

## AASHE Innovation Credit Letter of Support

February 17, 2014

I am honored to write this letter on behalf of Arizona State University (ASU) and Waste Management (WM) in support for the AASHE STARS Innovation credit. For the past year I have worked with ASU as the Zero Waste Project Manager and for Waste Management as a Sustainability Consultant. In this capacity I have assisted ASU develop and implement one of the most comprehensive zero waste programs at any institution of higher education.

As part of ASU's larger sustainability mission, the Zero Waste (ZW) Program was developed and implemented with the goal of eliminating over 90 percent of materials sent to landfill. This year the University implemented its comprehensive ZW Program across all five campus locations and has made significant progress towards this goal.

As part of the ZW Program, the *Roadmap to Zero Solid Waste* was finalized and published; a comprehensive data tracking tool was developed to document all waste streams leaving campus locations; diversion rates increased over 15%; over \$800,000 of funding was raised to implement zero waste projects; a Zero Waste Program Manager was hired with full support staff; and foundational principles of the Zero Waste program have been developed into official University Policy.

After opening discussions with numerous institutions of higher education across the country and presenting at a variety of sustainability conferences, it has become clear that the work developed and implemented by ASU's ZW Program is setting the standard and raising the bar for zero waste in higher education. The innovation and magnitude of progress made by ASU has laid the foundation for future partnerships and expansion of best practices across the industry. This is not just a "recycling and composting" program, but rather reaches across all material waste streams including everything from electronics to toiletries, from athletic shoes to landscaping trim, and from used clothing to outdated equipment. Every material that leaves Arizona State University has a destination, and with the help of the ZW Program that destination will not include a landfill.

Sincerely,



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