



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 19, 2024

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Washington St., Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to submit to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education our third Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report for Connecticut College.

Sustainability is a topic woven into the community and actions at Connecticut College, as captured in the Gold Rating for the College's 2021 Stars report, which inspired additional innovation and expansion of sustainability efforts on campus. In Fall of 2021, the Office of Sustainability was asked to present on sustainable progress and goals to the full Connecticut College Board of Trustees. On Earth Day 2022, the College announced a carbon neutrality pledge with a target date of 2030, which was followed with new infrastructure investments in energy saving technologies. In Spring of 2023, the College welcomed Elizabeth Rush, a Pulitzer Prize finalist for her book *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*, to campus for the sixth annual President's Distinguished Lecturer for a talk, *Rising Together*, which highlighted the environmental justice challenges associated with climate-driven sea-level rise. In Fall of 2023, the College hosted author Mona Hanna-Attisha as part of the One Book One Region series to discuss the environmental justice problems surrounding the Flint water crisis detailed in her book *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*. These various activities and events have effectively engaged the entire campus and the surrounding community into thinking and acting on topics of sustainability.

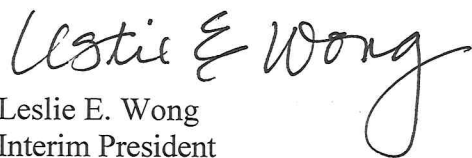
In our academic program, we recently created a new sustainability course tracking system within our searchable course database to highlight some of the over 350 courses focused on sustainability across 35 academic departments and programs. The College continues to expand the use of our campus as a living lab in both depth and breadth. One highlight of the living laboratory efforts involves a pair of courses that provide students an opportunity to design and install a solar array on campus. Our "career-informed learning" courses through the Office of Sustainability (SUS293 and SUS 393) pairs students with alumni mentors to learn project management skills and develop new sustainability projects that can be implemented on campus. Our "Social Difference and Power" course requirement,

highlighting courses that promote anti-racism and educate students about power, privilege and social justice, is now a standard requirement for all graduating students. The College curriculum continues to be a place of deep learning on themes of sustainability.

The College continues to highlight important sustainability topics through adoption of an annual sustainability campaigns. The last three campaign themes—"Pass on Plastic," "Climate Change/Culture Change" and "Quality Water"—promote campus-wide collaborate to engage many more students, faculty and staff. Demonstrable outcomes of our efforts include a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to our 2014 baseline, an estimated reduction of over 20 tons of waste annual in switching from single-use to reusable takeout dinning containers, and an almost complete elimination of the purchase of single-use plastic bottle containers by the college. The College has a long tradition of environmentalism with one of the oldest environmental studies majors on campus, and the campus continues to evolve and innovate to further our role as a model for sustainable actions.

As before, we are grateful for this evaluation process, which has provided the opportunity to reflect on our achievements and to plan for a more sustainable future. I can confirm with enthusiasm that this report accurately and proudly represents our ongoing commitment to sustainability at Connecticut College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie E. Wong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'L' and 'W'.

Leslie E. Wong
Interim President