

February 18, 2015

STARS Technical Review Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability for Higher Education (AASHE)
213 ½ N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40507, USA

To Whom It May Concern:

As Manager of Grounds Operations at the University of Washington, I am writing this letter of affirmation in support of the innovative on-site composting program the University has recently launched. UW Grounds Management has a long history of sustainable grounds keeping, including a comprehensive integrated pest management plan, low impact irrigation systems, and xeriscaping to incorporate more native plants into our grounds. Our on-site composting program is the latest addition to our efforts enhancing sustainability at UW.

The University of Washington is one of only a handful of universities to implement on-site composting where commercial composting services are also available. UW has composted food waste off-site since 2004 through our commercial composter Cedar Grove. In 2014 we decided to implement on-site composting to reduce our environmental impacts associated with composting. The program reduces transportation emissions, and saves costs in both the disposal fees and the purchase of compost for our grounds. The program also has created opportunities for students to be engaged with the process, as we share our compost with some of our student groups who maintain P-patch gardens and with our student-run UW Farm. This innovation encompasses the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability and we are proud to bring on-site composting to UW for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,

Howard Nakase
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