



March 4, 2022

Ms. Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut St., Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

On behalf of the University of Richmond, I am pleased to endorse our 2022 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) submission. We value STARS as an opportunity to evaluate our sustainability performance and to re-establish the benchmark from which we will measure future sustainability endeavors.

Part of the vision of a University of Richmond education is to prepare our scholars to succeed, produce knowledge that solves global problems, and to model the role universities can play in meeting the challenges of our time. Our recently launched program in Healthcare Studies, along with a Sustainability Minor on the horizon, allow our students to better understand and respond to local-to-global challenges. Programs like the Sustainable Solutions Challenge invite students to use creativity and an entrepreneurial mindset to generate potential fixes to campus conundrums. The outcome is not only good ideas, but also a sense of efficacy toward creating positive change.

Implementation of the University's Sustainability Plan, which was motivated by the goal of further weaving responsible stewardship into the fabric of the University and resulted from a highly participatory process, began shortly after our last STARS submission. In that time, we brought online a 20-Megawatt solar array that matches our entire electricity load with renewable energy, restored an 18-acre parcel that improves the quality of the water that flows through campus to the James River, and rolled out a comprehensive composting program as part of our Rethink Waste initiative.

Student learning and engagement outcomes are critical metrics to the success of all sustainability projects. We want each University of Richmond student to feel like they belong and are able to contribute to the kind of world they would like to see. We want to provide them with the tools and experiences that allow them to create lives of purpose and meaning. Our commitment to sustainability is clearly related to this.

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I would like to thank all of the students, staff, and faculty members who conducted research and provided information to complete this report. We all have a role to play in support of sustainability on campus and in our community. I am grateful for the Spiders who step up every day to make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. F. Hallock', written in a cursive style.

Kevin F. Hallock
President