

January 18, 2017

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to submit this letter of affirmation that the information presented for Lehigh University's STARS Innovation credit is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. This letter affirms that in Spring 2016 sixteen solar panels were installed in the Lehigh Community Garden up on Goodman Campus by the Low Energy Sustainable Farming Mountaintop Team to create an energy independent food growing farm.

This project was part of Lehigh's Mountaintop initiative, which is a summer experience where Lehigh students, working across all disciplines, are given the freedom to pursue creative and innovative answers to any number of challenges and open-ended questions. The Low Energy Sustainable Farming Mountaintop Team consisted of six students and two faculty members who focused on the idea of sustainable farming to create a fully energy independent food growing enterprise at the Lehigh Goodman Community Garden.

As part of this, one element of the project involved the installation of sixteen solar panels. Each panel can generate a maximum of 255 watts, thus creating a maximum of just over 4,000 watts of energy. The panels provide electricity to power the garden's water pump instead of having to use a diesel generator. As a result, these panels offset the power used by the garden's water pump as well as the electricity used by the nearby Lehigh transportation building.

This project is just one example of how Lehigh students and faculty utilize the campus as a living laboratory and how multidisciplinary student research across campus generates potential solutions that positively impact the institution. Through Mountaintop projects like this that are focused on sustainability, faculty and students help to create sustainable change on campus. It is the hope that sixteen more panels will be installed in the coming months, next to the first installation.

Please let me me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B - AH", is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Breena Holland
Associate Professor of Political Science & the Environmental Initiative

Mountaintop Project Advisor