

Saint Mary's College of California  
1928 St. Mary's Road  
PMB 3005  
Moraga, CA 94575  
tel. 925.631.4203 fax 925.376.2150  
www.stmarys-ca.edu



Office of the President

January 23, 2023

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

Since our last Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report in February 2020, Saint Mary's College has celebrated several sustainability milestones: we launched our inaugural Climate Action Plan, announced our improved STARS rating, signed the President's Climate Commitment, and welcomed a more sustainable food service provider. However, we did so against the backdrop of wrenching daily news and with great humility knowing there is much work that needs to be done.

As one of the early signatories of Saint Francis' Pledge, an initiative of the Catholic Climate Covenant, and responding to our Lasallian Catholic Mission to live in and act as a community, Saint Mary's has long been committed to the responsibility of caring for our common home. In spring of 2020, the College took that commitment a step further in two distinct ways: creating the institution's first Climate Action Plan and joining Second Nature's Climate Leadership Network. This year, I was pleased to endorse and financially support the Climate Leadership membership to continue this important work. Taken together, these commitments demonstrate the dedication and hard work of the Sustainability Committee, the Office of Sustainability, and sustainability champions across campus to make climate action a priority.

The circumstances of the COVID pandemic forced the Sustainability Committee and the Office of Sustainability to shift priorities, enabling the College to make progress on emissions reduction while adapting to campus closures, online teaching, and social distancing. Throughout the past three years, Saint Mary's has leveraged several unique programs to broaden and deepen energy efficiency initiatives, including our Strategic Energy Management (SEM) program, as described in the *EN-9* and *OP-5* STARS credits. The College also saw noticeable sustainability changes in our food and dining. In fall 2022, we welcomed The Good Eating Company as our new food service provider with a team that quickly launched exciting changes in the culinary spaces with a focus on sustainable practices, as described in *OP-7* and *OP-8*. In addition, many of our dedicated faculty have devoted their research and teaching to sustainability topics benefitting our students and their scholarly fields, as seen in *AC-1* and *AC-9*.

Saint Mary's College 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Plumb".

Richard Plumb, PhD  
President