



AMHERST COLLEGE

Jim Brassord, Chief of Campus Operations

March 1, 2019

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Amherst College STARS report. This report has been assembled and reviewed by staff from the Amherst Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES), and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to promoting sustainable practices across all levels of the institution.

The OES has worked hard since its inception in 2014 to develop an array of innovations and achievements that enhance the culture of sustainability at Amherst and substantively decrease the environmental impact of the college's operations. In peak growing season, the Book and Plow campus farm provides 2.5-3.5 percent of total sales to the dining program, a significant amount compared to similar programs at peer institutions. We were pleased this year to introduce the Climate Action Trek, an interterm program that brought a group of students up to Boston to speak with professionals in a number of relevant fields. This year also marked the launch of the college's first sustainability-focused internship program, which allows interns to work directly with the OES on a range of initiatives. Amherst has partnered with Bowdoin, Hampshire, Smith, and Williams on the New England College renewable Partnership, a collaboration with a leading clean energy company which will construct a utility-scale solar power facility that annually will create enough electricity to power about 5,000 New England homes. Finally, Amherst very recently announced adoption of a plan to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 through energy system transformation away from natural gas combined heat and power towards ground source heat pump powered by renewable electricity.

As Amherst College continues to develop initiatives across the institution, we will use the framework provided by the STARS reporting process to monitor progress towards our sustainability and climate change mitigation outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Brassord".

Jim Brassord
Chief of Campus Operations
Amherst College