



SANTA BARBARA

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April 16, 2014

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of
Sustainability in Higher Education
213½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), I am pleased to verify that our submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is an accurate representation of our campus's sustainability initiatives and achievements. UCSB is committed to global leadership for sustainability through education, research, and action, and we are proud to be a participant in this self-assessment model, which helps institutions across the nation measure their sustainability efforts and track their progress. In 2009, UCSB participated in the STARS pilot program, and we have seen ourselves benefit throughout the process.

UCSB has long been a leader in sustainability and continues to be a model for other institutions today. In 1970, UCSB established one of the nation's first Environmental Studies programs. In 1994, we established the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, and in 2008, UCSB created the Institute for Energy Efficiency to develop innovative technologies that address energy conservation. UCSB was the first UC campus to sign the Talloires Declaration in the 1990s, and just last year, UCSB completed the first comprehensive Campus Water Action Plan in the UC system, creating a model for our colleagues throughout the state.

We are home to 43 LEED-certified buildings as of 2014, with 11 more on the way. We have the nation's first double-Platinum building, and we are committed to having all new construction and renovations meet LEED Gold standards. The LEED Platinum-certified Tipton Meeting House at UCSB's Sedgwick Reserve in Santa Ynez is UCSB's first Zero Net Energy building, using less energy over the course of the year than the on-site solar arrays generate. Additionally, UCSB's Sierra Nevada Aquatics Research Laboratory campus in the Eastern Sierra Mountains is currently completing the design of a new Zero Net Energy classroom facility to become the third building at the site powered by solar PV and heated and cooled by a ground source (geothermal) heat exchanger. Several of our campus's large-scale solar and thermal energy projects have been funded directly by our students through The Green Initiative Fund, which our students established and which awards grants for projects that help reduce our environmental impacts, and by our student-directed Renewable Energy Initiative.

Our campus is committed to reducing our impact on the climate. We have reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions below year 2000 levels, and are committed to becoming carbon neutral in our operations by 2025. We at UC Santa Barbara have also long recognized that water is a critical resource for the state of California. We have pursued aggressive water conservation strategies for almost two decades, and these efforts have not only allowed us to achieve a 25 percent reduction in total potable water use (74 million gallons) from 1996 to 2011, but also have made UCSB a leader in water conservation among institutions of higher education. Nearly 90 percent of the campus is irrigated with reclaimed water, and 238 acres are maintained as non-irrigated open space. Over the next couple of months, we will be investing more than \$100,000 for retrofitting restrooms with more efficient water fixtures, which will include the installation of in-line aerators and high-efficiency toilets.

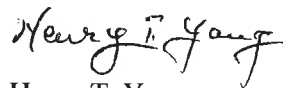
In 2013, UCSB received a Gold-level Bicycle Friendly certification from the League of American Bicyclists for the third year in a row. UCSB has also been recognized by the EPA as one of the nation's best workplaces for alternative transportation. The campus has extensive waste reduction programs that include recycling used cooking oil for biofuel, single-stream recycling, composting 100 percent of pre- and post-consumer food scraps in all dining halls, and implementing trayless dining, all of which were initiated a number of years ago.

UCSB continues to implement new technologies and approaches to sustainability issues, and to imagine new ways of engaging society in dialogues about sustainability through artistic expressions. Research units such as the UCSB Sustainable Fisheries Group are increasing our understanding of the impact of economic policies on the health of our oceans. The UCSB working group on Psychology, Environment, and Public Policy (PEPP) is helping us to understand how to effectively impact human behavior in relation to environmental choices. Our Literature and the Environment program offers a wide variety of initiatives to help explore literature for a greater understanding of how the relationship between humans and their environment has shifted over time. The Environmental Media Initiative of our Carsey-Wolf Center brings together environmental scientists and film and media scholars drawn from the humanities, arts, and social sciences to collaborate on teaching, research, and public programming.

UCSB is also known for our commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching. We are currently in the final stages of developing a new Interdisciplinary PhD emphasis in The Environment and Society, which brings together 15 academic departments from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences in a joint effort to provide new opportunities for graduate students. Pending final campus approval, we hope to launch this program in the fall of 2015.

At this point, we have been tracking sustainability indicators since 1995. STARS highlights many of the extraordinary efforts made here at UC Santa Barbara, and will help us further improve our tracking of sustainability work to better ascertain our progress. We appreciate AASHE's efforts in developing a comprehensive system with which to track and report progress, and we hope that our input will encourage other institutions to participate in and benefit from this worthy cause.

Sincerely,



Henry T. Yang
Chancellor

cc: Pam Lombardo
Bruce Tiffney
Joel Michaelsen