



2323 Broadway Suite 223
Oakland, CA 94612

Meghan Fay Zahniser
AASHE
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 901
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

I am writing to endorse Temple University's Rad Dish Food Co-op Cafe as an innovative method for advancing sustainability on its campus. I currently serve as the East Coast Field Staff person at CoFED, an organization building community wealth through the development of food cooperatives in campus communities. It is in this capacity that I write in support of Temple University's Rad Dish Co-op Cafe.

Rad Dish is an innovative program that empowers students, staff and faculty to take ownership of their food operations and sourcing. Through its program, the Rad Dish demonstrates an alternative governance model for food enterprises giving power to the owner and consumer. The Rad Dish follows the seven principles of cooperatives, one of which is concern for community. As such, the Rad Dish attempts to model sustainable operational practices and limit its carbon footprint. The Rad Dish Food Co-op is the only student run food co-op in the City of Philadelphia, and is working hard to share their story and encourage other students to form cooperative operations on campus.

Additionally, the support of the community and commitment to working with a consortium of sustainable projects at Temple further demonstrates the power of these spaces to not only further food service specific sustainability initiatives, but to be a rallying point for others. It has been incredible to see Rad Dish meet and then exceed their goals, while being a powerful space for students to apply their learning and values into concrete policy, practice, and action. There are few projects I could more glowingly point towards as sustainability in practice on college campuses.

Sincerely,

Yahya Alazrak
Field Staff, CoFED