



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Office of the President

February 2016

Dear AASHE STARS Review Committee:

During my tenure on campus I have witnessed the passion, excitement and intellectual curiosity of our students, faculty, staff and community partners who are actively engaged in sustainability. Our commitment to Carolina's ongoing environmental, social and economic challenges is more relevant than ever. While we have come a long way in addressing campus sustainability, there is much more that we can do. Through innovative research and exceptional academic programs, our student groups will continue to tackle sustainability challenges while creating greater awareness of Carolina's greening campus operations. USC is poised and eager to move forward on this garnet, black and green journey.

Through our emphasis on integrative learning, we are growing curriculum while building local, national and international relationships to cultivate deeper sustainability awareness. Campus researchers are creating cutting-edge solutions to the global energy crisis by developing renewable technologies and identifying how climate change impacts us all. Our student sustainability leaders are positively engaging the entire campus on issues that include a zero waste and sustainable food system, the creation of a Student Sustainability Fund, the deployment of the Green Office and Green Dorm Room Certification programs and more.

It's gratifying to see such strong momentum as we continue our sustainability quest. As always, we are committed to a green campus and always look forward to hearing from students about their passion for sustainability and how their participation is shaping our classrooms, our campus, and the surrounding communities. I am appreciative of our dedicated faculty who continue to link local with global, while encouraging our students to pursue research and employment opportunities that address climate change, energy, food and water issues. I encourage all Gamecocks to enhance the full beauty of our campus by increasing the use of bicycle lanes, pedestrian paths and campus shuttles. As Kermit once said, "It's not that easy being green," but together, I believe we can and will achieve a green and sustainable Carolina.

Thank you for considering USC's 2015 submittal to STARS. The submitted information has been checked for accuracy by USC's Office of Sustainability. We look forward to continuing to build a wonderful and dynamic garnet, black and green future!

Sincerely,


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