



Appalachian Food Services

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AASHE STARS

To whom it may concern:

Appalachian State University is an acknowledged leader in sustainability, and local food presents a practical way to actively pursue goals which remain relatively untapped. As a university, we have a unique opportunity to meet a growing demand and use our purchasing power to call for a sustainable future as laid out in our Strategic Plan. Appalachian has a big footprint in the High Country with the potential to be a major economic driver and significantly impact the viability of the local economy.

Appalachian's sustainable food initiative seeks to bring together the various stakeholders of our food operations in order to define local and sustainable food systems and understand barriers, challenges, obstacles, success and strengths. To date, the energy and effort put forth by staff, faculty and students has made honest strides in understanding where we are and where this initiative needs to grow. There are many moving targets with this initiative, and like sustainability, growing a sustainable food system is a process. We seek to develop long-term relationships with food system stakeholders while pioneering a unique approach to local and sustainable food systems in North Carolina.

This initiative represents innovation through its unique ability to engage regional stakeholders. Appalachian Food Services, which is the campus driver of this initiative, is locally owned and operated, thus enable Food Services to make key decisions in the best interest of the university and its various stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Art Kessler", written over a white background.

Art Kessler

Director of Appalachian Food Services