



COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC  
Office of the President

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

March 28, 2018

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

It is with great pleasure that I write today to affirm, on behalf of the entire College of the Atlantic community, the veracity of our Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report. The submission is the result of countless hours of collaborative work, led by the COA Community Energy Center Program Manager, involving participation from students, staff, and faculty across campus, and, as such, is a wonderful snapshot of our multi-varied sustainability efforts.

The STARS survey provides a powerful way 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 have become involved with our participatory governance system to help 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.

At COA, nearly 40% of classes are focused on, or include aspects of, sustainability; our waste diversion rate is 70%; 100% of institution-purchased janitorial paper products are FSC or GreenSeal certified; and our investments are divested from fossil fuels. These are just a few of the milestones we've reached – there are always many more to go.

We have been using the STARS tool for institutional benchmarking for many years (as part of the Sierra and Princeton Review green rankings), but this is our first year submitting the full survey. We look forward to increasingly robust participation in STARS in future years!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darron A Collins '92".

Darron Collins '92, Ph.D