



March 2020

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

Dear STARS Administrators:

Paul Smith's College is pleased to submit our Fiscal Year 2018/2019 data for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System. This is our second year submitting a STARS report. This report was compiled by the Center for Sustainability under the leadership of our Sustainability Coordinator, Katharine Glenn. We are pleased to highlight our many sustainability achievements over the past year, especially in the areas of community service, greenhouse gas reductions, community partnerships, while also serving as a global leader in climate change education and resiliency.

We continue to strive to not only build a more sustainable and resilient campus, but to be a model community for our region and the world. Our composting program was built in partnership with a local farm, our program to divert both pre and post-consumer food waste from our dining hall and culinary labs has been a tremendous success. In addition to our waste reduction efforts, we have partnered with two area organizations Norther Power and Light and The Northern Forest Center to promote regional renewable energy resources --Small Scale hydroelectrically and locally sustainably harvested wood heat.

We not only purchase a portion of our electricity and heat from local carbon neutral sources, but we engaged in an expansive collaborative outreach and media campaign to promote these alternative resources in our region. We are proud to report a significant reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions profile due to heating our three main academic buildings primary with wood heat. In addition to our campus efforts, we continue to engage on this topic on an international scale, through our newly established Global Center for Rural Communities and the Climate-it-4-Climate programs.

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As President of Paul Smith's College, I have both a personal and professional interest in addressing issues dealing with the future of our planet and its inhabitants. Through the great work of the faculty and students, our college is committed to addressing climate change through education and research. One prime example of this is Paul Smith's Climb-it-4-Climate initiative, led by faculty member Bethany Garretson. This initiative is designed to support student scholarships for students involved in environmental issues and promote awareness of climate change issues through fundraising challenges supporting community members hiking some of the world's highest peaks. At 19,341 feet, Mt. Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa. Due to its rapidly shrinking ice fields, it has been recognized as a very visible indicator of global climate change. I was personally proud to support the Climb-it-4-Climate initiative by summiting Kilimanjaro on January 1, 2019 in support of climate change education and awareness. Though this amazing experience I recognized that we each must join a unified, global community to raise awareness and create solutions. I'm proud that Paul Smith's community is playing a leadership role in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges.

Sincerely,

Cathy S. Dove

Cc: Katharine Glenn, Sustainability Coordinator
Janet Waldron, Vice President Business and Finance