

# Colgate University

August 8, 2017

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

Dear Meghan Fay Zahniser:

On behalf of Colgate University, I am pleased to affirm and submit our Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Completing STARS was a campus-wide collaborative effort led by the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Council that included consultation and contributions from many faculty, students, and employees over an extended period of time. I am grateful to the many members of the Colgate community who once again demonstrated their ongoing commitment to sustainability on campus and more broadly in higher education. I commend the AASHE STARS team for compiling a data-driven assessment based on feedback and responsiveness from many voices across the higher education landscape. Throughout this process, we learned more about our institution and discovered new opportunities to advance our sustainability program and strengthen our university.

I am confident that the information provided in our STARS report, as provided to me, is accurate and Colgate University will once again be verified to receive a STARS Gold rating.

Highlights of our 2017 STARS report include:

- Nearly, one out of every ten classes offered at Colgate is a sustainability focused or a sustainability related course.
- Approximately 30 percent of Colgate's food purchases come from local, community-based, and/or third-party certified sustainable sources.
- The university has a long-term forest stewardship plan and over 1,000 acres of Colgate's forests have been third-party certified for long-term sustainable management. We developed an innovative program to manage our campus forest for carbon sequestration and ecological integrity.
- This year, the university formed a new Hamilton Climate Action Working Group in partnership with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNYRPD), Madison County Planning, and community officials from the Village and Town of Hamilton to mitigate the impacts of climate change while building community resilience to local weather extremes.

These are just a few of many initiatives that Colgate does to advance the concept and practice of sustainability at our institution and beyond.

We value AASHE STARS as the defining measure of sustainability in higher education and will continue to use STARS to track and monitor our progress towards a more sustainable campus.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Casey  
President