

February 14, 2022

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

To Whom It May Concern:

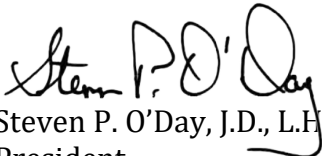
The accompanying submission of information to the STARS reporting system regarding sustainability programs and activities at Austin College is correct to the best of our knowledge. It was prepared by the Coordinator of the Center for Environmental Studies, Rebecca Jones, under the direction of the Director of our Center for Environmental Studies, Dr. Peter Schulze, Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies. Several other College officials assisted with the accumulation of necessary data.

President Emeritus Oscar Page signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (now Second Nature's Carbon Commitment) in 2008. Since then, we have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 60 percent. In 2016, we completed a switch to fully wind-generated electricity through the purchase of renewable energy credits. Looking forward, our 2021 Climate Action Plan includes strategic fundraising for the purchase of carbon offsets to help the college reach carbon neutrality by 2035.

Students have been central to all of our sustainability efforts. They have assisted with greenhouse gas inventories, managed our annual electricity saving competition (AC Unplugged) and green service day (GreenServe), and directed project planning and implementation for our Student Sustainability Fund. Over the years, Austin College has adopted some 30 student-initiated greening proposals. Students have also led more than 10,000 schoolchildren on field trips to our Sneed Prairie Restoration, a project that received the 2020 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Environmental Excellence Award in the Education category.

Thank you for reviewing this information.

Sincerely,


Steven P. O'Day, J.D., L.H.D.
President