

December 16, 2015

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 1/2 North Limestone
Lexington, KY, 40507, USA

Dear Steering Committee Members,

I am pleased to present Mohawk College's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submission to the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). We believe that this submission will enhance the commitment to sustainability made by our Senior Leadership Team and Executive Group.

Sustainability is identified as a central part of the College's strategic plan, and we strive to incorporate the principles and practices of sustainability into all aspects of our decision-making and operations.

Mohawk was one of the first colleges in Ontario to introduce a comprehensive environmental management plan that sets bold carbon reduction targets by addressing key areas of activity including transportation, waste management, and facility operations.

The Mohawk College Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has led to a 24% reduction in baseline carbon emissions from 2007 to 2012. In 2014, the Mohawk College Board of Governors approved EMP 2.0, an updated plan with a renewed carbon reduction target and a focus on creating opportunities for the sustainable leaders of tomorrow through applied sustainability on campus.

Communication and reporting is a main pillar of this plan, which calls for the ongoing tracking of all initiatives, including progress and achievements updates related to the EMP 2.0. This includes external reporting which is aligned with other post-secondary institutions. Adopting STARS as a key metric helps us analyze our sustainability efforts through a new lens.

The STARS process has helped to identify strengths in our sustainability performance, such as leadership and governance, and planning and development. More importantly, the submission has also allowed us to identify areas where we can continue to improve.

Our students are the driving force behind our mission to be a socially, financially and environmentally resilient institution. This submission will guide an ongoing dialogue with more than 17,000 full and part time students while equipping them with the skills and knowledge to carry the principles of sustainability into their personal lives and future endeavors.



We are proud to have met the criteria for a Silver level rating and look forward to building on our previous accomplishments in sustainability and responding to the evolving needs of our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,



Ron J. McKerlie
President, Mohawk College