

May 12, 2016

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
213 ½ North Limestone  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507  
USA

Dear Committee Members,

**RE: Niagara College Canada STARS Submission**

It is my great pleasure as President of Niagara College, to present our STARS Submission. Since 2009, Niagara College has worked to develop a multi-campus sustainability program, including strategic directions, action plans, and a sustainability department to advance broad sustainability across the College's three campuses. Niagara College is committed to driving a horizontally and vertically-integrated culture of sustainability that goes beyond operations at the College to create living laboratories for student, employee and community learning. As educators we continue to not only provide comprehensive formal environmental programs, but we continue to grow the informal learning opportunities we provide students in all academic programs to assist in developing hands-on skill building opportunities in the context of environment and sustainability and how it relates to their future careers. As a result, our graduates continue to make positive contributions in all areas of this rapidly growing sector.

Niagara College first made environmental sustainability a key strategic priority in 2009, forming the Sustainability Committee in 2011, and then the Office of Sustainability in January 2015. While the accomplishment list is long, some of the notable improvements made include:

- Reduced overall absolute electricity consumption by almost two million kilowatt hours since 2013, as well as over four million kilowatt hours saved per year since 2013 as a result of energy conservation projects
- Awarded the *Greatest Greenhouse Gas Reduction* award from our community partner, Niagara Sustainability Initiative.
- Since 2009, increase in waste diversion rate of over 32%

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- Established a formal partnership with General Motor's St. Catharines facility, Earth Force, and the District School Board of Niagara to facilitate the GM Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) program; and
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada awarded Niagara College funding from the Applied Research Tools and Instruments Grant to purchase and install two independent aquaponics systems

The completion of the second STARS submission demonstrates the value of the system as we continue to use it as benchmarking framework not only to compare against other institutions, but to monitor the process made as an institution against ourselves. The following submission has been completed with accurate information to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

Dan Patterson, Ph.D.  
President