



February 1, 2016

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear AASHE:

I am pleased to write this letter of affirmation for the Solar Doks on the Maryville College (MC) campus. The Solar Doks are submitted for the IN-1: Innovation 1 Credit submitted by MC's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Reporting Systems (STARS) 2.0 report submission.

The two solar powered picnic tables, installed in Spring 2012 in the middle of the MC campus quad, were instantly accepted by the college community and have provided a constant sustainability education venue, showing the many and varied types of positive ecological, economic and social benefits for MC students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors. The solar panels forming the canopy of the table (Doks) have provided continuous off-the-grid renewable energy for MC community members. Students have used the campus Solar Doks™ as a meeting place for studying and club meetings – all the while powering their laptops, tablets and/or cell phones via the plug-ins at the Doks.

Additionally, MC faculty members work at the Doks, including a handful that hold office hours there. Research on social uses and impacts of the Doks has been conducted by faculty, leading to a presentation at the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) 2015 conference in Washington D.C. Staff have held outdoor meetings at the Doks. Informal MC alumni meetings have taken place at the Doks during Homecoming. Parents of MC students have plugged in devices during graduation in order to take photos and videos. And at least one indoor film event at the nearby Center for Campus Ministry (CCM) has been powered by an extension cord connecting the Doks to the projector in the CCM.

There are few places on the Maryville College campus that showcases sustainability as publicly and successfully as is done at the MC Solar Doks™. It is a pleasure to affirm them.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vandy Kemp', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vandy Kemp
Vice President and Dean of Students