



Office of the President
Smith College
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February 24, 2020

Dear Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Smith College's submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Rating & Assessment System (STARS). Our report, which has been assembled by and reviewed for accuracy by staff from Smith's Center for the Environment, Ecological Design and Sustainability, demonstrates our commitment to sustainability across all levels of the institution.

Our STARS report highlights numerous innovations and achievements, many are a direct result of our Study Group on Climate Change:

- We are in the midst of a themed academic year on climate change, a college-wide initiative to critically examine the complex and urgent issue of climate change. This program is an invitation from and to the entire Smith community, no matter their background or passion, to engage through deep and authentic collaboration, critical thinking, listening and action on all issues surrounding climate change.
- In winter 2019, the college completed a plan outlining the life cycle cost and rough engineering to convert our district energy system to one that runs on renewable electricity.
- In fall 2019, a 3-year pilot that focuses faculty scholarship on campus and community sustainability challenges was developed and launched. This program includes summer research support, student-faculty summer research opportunities and a visiting scholars program.
- The college is in the midst of developing a new landscape master plan focused on themes of education, inclusion and climate adaptation that will guide the evolution of Smith's outdoor campus landscape to address how the campus landscape can manifest Smith's values, educational goals and strategic priorities.
- A five-college collaborative solar energy system is in permitting, ensuring that all of Smith's electrical purchases are from solar generation.
- Our dining services continues to expand our partnerships with and purchases from local, environmentally-responsible farmers including two significant grants to enable the purchase and storage of local whole animals, and support the local at-risk dairy economy to purchase the equipment a local creamery needs to be able to supply pre-shredded mozzarella cheese for its campus accounts, including Smith.

As Smith continues to implement its strategic plan and the recommendations from the Study Group on Climate Change, we continue to use the STARS process to monitor progress toward our sustainability and climate change mitigation goals as well as to highlight Smith's performance, to develop sustainable policies and practices, and to turn plans into action.

I am grateful to the many students, faculty, staff and alumnae who help us advance Smith's sustainability goals, and to our partnership with AASHE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen McCartney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathleen McCartney
President