



Cornell University

Michael I. Kotlikoff
Acting President

March 22, 2016

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

Re. STARS submission

I am pleased to endorse the attached sustainability self-assessment by Cornell University and to report our achievement of a STARS 2.0 gold rating.

Sustainability is a signature area of excellence at Cornell, and this certification recognizes the progress we have made in advancing sustainability on campus and beyond. Faculty research and teaching, student engagement, and staff innovation are critical to our success in addressing complex sustainability problems. And, our vibrant campus serves as a living laboratory for our efforts.

This year, our STARS innovation credits feature triple-bottom-line projects in applied research, advocacy for solar policy, green garage construction, and support for diverse suppliers.

Cornell-Verizon Geothermal Heat Pump

Cornell partners with Verizon Wireless to operate a geothermal heat pump system that cools a Verizon cellular tower shelter on the Cornell campus. The demonstration site investigates whether geothermal heat pumps can replace wall-mounted air-conditioning systems (HVAC) as the industry standard.

Cornell Solar Advocacy

Cornell partners with the NY Solar Energy Industries Association in advocacy work on net-metering and interconnection policies for renewable energy generation facilities. New interconnection standards for New York were proposed in November 2015, and the Public Service Commission issued a declaratory ruling eliminating a critical barrier to solar farms in New York.

Green Garage Certification

Cornell's Forest Home Parking Garage is the only university facility among the first seven parking garages to be certified by the Green Parking Council. The Forest Home garage incorporates real-time monitoring of air and lights, anticipates demand during busy times of day, and features electric vehicle charging stations.

Support for Diverse Suppliers

Cornell Procurement Services partners with Johnson MBA students to engage with local businesses owned by women, minorities, and veterans. The program strengthens the pipeline of diverse suppliers and develops supplier capacity in such areas as human resources, business processes, and marketing.

I am proud of Cornell's continued success in achieving a STARS gold rating. We are grateful to AASHE for this valuable metric that allows us to track, calibrate, and move forward our commitments to a sustainable campus and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael I. Kotlikoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael I. Kotlikoff