



ITHACA COLLEGE

Office of the President

October 18, 2022

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Members of the AASHE STARS Review Committee:

It is my pleasure to submit Ithaca College's (IC) 2022 Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. Despite the complexities that the pandemic has presented to campus sustainability outreach and operations we are proud of how the IC community has come together to continue to advance this important work in new and creative ways. The STARS reporting process helps IC to recognize our sustainability efforts, but more importantly it clarifies those areas where we can improve.

Since our 2019 STARS report, IC faced a range of obstacles related to the COVID pandemic though has maintained our commitment to our key sustainability investments. As an example, the Environmental Protection Agency's *Green Power Partnership* recently recognized IC for 5 years of purchasing 100% clean, green electricity for campus operations. This energy includes a portion of electricity drawn from our 2MW off-site solar farm in Geneva, NY, added power from a community solar from nearby Lansing, NY and the balance of electric needs acquired through Green-e certified wind energy. As identified in our annual greenhouse gas emissions report, these energy investments have assisted IC in reaching our 50 percent emissions reduction goal six years early. In addition to our continued support for green energy purchases, IC has also learned quite a bit in the last several years about diversifying campus sustainability outreach including the use of remote video platforms.

As we frame our path forward, we are guided by our updated STARS report, but also by our campus strategic plan, [Ithaca Forever](#). This plan centers the student experience and affirms our priority to be a private college that serves the public good. *Ithaca Forever* emphasizes our responsibility and vision for building thriving communities in the face of the changing climate. We note sustainability as one of our plan's core values and are committed to adopting added institutional strategies that offer ecological and resource-based solutions to the Ithaca community.

Thank you again for reviewing our report and for continuing to sponsor this transparent, objective, and comprehensive assessment tool.

Sincerely,

La Jerne Terry Cornish, Ph.D.
President