



# ITHACA COLLEGE

Office of the President

November 25, 2019

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 affirm that the responses submitted for our FY 2019 Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report are accurate and complete. We methodically compiled the data and factual narrative with the support of many engaged faculty, students, and staff. We are proud of our diligent work as a campus community and of our ongoing institutional commitment to sustainability. We believe our efforts to be worthy of a Gold rating.

Since our 2016 report, the college has made substantial organizational enhancements to more fully align our mission, vision, and values with the needs of our students and the greater Ithaca community. Additionally, our Office of Energy Management and Sustainability (OEMS) is now fully staffed with two professionals, a dozen engaged student Eco Reps, and two OEMS interns who focus on identifying and enhancing connections and awareness around sustainability. Our 2MW solar farm in Geneva, NY and our Green-e certified electricity supply has helped us fully offset our Scope 2 emissions since February 2018. We are also working to complete our annual Second Nature greenhouse gas emissions report and are on target to reach our 50 percent reduction goal six years early.

We have made positive improvements the past few years, and I am excited about what lies ahead. Beginning this year, we are implementing a new five-year strategic plan, a framework created by our college community that centers the student experience and affirms our priority to be a private college that serves the public good. In our plan, we emphasize our responsibility and our vision to build thriving communities, and clearly identify climate change and its ramifications as the most challenging problems our world faces. Our plan also identifies five core values of our institution: academic excellence, sustainability, equity, innovation, and respect and accountability. We strive to be a model for our peers, our communities, and for higher education as a whole.

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

Sincerely,

Shirley M. Collado, Ph.D.