

May 14, 2015

AASHE  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 901  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear AASHE STARS Review Committee:

Juniata has long-held a consciousness in and powerful commitment to conservation (we think of it as part of our “Brethren heritage”). Resource frugal, Juniata appreciates the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable behaviors and in the past ten years, we’ve formalized those sustainable behaviors into our strategic planning.

Juniata College signed the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment in February of 2007. This was a significant next step in our support of sustainability on campus and in our community, but it was not the first step. Juniata College has been supporting sustainability initiatives and has been working towards climate neutrality since the beginning of this century.

In 2000, Juniata College committed over \$2 million dollars to improve the infrastructure of our central heating plant. At that time we were able to achieve reductions in consumption that allowed us to bring on an 88,000 square foot science center in 2003 with the same central heating plant consumption we had in 1999. Since that time we have continued to invest in energy saving construction and refurbishment that has resulted in a 10% reduction in MMBTU’s since 2003 and a 2.2% reduction in electric consumption over the same time period. During that period of time we also added a black box theatre to our campus, renovated the original campus building to a LEED Gold standard, and have built a residence hall with a geothermal system, all while continuing to reduce our overall energy consumption.

The following is a brief summary of actions leading towards a more efficient and sustainable campus:

- 2000-2001 -Juniata replaces all of the main campus steam (heating) lines and boilers as part of a \$2.4 million infrastructure project, dramatically decreasing the consumption of oil and natural gas used to heat the campus.
- 2002 – Juniata dedicates the newly constructed von Liebig Center for Science. This 88,230 square foot building was brought online at no overall increase in heating costs thanks to the earlier infrastructure project.
- 2003- Juniata opens the LEED-certified Multi-purpose building at the Raystown (environmental) Field Station, possibly the first LEED-certified building on any Pennsylvania campus.
- 2004 -Juniata dramatically increases its on-campus recycling installing recycling center in each building, begins to capture stormwater for campus irrigation, switches to organic fertilizers, begins to purchase wind power.
- 2005 Juniata develops a novel behavioral assessment tool, now used by other institutions, to measure individual (student, faculty and staff) attitudes and behaviors regarding sustainability. That assessment tool is still used to measure, assess and plan sustainability projects for Juniata.
- 2005 – Juniata increases its wind energy purchases to 10.4% of total electricity consumed.
- 2006 – Juniata dedicates the Halbritter Center for the Performing Arts.

- 2007 – Juniata President Kepple is one of the original signatories to the American College and University President's Climate Commitment.
- 2007- Juniata subcontracts The Stone House Group of Bethlehem, PA to complete an Energy Stewardship Assessment of the Juniata campus (the basis of this proposal).
- 2008 – Juniata installs photovoltaic electric generation at the Raystown Field Station (a “PA Energy Harvest” award).
- 2008 - Juniata agrees to increase the amount of wind-generated energy purchases to 30% of the college's total energy usage and increasing its reliance on wind-generated electricity to 75% by 2012.
- 2009 – Juniata brings the second and more challenging LEED certified building online – the combined restoration and new construction of Founders Hall, Juniata original campus building, featuring geothermal heating/cooling.

As the new President of Juniata, I want to affirm our commitment to sustainability. Our recently completed strategic plan holds all aspects of sustainability as a core value; from environmental stewardship to community involvement to diversity and student access – at Juniata we hold all of these as essential to our success and mission critical. The submission of our STARs survey is a next step in my efforts to ensure we measure, assess and drive outcomes as part of our commitment to sustainability. I thank you for your consideration of our report.

Sincerely,



James A. Troha  
President