16 Climate Positive Development Program cities, an initiative of the William J. Clinton Foundation's Clinton Climate Initiative and the U.S. Green Building Council. We have also launched the Oberlin Project which will apply our distinctive strengths in interdisciplinary teaching and learning to the global challenges of climate change, energy and resource usage, and environmental degradation. Transforming Oberlin—College and town—into a global model of sustainable, economic development centered on education and the arts is in keeping with our educational mission and our historic legacy of creating positive social change.

I am proud to submit this official Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report as a Charter institution, and I affirm that is an accurate account of the progress Oberlin has made toward increasing the sustainability of our campus and town. Our STARS Gold rating is a reflection of the skilled determination of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and staff. The report will help guide our future efforts.

On behalf of our entire community, many thanks to AASHE for their advocacy and support on behalf of the urgent issues of climate change and sustainability.

Sincerely,



Marvin Krislov
President