

November 19, 2015

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

Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of Pitzer College, I present our first STARS report, for which we have received a Gold rating. I confirm that all of the information provided herein is accurate and representative of our campus sustainability initiatives. Pitzer is pleased to join the global community of STARS institutions and looks forward to continual improvement toward sustainability.

Founded in 1963 as the sixth institution of The Claremont Colleges, Pitzer began as a residential liberal arts campus for women with a curricular emphasis in the social and behavioral sciences. Today, Pitzer enrolls approximately 1,000 students in more than 40 fields of co-educational study leading to the bachelor of arts degree. In keeping with its distinctive heritage, Pitzer remains dedicated to individual growth while building community. Students are expected to engage in community service learning, and the campus is now a leader in sustainability, intercultural understanding and global study and inquiry. Sensitivity for and preservation of the environment is a key value of Pitzer College and students shape their daily activities, programming and studies to ensure they leave the environment and the world stronger than how they found it.

By participating in STARS, Pitzer continues to further its commitment to sustainability. This commitment has been previously demonstrated through a few milestone achievements: the founding of the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability (2012), being a charter signatory to the ACUPCC (2007), and adopting environmental sustainability as a core value of Pitzer College. In addition, the College has recently:

- Adopted a Fossil Fuel Divestment – Climate Action Model (2014), which:
 - Divests virtually all College endowment investments in fossil fuel stocks by December 31, 2014
 - Develops an environmental, social and governance policy to guide endowment investment decisions
 - Creates the Pitzer Sustainability Fund within the endowment to make environmentally responsible investments
 - Targets a 25 percent reduction of the College's carbon footprint from current levels (2014) by the end of 2016
 - Establishes a Campus Sustainability Taskforce to bolster on-campus measures to promote sustainability
- Removed about 20% of the turf areas on-campus in an effort to reduce water consumption (2015)
- Hired the College's first Sustainability Manager (2015)

- Incorporated a presentation on sustainability into new student orientation (2015)
- Achieved LEED certification for the Pitzer, Atherton, & Sanborn (2007, Gold), and East & West (2012, Platinum) residence halls

Pitzer is proud to have earned a Gold rating for our first STARS submission, and we look forward to utilizing this report as a roadmap to advance sustainability on campus and in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Poon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Poon" clearly distinguishable.

Thomas Poon
Interim President