

January 25, 2012

RE: Support Letter for AASHE STARS Innovation Credit

Dear AASHE STARS Review Team,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the innovative work conducted at Loyola Marymount University (LMU). In Fall 2011, an innovative residence hall composting pilot program was started at one of our residence halls known as Leavey 5. Working with the LMU Grounds Department, a location was identified that would be ideal for installing a backyard compost bin for composting food waste generated by on-campus residents. To make this project happen, the Grounds Department installed a special water line and hose bib to bring potable water to the site. Working with the LMU Sustainability Office, an Earth Machine© compost bin made from recycled plastic was installed. Along with the compost bin, a bale of wheat straw was provided along with a batch of red wiggler worms and other compost organisms. Additionally, a small compost fork was provided for turning the pile. At the time of this letter, at least 5 students are participating in this pilot program, which has proven to be about the right number of students in terms of the bin's capacity.

In addition to the waste diversion benefits of this pilot program, this project has benefited students by having a place for them to learn about composting their own food waste at home. Although the 5 students who run this program are benefitting the most, many other students on campus have been inspired to compost their food waste, and several students have requested to install bins at other residence halls based on the success of this pilot program.

This innovative project represents yet another step toward zero waste for LMU, and ASLMU is proud to be involved with these efforts. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Arthur Flores



President, ASLMU

Kimberly Tomicich



Vice-President, ASLMU

Mary O'Laughlin



Speaker of the Senate, ASLMU