



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER

Chancellor

Date: July 14, 2011
To: The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
From: Robert D. Coombe *RDC*
Subject: University of Denver STARS Submission

The University of Denver's commitment to sustainability dates back generations. We are, after all, located in a special place—at the foothills of one of the world's great mountain ranges and in one of its most fascinating ecosystems. It's no surprise that we understand fully the need to preserve, conserve and sustain for future generations.

Within the University of Denver community, sustainability is a key priority. We have committed to sustainability in our distinctive way: by integrating sustainability with our other priorities and by enlisting the support of students, faculty and staff in a cooperative community effort. Sustainability is an area in which the University of Denver can serve both its students and the public good by graduating capable well-informed individuals whose lives can influence the future and by using their intellectual assets to develop and test new technology, to study sociological and cultural responses to environmental change, to develop new business models that will allow our economy to thrive in the face of climate change and social equity challenges, and to allow future generations the opportunities we currently have to enjoy the natural world.

Consistent with this commitment to service and leadership, I am pleased to affirm our first sustainability self-assessment using AASHE's new Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Ratings System (STARS). We are impressed with the comprehensiveness of STARS and the care that clearly went into its development. The University of Denver is delighted to submit our assessment in support of a STARS Gold rating. After months of diligent data collection and review of information, I am satisfied that this submission is accurate, current, and representative of our commitment to sustainability.

I think you'll be impressed by our commitment to incorporating sustainability in our educational program at both the graduate and undergraduate level, by our commitment to energy efficiency and to monitoring and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, and by our commitment to reducing waste. We are committed to improving people's lives through local, regional, and global community outreach and service learning. Here at the University of Denver we have a long-term commitment to achieving our environmental, economic, and social sustainability goals.