



**UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST**

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February 3, 2014

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to verify that the information provided in the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report for the University of Massachusetts Amherst is both accurate and reflective of our commitment to sustainability. Having been founded in 1863 as an agricultural college, UMass Amherst has a longstanding, yet growing commitment to sustainability.

Since President Wilson signed the President's Climate Commitment in 2007 on behalf of the five institutions in our state-wide system, the UMass Amherst campus has been working steadily to reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. We created an Environmental Performance Advisory Committee in 2007 to advise our campus community on matters of sustainability, and to direct and target our efforts. Having completed our first Climate Action Plan in 2010, in 2012 we updated the plan considerably (Climate Action Plan 2.0). This new climate action plan continues to propel UMass Amherst on the path we committed to in 2007.

Not only has sustainability been woven in to the fabric of operations and administration at UMass, but it has also been heralded by students and faculty. Over the course of the last three years we have continued to make significant strides. We now offer over 300 sustainability-related courses on campus, ensuring that students gain a diverse range of climate-related educational opportunities. In addition, internships across the campus support both academic and co-curricular climate leadership and preparedness.

In October 2013 UMass Amherst became the largest institution in the nation to sign onto the Real Food Campus Commitment, pledging to procure 20% real, fair trade, humane, locally sourced food by 2020 (thus curbing large quantities of emissions associated with long distance food transportation).

Our campus was also awarded a 7.5 million dollar grant to establish the Northeast Climate Science Center which continues to make cutting edge climate research accessible to the broader community. The Center provides scientific information and techniques that those interested in land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources can use to anticipate, monitor and adapt to climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kumble R. Subbaswamy".

Kumble R. Subbaswamy
Chancellor

UMASS RISING
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST