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July 18, 2014

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver CO 80202

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I'm writing you to express my full support of the issuance of a Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS) Innovation Credit to Emory University for their development and implementation of the Green Lab Pilot Program. The Green Lab Pilot Program meets the STARS definition of a program deserving an Innovation Credit because the program is a "new, extraordinary, unique, and ground-breaking" approach to sustainability in research laboratories.

The Green Lab Pilot Program was developed in the spirit of a grass-roots sustainability effort. The elements and parameters were created by stakeholders across campus (including members of the research community, the Office of Sustainability Initiatives, the Environmental Health and Safety Office, Campus Services, and the Procurement Office). The program involves a dual-phase checklist, guidance document and incentives fund. The checklist allows labs to complete an initial and a final assessment on their performance in terms of sustainable lab practices. The checklist is completely voluntary and based on a self-reporting method. Also, the checklist is accompanied by a guidance document that provides the "why" and the "how" for implementing each program element. The incentives fund allows researchers to seek and obtain funding for creative and inventive solutions for lab sustainability. The Green Lab Pilot Program also uses innovative tools to promote communication and collaboration between participating labs (i.e., the Green Lab Blackboard Site, kick-off and check-in luncheons and meetings, and partnering labs with members of the Green Lab Task Force).

The program is successful in assessing the current sustainability programs in research labs on campus and providing guidance and support to improve those efforts through strategic partnerships. I have no doubt that this program will continue to grow and strengthen Emory's laboratory sustainability efforts for many years to come. It is an outstanding accomplishment and a model program for other institutions to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meagan P. Fitzpatrick".

Meagan P. Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Health and Biosafety Manager