



February 24, 2014

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

RE: Arizona State University STARS submission

To Whom It May Concern:

As President of Arizona State University, I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of our sustainability self-assessment using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS).

Arizona State University is one of the largest institutions in the nation with more than 76,000 students and four campuses located across metropolitan Phoenix. ASU is a model for the New American University - a constellation of unique learning environments dedicated to excellence, access and meaningful societal impact. ASU is defined not by who it excludes, but by who it includes, and by the success of all of our students. ASU focuses talent, energy and resources to solving society's most complex challenges.

ASU has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the advancement of a university-wide program centered on sustainability education, research and operations. The groundbreaking Global Institute of Sustainability (GIOS) was created as an umbrella organization to connect and advance all of these efforts. The world's first School of Sustainability was launched within this platform to provide undergraduate and graduate programs, and to collaborate with other university departments to develop transdisciplinary minors for students interested in leading edge sustainability curriculums. ASU is a founding signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). Our critical sustainability practices goals are: 1) climate neutrality, 2) zero water/solid waste, 3) active engagement, and 4) principled practice. To support these efforts, sustainability criteria are included in all staff annual evaluations and ASU has developed a Sustainability Literacy Program to educate personnel on their role as change agents for sustainability.

ASU is proud of its Gold STARS rating and our progress toward climate neutrality. Since 2007, we have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 15.3% while increasing our facility space by 28.9% and our students by 32.8%. At the same time, we cut our waste to landfill by 24.3%. We currently have more solar panels than students, and we generate 23.6 megawatts of solar power. The university has implemented one of the most progressive green purchasing practices in the country and one of the most expansive alternative transportation plans of any large university. ASU even has two bicycle valet stations provided at no cost to our university community. ASU has 38 LEED certified facilities, two of which are Platinum.

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Our STARS submission outlines the multidisciplinary approach that defines ASU's sustainability vision. While there will always be a place for incremental improvements, we are now focused on major projects with the potential to greatly reduce our emissions. If we are successful in developing a biogasification plant at a local wastewater treatment plant, and converting our Combined Heat and Power Plant to operate on renewable methane instead of nonrenewable natural gas, we can reduce our emissions by 11%. Future work will include expanding curriculum offerings, increasing the depth in all of our practices efforts and deploying solutions through cutting edge sustainability research.

Thank you for your continuing development of STARS and the opportunity to showcase our progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Crow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael M. Crow
President, Arizona State University
Founding Co-Chair, American College
and University Presidents Climate
Commitment Steering Committee

MMC:nb
/c