



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

February 23, 2022

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

I write today with pleasure to affirm, on behalf of the College of the Atlantic community, the veracity of our Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report. By exploring our multi-varied sustainability efforts, many of them student-led, the STARS process provides an important overview of COA's work in these important areas, prompts us to regularly take stock of ourselves, and encourages us to continually try to improve.

The STARS survey provides a powerful tool to quantify our commitment to environmental and social sustainability—a commitment that is built into our DNA. Our academic program comprises many individually designed paths of study focusing on one major: human ecology, which is the study of humans and our interactions with our natural, built, and social environments—and sustainability is at the heart of human ecology. Generations of environmentally conscious students, working within our participatory governance system, have helped develop and implement a wide range of policies and practices for the greening of our operations, including those affecting energy, investment, and waste. By being directly involved in the operations of the college in this manner, these students have gained a deep understanding of the work and commitment necessary for achieving sustainable outcomes.

College of the Atlantic has celebrated several important milestones recently. In the fall of 2021, we opened our 50th academic year with a convocation ceremony in front of the new COA Davis Center for Human Ecology, a 30,000-square-foot, highly sustainable academic hub, which includes regionally sourced, mass timber construction, 350 solar panels, wood fiber insulation, and triple-insulated, bird-safe windows. It's the college's first academic building since the early 1990s and I could not be more proud of how it speaks to our core mission of environmental and social sustainability. The entire cost of construction was covered by philanthropic gifts, a testament to the unwavering confidence of our supporters.



We look forward to robust participation in STARS for many years to come.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darron Collins', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely'.

Darron Collins '92, Ph.D