



August 12, 2019

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

Dear STARS Committee,

It is with great pride to present Southern New Hampshire University's first submission to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System.

As the nation's largest university with more than 130,000 learners worldwide, SNHU is committed to improving sustainability on campus and beyond. With a global footprint, our hope is to lead by example and influence positive change.

Over the years, SNHU has made great strides in its sustainability initiatives. Leading these efforts, to their great credit, are our students. Many of our learners intertwine sustainability into their projects and have completed some of our 137 courses focused around sustainability. Whether it is piloting a residence hall composting program, working at the University's on-campus pollinator garden, or completing an internship with an environmental agency, our students are making a difference at SNHU and in communities around the world.

The SNHU community, including staff and faculty, also participate in SNHU's annual Global Days of Service, a month-long community service event. In 2019 alone, more than 1,500 volunteers logged a record-breaking 7,800 hours of service. From Maine to Rwanda, the SNHU community cleaned up public beaches, tended to community gardens, and hosted City Nature Challenges nationwide.

In 2018, the University also worked with GreenerU to measure SNHU's greenhouse gas emissions, and recently installed a 130-panel solar carport on top of the new parking garage in the Millyard. In addition, the University has been purchasing wind power through a long-term hedge on natural gas prices and conserves a 25-acre arboretum on campus for experiential learning at SNHU and in within the Manchester community.

The aforementioned investments and initiatives have created a strong foundation for sustainability at SNHU, but there is still more work to be done. We are diligently working on a strategic plan for sustainability for the University, which is on track for completion by early 2020.

This STARS submission is the first of many for Southern New Hampshire University. We hope to continue sharing our progress on sustainability with AASHE for years to come, and strive to become a sustainability leader in higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul LeBlanc", written over a thin horizontal line.

Paul LeBlanc
University President and CEO
Southern New Hampshire University