



Wisdom to make a difference.

President's Office
229 Main Street
Keene, NH 03435-1504
(603) 358-2000
(603) 358-2009 fax
president@keene.edu
keene.edu/president

March 3, 2021

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

Dear STARS Committee:

Keene State College is pleased to submit its STARS self-assessment reflecting information for the previous three academic years (2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020). As President of Keene State College, I affirm that the information submitted to STARS by the College's many contributors across campus is an accurate representation of our sustainability efforts.

Keene State is very pleased to submit our AASHE STARS report this year. In 2015, the College set the ambitious goal of attaining AASHE STARS Gold by the end of 2020. The entire campus rallied around this goal and this submission will demonstrate that a culture of sustainability infuses Keene State College from student engagement to the President's Office. The College has made much progress since our last AASHE STARS assessment in 2017.

Beginning with a bold move to switch the polluting #6 fuel oil in our Heat Plant to a low carbon, 100% refined used vegetable oil product, Keene State has demonstrated its commitment at every level of the College. This AASHE Report will highlight these many changes, including, but certainly not limited to:

- Approval of a Sustainability College-Wide Learning Outcome that encourages sustainability across curricular and co-curricular education
- Ambitious goals for sustainability and climate action, such as 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050
- Expanded student employment and internships with the Office of Sustainability
- Award-winning food waste composting program
- New Sustainability Studies Major and Minor
- Sustainability investment portfolio for the Keene State Endowment
- Implementation of a College-Wide Energy Transformation under the auspices of a Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract
- Launch of a new Climate Action Leaders program to engage faculty and staff with students to address climate responsibility at Keene State.

We feel confident that these measures and more will ensure that Keene State College achieves its AASHE STARS Gold aspiration, but we will not stop there. The College sets the goal to achieve Platinum no later than 2025.

As New Hampshire's public liberal arts college, Keene State College has a mandate to serve the needs of our community. Included in this responsibility is stewardship of our shared resources, a strong commitment to social justice and equity, an emphasis on civic engagement, and the adherence across all areas of the College to the principles and practices of sustainability. The College takes its leadership in the City of Keene seriously and participates in many sustainability focused collaborative efforts. For example, we will work hand-in-hand with the

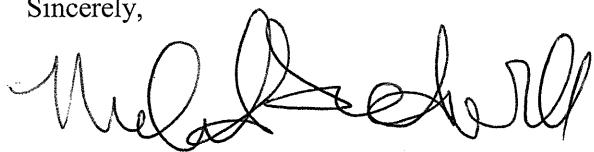
City to demonstrate approaches needed not only to meet our ambitious renewable energy goals, but also the City's Energy Resolution of 100% renewable electricity across all sectors by 2030.

Keene State College continues projects that support the campus as a living laboratory. Most recently we completed the first stage of a larger campus-wide energy transformation by creating the Young Student Center Learning Lab Showcase for energy efficiency. This project demonstrates the kind of technological changes (e.g., upgraded lighting) needing for a carbon-free future. It will serve as a learning center for students and the broader community, through building interpretation signage, interactive dashboards, workshops, and other outreach.

Updating our STARS report for this submission has engaged faculty and staff across Keene State College in summarizing progress of the last three years. A small dedicated team of sustainability and affiliated staff, under the supervision of the Director of Campus Sustainability, led the process and reviewed the data prior to submission. Keene State expanded its reporting assurance process this year to include external reviewers from the City of Keene and Siemens Industry Inc.

We appreciate the framework AASHE provides with STARS and join alongside other colleges and universities in supporting the health of our environment while confronting climate change challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melinda D Treadwell', written in a cursive style.

Melinda D Treadwell, Ph.D.
President