



February 15, 2016

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut St., Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of Richmond, I am pleased to provide the University of Richmond's 2016 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) submission. A group of twenty-one individuals from various departments collaborated on the information presented here, representing the most wide-ranging and thorough sustainability report we have ever completed.

It has been nearly six years since the University of Richmond established its Climate Action Plan, which set us on a course toward carbon neutrality and signaled sustainability as a priority across the core functions of the University. The past several years have seen tremendous progress in the area of sustainability. We have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent below 2008 levels, despite a substantial increase in our building footprint. The Carole Weinstein International Center was certified LEED Gold, the second campus building to achieve that status and our sixth LEED-certified building overall. Later this month, we will break ground on a 204 kW solar array on the roof of Weinstein Recreation and Wellness Center. This project will move us closer to our carbon reduction goals and provide outstanding onsite educational opportunities on renewable energy.

Student, staff, and faculty engagement in sustainability is at an all-time high. Fall 2015 alone saw the establishment of a student peer-to-peer sustainability education group and the creation of a new Food Recovery Network chapter. Inspired by what they had learned from the Green Office Program, a group of 15 staff members self-organized into the University of Richmond Sustainability Advocates to further develop their capacity as campus change agents. On the heels of an energetic forum on the future of sustainability education at the University of Richmond, the Provost established a cross-disciplinary Faculty Learning Community to explore how a liberal arts education could be used to combat climate change. Stakeholders from across all levels of the University are adopting a proactive response to sustainability challenges.

The pursuit of sustainability in higher education is an iterative process of planning, implementation, and assessment. The STARS reporting tool not only provides a robust framework for measuring, validating, and communicating our efforts, but also helps us establish a baseline from which we can set new sustainability goals. I affirm that the information in the report is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald A. Crutcher".

Ronald A. Crutcher  
President

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