

March 1, 2024

STARS Program Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
P.O. Box 824583
Philadelphia, PA 19182-4583

Dear STARS Review Committee Members,

I am pleased to submit Catawba College's second Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). This report provides an accurate assessment of Catawba's historic commitment to sustainability and our ongoing efforts to create an innovative living-learning laboratory where sustainability and environmental stewardship are infused throughout our operations, curriculum, and culture.

In the year since our last submission, Catawba College has grown as a leader in sustainability among small colleges in the southeastern United States. Some accomplishments especially worthy of attention include:

- Becoming the first carbon neutral college in the southeast, seven years before our stated 2030 goal.
- Publishing the "A College of our Own" 2023-2028 strategic plan, which is connected by our commitments to sustainability, to the ideal of well-being, equity and belonging, and vocation.
- Reopening our newly renovated Center for the Environment, enhancing our campus connection to the natural world for students, faculty, staff, and community members.
- Leading the way on existing building decarbonization with our 38-well geothermal project for the Corriher-Linn-Black Library.
- Integrating student wellness with sustainability through the addition of four Spotlight Solar haven shelters across campus.
- Addressing sustainability within our athletics operations, completing Zero Waste Gameday operations across football, basketball, and baseball games.

The College has built significantly upon our initial submission, employing our initial report as a roadmap for improvement as we strive for an AASHE STARS Gold rating.

Sincerely,



David P. Nelson
President