



## Office of the President

December 11, 2019

The Association for the Advancement  
of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

**Subject:** The American College of Greece: 2019 STARS Submission

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of The American College of Greece, I am pleased to submit our third Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating report.

As a leading educational institution, the American College of Greece recognizes the environmental, economic, and social benefits of resource efficiency and commits to educate, inspire and empower its students -the leaders of tomorrow- as well as its faculty, staff, alumni, business partners and guests to develop a sustainability culture and to collaborate with the broader local community in engaging in and promoting sustainability best practices.

ACG's commitment to sustainable development arises from its tradition of concerned citizenship and moral duty depicted in its founding motto: "Non ministrari sed ministrare" ("to serve not to be served") and from a desire to lead by example. ACG is gradually developing an ever growing number of sustainability best practices addressing issues from carbon footprint, to energy efficiency and social impact, to sustainability focus in academic programs and research, as well as further enhancement of transparency, diversity and accountability.

The report reflects a collective two- year effort coordinated by the Office of Public Affairs and supported by all ACG departments that are currently engaged in sustainability-related activities and practices –including all academic departments, the Office of Operations, Technical Services and the ACG Center of Excellence for Sustainability.

Below you will find some of the milestones of the period between the second and third reports, (December 2017 - December 2019). During this time ACG has:

- Launched the #ACGGoesPlasticFree Campaign, an on-going effort to raise awareness about single-use plastic pollution and guide ACG members towards reduction and gradual elimination of single-use plastic items.



- Established new, global collaborations, such as the one with the UN Global Compact and the CSR Hellas, as well as, community-level collaborations with local NGOs, such as 'Boroume' and 'HOPEgenesis'.
- As a result of our collaborations and synergies with UN Sustainable SDSN and CSR Hellas, the following conferences were organized: (a) The first "Symposium on Climate Change: Threats, Challenges, Solutions for Greece" at ACG, and (b) the first "Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Summer School" at ACG, a five-day workshop.
- We organized a series of Cultural Diversity Workshops for faculty and employees, aiming at: (a) Building a sense of community and trust, (b) Offering practical skills to challenge racism, sexism, and heterosexism and effectively engage in challenging conversations that arise, and (c) Establishing group agreements for safe & honest dialogue.
- In our efforts to further educate and engage our ACG members, we have established the following: (a) The "ACG Sustainability Leaders", a dedicated volunteer student organization that engages with sustainability-related initiatives, (b) the "Sustainable Events Guidelines", and (c) the "Sustainability@Commencement" initiative, where graduating students sign the 'ACG Graduation Sustainability Pledge' and wear a green ribbon during the ceremony.
- Reiterating our commitment to staying tobacco-free, we launched a follow-up 'Smoke-free Campus Campaign' while providing the members of our community free consultation services.

Going forward, we remain equally inspired and committed to further enhancing sustainable development best practices and culture among all our constituents.

Sincerely,

David G. Horner, PhD  
President  
The American College of Greece