



February 22, 2017

Dear AASHE STARS Committee:

On behalf of the University of South Florida, I am pleased to affirm that the information presented in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report is an accurate summary of USF's sustainability achievements. The accomplishments reflected in the report are a result of USF's continuous commitment to a culture that is both "green" and inclusive with the express goal of creating a sustainable campus and community environment for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners.

I am proud of our past efforts that helped earn USF a Gold rating in our last two STARS reports (2011, 2014). We have worked hard over the last three years, to expand our sustainability efforts, locally, regionally, and globally. One such effort is the creation and launch of a Share-A-Bull Bike Share program in September 2015. This program is funded by the Student Green Energy Fee and helped lead the designation of the University of South Florida campus as a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists in November of 2016.

Further, our students have consistently voted to maintain a student tuition fee of \$1 per-credit hour to support the Student Green Energy Fund. This fund has now amassed about \$6.2 million to support campus sustainability projects. This initiative will soon result in a local power company contributing to solar investments on one of our parking garages to establish one of the largest solar installations in the region.

While these accomplishments are significant, being a 'sustainable campus' is an ongoing process that requires continuous monitoring, revising, and implementation of new sustainability best practices. I acknowledge and commend the Office of Sustainability for their role in coordinating our STARS report and recognize that it is the collaborative hard work and dedication of many that help to support and achieve our sustainability goals and affirm the University of South Florida as a global leader in sustainability.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Genshaft". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Judy Genshaft
USF System President