

REGENERATIVE DESIGN GROUP, LLC

ecological landscape planning and design

July 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted in support of the University of Massachusetts Amherst's STARS documentation for an innovation credit. Last year, UMass Amherst began to create a permaculture garden on its campus next to the Franklin Dining Commons. This garden will provide food for one of the dining halls on campus and has already become an educational resource for students, staff, and faculty alike. The gardens feature annual vegetable and herb production for the dining commons, demonstration edible landscaping, forest garden/orchard, and stormwater infiltration measures.

The students and staff of the UMass Permaculture Garden also produce educational materials about the garden. The garden has raised awareness on the issue of food sustainability and security through such outreach.

I work with the students in the permaculture garden and mentor them in design and establishment strategies. I am an educator and designer of permaculture systems and have 15 years experience in these kinds of projects.

By creating these gardens not only is UMass educating the campus and the community, it is creating a path to a sustainable way of life. As such I believe that the UMass Permaculture Garden qualifies for an innovation credit.

Sincerely,

Jono Neiger
Founding Principal