

October 25, 2012

Paul Rowland, Executive Director
The Association for the Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite B500
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Rowland:

I am pleased to submit a second Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) inventory for the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus. We appreciate the opportunity to continue our support of and participation in STARS – AASHE’s peer-reviewed, transparent framework for measuring and communicating progress toward becoming a more sustainable institution. As one of the largest land-grant institutions in the country we hope our continued participation helps establish STARS as a recognized leader of sustainability measurement for higher education.

As a university we are already incorporating sustainability into teaching, research, outreach, and the operations that support them, as set forth by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents Policy: Sustainability and Energy Efficiency adopted in 2004. Goals and measures were developed to implement our policy using a systemwide approach. This AASHE STARS submission along with separate submissions by our Duluth and Morris campuses help us measure several of our current sustainability initiatives on the Twin Cities campus and across the University system.

I charged the Twin Cities Sustainability Committee with completing an initial inventory in 2011, utilizing their diverse knowledge to collect and consolidate data for the STARS submission. This second inventory data was collected and compiled by University sustainability staff that utilized and built upon the Committee’s original work. The inventory is a repository of information reflecting the breadth and depth of the campus’ work to advance sustainability, and the leadership role the University has played in this arena. Our sustainability related research,

Paul Rowland
October 25, 2012
Page 2

curriculum, engagement, and operational activities have been a source of excellence for the institution and we will continue to demonstrate sustainability leadership.

We are honored to be a STARS participant, among other leading institutions conducting the inventory. Thank you to those at AASHE who helped move this effort forward and provide a framework in which to view campus sustainability.

Sincerely,



Eric W. Kaler
President

EWK:LU:jk