

# Duke University

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To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to affirm that Emory's development of academic unit-specific climate action plans that integrate with their overall university CAP meets the criteria of an Innovation credit for the AASHE STARS assessment. As the Sustainability Director at Duke University, I have spearheaded the development and implementation of Duke's Climate Action Plan and the desire to integrate this plan across the university. Like most ACUPCC schools, we have yet to embark on the ambitious effort that Emory has to fully incorporate specific academic unit plans into our broader CAP.

Much of the difficulty of implementing and achieving campus Climate Action Plans comes from the challenge of influencing individual behaviors across decentralized institutions. To address this, Emory has taken the innovative approach of allowing their academic units to customize their CAPs to the specific issues and culture of their part of the university. Although this took significantly more time, coordination and effort than just creating a broad campus CAP, I believe this initial investment will pay dividends towards reaching their GHG reduction goals.

Institutions of higher education such as Duke are already reaching out to Emory to learn from this initiative and develop ways to emulate their groundbreaking efforts on our campuses.

Sincerely,

*Tavey Capps*

Sustainability Director  
Sustainable Duke  
Office of the Executive Vice President  
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