



SANTA BARBARA

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January 25, 2012

STARS Steering Committee
Associated for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 1/2 North Limestone
Lexington, Kentucky 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' sustainability initiatives and achievements. We are proud to be a participant in this self-assessment model which will help institutions across the nation measure their sustainability efforts and track their progress. UCSB's commitment to sustainability is among our core values and is closely tied to our Academic Plan that includes the environment as one of its top priorities.

UCSB began work on environmental issues in 1970 with the establishment of one of the nation's first Environmental Studies programs. We opened the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management in 1994, and we established the Institute for Energy Efficiency to develop innovative technologies that address energy conservation in 2008. UCSB was the first UC campus to implement interim sustainability policies and to sign the 1990 Talloires Declaration. It was an early signatory to the ACUPCC that has committed the campus to carbon neutrality by 2050. To accomplish its goals, the Chancellor's Sustainability Committee assembles administrators, deans, Nobel Laureates, senior faculty, staff, and students to make recommendations for campus sustainability projects. In 2006, our students established The Green Initiative Fund to award grants for projects that help reduce our environmental impacts. They went on to establish a student-directed Renewable Energy Initiative sponsoring large scale solar and thermal energy projects. Championed by students, UCSB is currently installing a 500kW Photovoltaic array coupled with 12 electric vehicle charging stations for public use on campus. We are home to 16 LEED-certified buildings as of 2012, with 17 more on the way, as one of three universities in the country participating in the LEED portfolio project for existing buildings, and we have the nation's first double-Platinum building. UCSB recommends that all new construction and renovations meet LEED Gold standards. Nearly 90 percent of the campus

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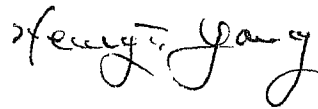
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is irrigated with reclaimed water, and 238 acres are maintained as non-irrigated open space. UCSB was recognized by the EPA as one of the nation's best workplaces for alternative transportation, and the campus has extensive waste reduction programs 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. Our Academic Senate was the first to establish a faculty Sustainability Champion in 2009 and is working on a Ph.D. emphasis and an undergraduate environment requirement. UCSB's Ecological Coalition organizes more than 33 environmentally-related student groups on campus, including the Environmental Affairs Board, which has more than 800 student affiliates.

At this point, we have been tracking sustainability indicators since 1995. One of the challenges we faced in the STARS reporting was that the baseline year selected was 2005, a decade different than ours. This creates substantial discrepancies in comparing our data to those of other campuses. One example of this is in the category of Water, where we established a three year baseline (academic years 96/97, 97/98, and 98/99 to incorporate weather patterns and changes). Since then, we have realized a 25 percent reduction in our potable and reclaimed water use, but we are reporting a 1.041 percent increase using the single year 2005 baseline in STARS. Being an early adopter has adversely skewed our results in a similar manner in a number of categories.

STARS highlights many of the extraordinary efforts going on at UCSB and will help us 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 hope that our input will encourage other institutions to participate in and benefit from this worthy cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry T. Yang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Henry T. Yang

cc: Ron Cortez
Bruce Tiffney