



February 28, 2018

Lacey Raak, Director of Sustainability
California State University Monterey Bay
lraak@csumb.edu

LIVING COMMUNITY CHALLENGE - INNOVATION

Dear Lacey,

I am writing to highlight the innovative aspects of the International Living Future Institute's Living Community Challenge program and specifically highlight the **demonstrated sustainability leadership by California State University Monterey Bay** in ways that are not otherwise captured by AASHE's STARS framework.

The Living Community Challenge™ is the built environment's most advanced performance standard. It calls for the creation of campuses to operate cleanly, beautifully and efficiently as nature's architecture. These are campuses that generate all of their own energy with renewable resources, capture and treat all water onsite, are free of toxins, operate efficiently with maximum beauty and address equity on campus. The Living Community Challenge is a certification program for campuses and communities to create communities that are vibrant, connected, and regenerative. Certification is based on a twelve-month performance period of actual performance, rather than modeled or anticipated outcomes. It uses seven performance areas (or Petals): Place, Water, Energy, Health + Happiness, Materials, Equity, and Beauty.

CSUMB has demonstrated leadership in becoming the first higher education campus to commit to the Living Community Challenge. The Living Community Challenge is complementary to, and goes beyond, important implementation targets outlined in CSUMB's Climate Action Plan, Second Nature Climate Commitment, and AASHE STARS framework. For example, the Living Community Challenge includes the following regenerative requirements:

- Agriculture provided on campus
- Campus mobility infrastructure predominantly for humans and human-powered mobility, rather than cars
- Biophilic Environment: provisions of sufficient and frequent human-nature interactions to connect the campus (students, staff, faculty, visitors) with nature directly
- Water Balance: Harvest, use, and treat (without the use of chemicals) all the water that the campus requires
- Net Positive: 105% of the campus's energy needs supplied by campus-generated renewable energy, without combustion
- Removal of worst-in-class chemicals from materials; accounting for embodied carbon of material choices; and not only divert materials from the waste stream, but also remove and salvage materials that would otherwise be destined for the landfill

The serious problems of climate change, ecological system health, biodiversity loss, accumulated toxins in the environment, food, air, and water, as well as social inequities, and depletion of cultural heritage demands bold action. California State University Monterey Bay has taken action through the Living Community Challenge. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicia Daniels Uhlig', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alicia Daniels Uhlig, NCARB, LFA, LEED Fellow
Living Community Challenge + Policy Director