



# VCU Office of Sustainability

To whom it may concern,

My name is Greg Garmin, I am the Director of the Center for Environmental Studies at VCU and I am writing to endorse the Oyster Shell Recycling project as an innovative program at Virginia Commonwealth University. So far this program has engaged 17 Richmond area restaurants and seven businesses to collect oyster shells to be used for oyster population restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. In its first four months of operation, the Virginia Oyster Shell Recycling program collected and donated nearly 12,000 pounds of oyster shell that would have otherwise entered a landfill. This program is an excellent example of using ecological restoration as an avenue for effective student and community engagement at the local and state level.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Greg Garmin