

Bates

Office of the President

May 27, 2020

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 submit Bates College's accurate, verified STARS assessment and provide a brief history of Bates and some context for our approach to sustainability.

Bates College was built by people who put their ideals into action and in whose hands the liberal arts served as a dynamic force for the public good. With their progressive call, in 1855, to admit African Americans and to educate men and women together, the founders of Bates affirmed that all human potential deserves to be developed. This radical, founding moment manifested a durable instinct for the fellowship of learning that continues to guide our commitment to intensive and unfettered humanistic inquiry.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Bates was at the vanguard of environmental and social activism, with work at the college influencing progress at the national level, such as the Clean Water Act and civil rights reforms. To this day, the aim of the college is to prepare students for lives of purpose, meaning, and social contribution.

Sustainability is a natural priority of our campus culture, and plays an important role here at Bates. We see civic engagement and environmental stewardship as integral and intertwined components for creating and sustaining a just world.

Bates was one of the early signatories of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), and in 2017, I joined over 1,000 other US leaders in signing the We Are Still In pledge to affirm our commitment to action on climate change and to doing our part to fulfill the promise of the Paris Agreement. And I am very proud to report that in 2019, Bates achieved its goal of carbon neutrality one year earlier than anticipated. We were able to accomplish this through:

- **Investing in energy efficiency.** Substantial resources have been allocated to making our campus's built infrastructure more environmentally benign and energetically lean.
- **Switching to renewable energy.** We have converted our central steam plant to

burn a new, wood-based liquid fuel that is renewable and has a carbon emissions profile substantially lower than contemporary fossil fuels.

- **Developing a culture of integrated sustainability.** Open and inclusive sustainability is the driving force behind our cross-departmental sustainability initiatives, which include: roughly half of our courses involving a sustainability component; an 83% waste diversion rate in our dining services; eliminating disposables from dining; the student-run organic garden; a campus bike share program; a student Green Grant program; and a student-run sustainability website.

Bates will continue to lead by example and offer students working models of new ways to interact with their world. We will continue to work on creating a campus that is a living laboratory of sustainable solutions—examples that are not just theoretical, but solutions that can be touched, observed, molded, and transferred out into the world—and preparing students to shape the future.

Thank you for your critical support of sustainability in higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Clayton Spencer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

A. Clayton Spencer
President