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Office of the President

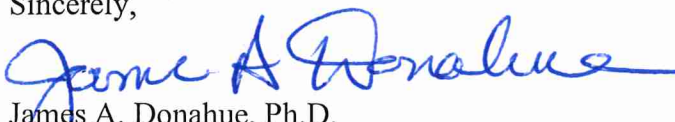
February 4, 2020

To the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education,

Sustainability at Saint Mary's is making marked progress in meeting the growing needs of the students, staff, and faculty who are interested in engaging in sustainability initiatives. In collaboration with campus partners, such as Facilities Services and our Food Service provider, new sustainability-oriented professional development opportunities, as well as operational measures, have been developed and implemented, including several new sustainability internships for students, a reusable to-go container for use in Oliver (Dining) Hall, more uniform three-stream waste receptacles, a broad-sweeping energy efficiency plan, and 11 reliable charging stations for our Electric Vehicle car owners. In Spring 2019, members of our Sustainability Committee received an Academic Growth and Innovation Fund Award from the Provost to design a Graduate Certificate in Sustainability. Some of those same faculty members also launched what is now an annual Sustainability Symposium that showcases student and faculty research and course work related to sustainability. Our ½ acre, on-campus garden continues to flourish as a living laboratory; the Sustainability Living Learning Community in South Claeys has been revived with an impressive 25 members; and our Staff Ambassadors & Green Space programs are gaining momentum and increased membership every year. This year, the Committee will tackle two important tasks—developing and implementing the 2020 Climate Action Plan and resubmitting data to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Ranking System (STARS).

In 2013, when I joined Saint Mary's as the 29th president, I was pleased to endorse the Saint Francis Pledge, an initiative of the Catholic Climate Covenant. It is a promise and a commitment by Catholic institutions to live our faith by protecting God's creation and advocating on behalf of people who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. Saint Mary's has made significant progress in its commitment to the environment and lowering our carbon footprint, and as you will see in this STARS report, we are continuing to find innovative ways to take that commitment even further.

Sincerely,


James A. Donahue, Ph.D.
President