



March 1, 2021

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter in support of Portland Community College's (PCC) fourth submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). Since 2006, PCC has held a leadership role in higher education sustainability through our commitment to climate action and by exemplifying sustainable practices in operations, education and engagement.

Much progress has been made since our last STARS submission in 2017. PCC is proud to highlight such efforts in our updated submission, some of which include:

- Established an eco-social justice training workshop for student leaders;
- Instituted a durables in catering program to reduce waste;
- Constructed an additional learning garden at the Cascade Campus, bringing the college to five gardens district-wide;
- **Advocated** for higher education climate action at the national and global scale through participation in We Are Still In and two UN Climate Conferences (COP23 and COP25);
- And updated our Climate Action Plan with the addition of resiliency, climate justice and a new carbon neutrality goal for 2040, which reaffirms our belief that diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice are fundamentally interconnected with sustainability work.

In addition, PCC is proud to announce that in the Spring of 2021, PCC will begin benefiting from two new programs to purchase renewable energy, Oregon Shines and the Green Future Impact program at Portland General Electric. We expect the impact of these programs, combined with current commitments and expected solar at the college, to make our electricity sources fossil-fuel free by 2025.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with AASHE and future participation in STARS.

Regards,


Mark Mitsui, President
Portland Community College