

Michael S. Roth
President
229 High Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06459-0290
860 685 3500 Fax: 860 685 3501
mroth@wesleyan.edu



December 1, 2016

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

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

Recognizing the importance of sustainability and commitments we set forth in the Climate Leadership Carbon Commitment and wanting to understand further our true sustainability impact, Wesleyan joined AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Program in 2013 and has just completed its second STARS submission.

Since 2008, our carbon emissions have dropped nearly 10 percent through the work of the Sustainability Office, Sustainability Advisory Group (SAGES), Physical Plant, and many other campus departments. Our efforts, large and small, have ranged from replacement of incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, use of virtual servers, and installation of nearly 1 MW of solar arrays to the construction of our natural gas cogeneration plant and LEED building renovations. Much of our campus fleet of vehicles now uses electric, hybrid, or other energy-efficient sources of fuel. Students have led many campaigns and projects, including energy conservation campaigns, a pilot project that led to the removal of paper towels from all dorms, residential composting programs, and a local food co-op that serves over 500 people each semester. Jennifer Kleindienst, Wesleyan's Sustainability Director, furthers these efforts and facilitates connections between students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

Through our second STARS evaluation, we have been able to monitor our progress toward sustainability more effectively and chart our next steps. Many of the recommendations garnered from our STARS submission informed our first Sustainability Action Plan, which was released in Spring 2016.

I have reviewed our STARS submission, led by Sustainability Director Jennifer Kleindienst, and verify that the report accurately reflects Wesleyan's efforts to create a sustainable campus.

Michael S. Roth