



March 9, 2016

**STARS Innovation Credit: Solar Benches
Letter of Affirmation
Dr. John Cook**

This letter is to confirm that the Innovation credit that UCR is submitting is indeed unique and adds to campus sustainability.

The Solar Café Benches were installed for Earth Day 2014, and have subsequently been modified and enhanced through a collaborative process with the designers. The project brought together various campus stakeholders, including faculty, staff and students to select, fund and site 13 solar benches to provide shaded seating and renewable charging options for personal electronic devices. This was the largest deployment of the Solar Café Bench on any campus in the USA. Students have been developing a metering and analytics option for inclusion in future designs that will enable users to track the amount of energy generated by the benches, the amount of carbon offset from using the benches, and the type of devices being charged at the benches.

Signed, 

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Director of Sustainability**

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