



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 1, 2019

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, 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 45% 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 Green Seal 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) and in 2018 began submitting the full survey. We look forward to robust participation in STARS for many years to come.

Sincerely,

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

Darron Collins '92, Ph.D