



February 3, 2012

Office of the President
101 Main Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0032
www.uky.edu

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Re: The University of Kentucky STARS submission

The University of Kentucky proudly submits the sustainability self-assessment using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). As President of the University of Kentucky, I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of this submission.

As a premier Land Grant research university and the flagship institution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we are steadfastly committed to fulfilling our promise to students, faculty, staff, and our state. The University of Kentucky intently pursues its three-fold mission of: Providing an academic experience that prepares students to lead lives of leadership, meaning, and purpose; conducting research that pushes the boundaries of discovery and confronts the challenges of our state, nation, and world; and serving communities across our state through outreach and extension services. Our shared vision is to carry out this mission in an environmentally responsible and energy conscious manner, serving as a model for students and the state.

Recently, the University of Kentucky opened the doors of the newest addition to our Digital Village: The \$18.6 million Davis Marksby Building. This LEED-Gold facility houses classroom space and research laboratories for our College of Engineering. Construction is currently underway on UK's first LEED-certified research laboratory at our Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER). The \$19.8 million renewable energy lab will allow CAER to expand its research capabilities devoted to Kentucky's growing renewable energy industries, including biomass and biofuels, electrochemical power sources, and distributed solar energy technologies.

While the physical presence of our commitment to an energy conscious community is critical, the University of Kentucky emphasizes the important role of responsible, micro behavior to yield macro results. Recently, we announced an online educational and behavior change initiative for students, faculty, and staff. The *Empowered* program provides a myriad of tools and information resources directly to the user to gain a better understanding, appreciation, and commitment to leading a sustainable lifestyle.

The University of Kentucky instills responsible practice and behavior techniques through our academic curricula and immersive learning opportunities like the national Solar Decathlon and Solar Car Challenge. Currently, UK offers degree programs in "Sustainable Agriculture" and "Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences," and we are continuing to prepare a third degree program in "Environmental Sustainability Studies." Recently, the National Science Foundation (NSF) selected one of UK's innovative course designs, "Systems Thinking for Accountability," as a funded project within NSF's, "Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math" program.

Extending beyond our campus, the University of Kentucky is transforming communities through Cooperative Extension services and outreach centers. Last year alone, nearly 40,000 Kentuckians adopted sustainable practices for conserving and protecting soil and water resources through educational programs and support provided by our agriculture extension agents, which resulted in landowners using new or additional conservation practices on nearly 530,000 acres.

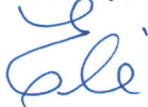
The UK College of Design is part of a public/private partnership that is transforming the economy of southeast Kentucky. Our architects and engineers are part of a project to repurpose former houseboat manufacturing lines to develop energy efficient residences for the region. The "Houseboat to Energy Efficient Residences" (HBEER) partnership shows great promise and projects to develop energy efficient multifamily housing and classroom space for schools in the region have been proposed for the next phase.

The highlights in this letter only begin to scratch the surface on the many endeavors we are undertaking to transform the University of Kentucky for an ecologically healthy world and to prepare our students to compete in a global marketplace of ideas, commerce, and culture.

The enclosed STARS submission further details the multitude of initiatives and programs; research centers and outreach services; and classrooms and curricula, that compose our vision for creating a 21st century flagship, land grant research university. This process has helped us identify areas where we can improve, and we look forward to taking the next step in building a better University of Kentucky.

Thank you for your continuing dedication to a better, more sustainable, future for higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eli Capilouto', written in a cursive style.

Eli Capilouto
President