

Bates

Office of the President

October 13, 2023

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of
Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

I am pleased to share with you the Bates College AASHE STARS report.

Bates was an early signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, and in March of 2010, our Committee for Environmental Responsibility, sustainability office, and leadership team crafted an ambitious Climate Action Plan. The overall objective was simple: to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020. This was an ambitious goal, and one toward which our students, faculty, and staff worked diligently. In 2019, one year ahead of schedule, Bates achieved carbon neutrality. We did so by increasing our use of renewable energy, investing in efficiency projects, and increasing exposure of our community to a culture of sustainability.

Of course, the urgency of 2010 has only intensified with the passage of time. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has given the world just one short decade to reduce its emissions by half and slow the already apparent effects of global warming. We feel the impact of these global concerns at Bates, and are committed to continuing to lead in sustainability and environmental stewardship in hopes of moving the world toward a more sustainable future.

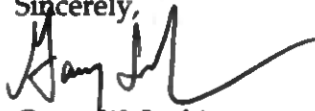
In 2022, the Bates Board of Trustees approved a 2030 Sustainability Roadmap, built from the aspirations and priorities of students, faculty, and staff across our college community. The Sustainability Roadmap acknowledges that each member of our community has a role to play in advancing our goals, and establishes another set of ambitious goals for the institution during this critical time in history. Only through thoughtfully integrating sustainability into our operations, academics, culture, and governance can we truly address the global challenges we all face. In keeping with our mission, it is also critical that we educate our students with a clear understanding of the climate crisis that we face, and equip them with the skills to be problem-solvers and leaders in this area.

Since our founding in 1855, Bates has been dedicated, in the words of our mission statement, to instilling in students “a commitment to responsible stewardship of the wider world.” We

believe that the next logical goal is to make Bates an environmentally net positive force in the world - in a phrase, "Climate Positive".

Thank you, AASHE, for providing this opportunity and resource for institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry W. Jenkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Garry W. Jenkins
President

GWJ:cbs