

GUILFORD COLLEGE

December 4, 2015

Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

To Whom It May Concern:

As the president of Guilford College, it is my considerable pleasure to offer our second submission of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Reporting System (STARS) report.

Guilford College is guided by seven core values: community, diversity, equality, excellence, integrity, justice and stewardship. Our mission is to provide a transformative, practical, and excellent liberal arts education that produces critical thinkers in an inclusive, diverse environment, guided by Quaker testimonies of community, equality, integrity, peace, and simplicity and emphasizing the creative problem solving skills, experience, enthusiasm and international perspectives necessary to promote positive change in the world.

Our core values and mission are in step with those supported by the work of AASHE. Guilford College became a signatory of the American Colleges and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in May, 2007. Since that time the College has taken many steps to promote sustainability. We have reduced our carbon footprint by 23%. Food waste no longer goes to the landfill but is transformed into high quality compost. Forty percent of the energy required to heat our domestic water is provided by thermal solar. We have the lowest energy cost per square foot of building space of any institution in our region. The College proudly supports an on-campus farm that provides vegetables for our dining services, shares for a Community Supported Agriculture program, and produce for select area restaurants and groceries. The farm supports two student initiatives: an on-campus farmers market and a mobile market that provides produce to food insecure people in our area. The farm serves as a living laboratory for students in our environmental studies curriculum. The College is currently reviewing a new major in Sustainable Food Systems which will further integrate sustainability into our curriculum.

The completion of this report will help guide Guilford's path to greater sustainability in the future. The results will enable us to fashion a comprehensive Climate Action Plan. We appreciate the support and guidance provided by AASHE and its member institutions.

As president of Guilford College, I can attest to the accuracy of data submitted in this current submission of our STARS report. Much of the reported data was collected by a team of students working under the direction of our Sustainability Coordinator in our Environmental Studies 350 class: Projects in Sustainability. Other data was collected and reported by our Director of Environmental Sustainability and Director of Facilities/Energy Manger. I thank all members of our community who provided valuable information making this submission possible.

Sincerely,



Jane K. Fernandes
President

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