



July 22, 2011

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213½ 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 70,000 students and four campuses located across the 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 is determined to focusing its 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), which informed its four critical sustainability practices goals: 1) carbon 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, but also acknowledges that these efforts are only beginning. Going forward, the STARS system will be used to benchmark the university's progress toward its vision. To date, ASU has installed over 10 megawatts of solar installations with an additional 5 megawatts under contract. The university has also 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. The four ASU campuses are home to over three million square feet of LEED certified (silver, gold and platinum) living, learning and working space – the most of any higher education institution in the country. These are just a few examples of our overall accomplishments.

Our STARS submission outlines the multidisciplinary approach that defines ASU's sustainability vision. Future work will include expanding curriculum offerings, increasing the depth in all of our practices efforts and advancing 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, ACUPCC
Steering Committee

MMC:bb
/c