

STARS Steering Committee
The Association for the Advancement of
Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of the University of California, Riverside, I am pleased to verify that our submission for The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System represents an accurate account of our sustainability activities and initiatives to the best of our abilities at this time. UC Riverside welcomes the opportunity to join its fellow institutions in promoting sustainability on campus and throughout our communities. The campus actively engages with the City of Riverside by providing representatives to the city's sustainability committees and vice versa, working vigorously together on energy, water and transportation projects; and collaborating on undergraduate and graduate research and service in the community.

With one of the most diverse student bodies in the country, UCR recognizes its role as a flagship institution in Inland Southern California. The campus has opened the first new public medical school in California in more than four decades. Sustainability will play a major role in fulfilling the medical school's mission of preparing health care professionals to provide care for underprivileged communities in the region. This same demographic is most impacted by climate change.

UCR is currently proposing two new majors in Sustainability: a Bachelor's in Sustainability from the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies and a Master's in Sustainability from the School of Public Policy. These programs complement our current Environmental Sciences and Environmental Engineering majors as well as our graduate program in Global Climate and Environmental Change.

UCR's commitment to educational opportunities extends beyond the traditional classroom and laboratory into the campus and community. In 2012, a new sustainable community garden was established on three acres of fallow agricultural land, creating a new living laboratory. The R'Garden, as it is called, epitomizes our systems thinking approach to institutionalizing sustainability across all aspects of the university experience. Built and run by students under the supervision of a dedicated sustainability garden manager,

it provides a fertile place where the UCR community can engage in research, learning and social activities guided by sustainability. The site will contain two earthen buildings built by students, using local materials and supported by 100% renewable energy from a mobile renewable energy generator that was designed and funded by undergraduate students. Uniting our former role as an UC Citrus Experiment Station with our new reputation as a leader in engineering and science, the R'Garden demonstrates true innovation and the power of sustainability to help us fulfill our mission.

Recent achievements further highlight the synergies between sustainable practices and research. The College of Engineering's Center for Environmental Research and Technology faculty received a \$2 million grant for designing and evaluating a system for net zero carbon charging of electric vehicles. Starting with a 500 kWh solar photovoltaic canopy and a 1.1 MW battery, the project will provide 100% renewable energy through levels 1, 2 and 3 chargers for campus fleet vehicles.

In addition, the campus now requires all contractors to divert 95% or more of construction and demolition waste from landfill. Currently we are achieving a 99% diversion on all \$160,000,000 worth of new construction projects. UCR remains on target to exceed its GHG 2014 reductions goals via energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

STARS not only highlights UCR's sustainability achievements over the past few years, but it has provided structural cohesion for the establishment of our Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability. The committee consists of representative working groups covering the major category areas of STARS. With the introduction of the campus sustainability data collector, UCR has become one of Sierra Magazine's "Coolest Schools," and remains one of Princeton Review's Greenest Colleges.

We take great pride in these accomplishments and will endeavor to undertake still more to promote sustainability on our campus and in our community.

Sincerely,



Jane Close Conoley
Interim Chancellor