



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST

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February 2, 2015

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to verify that the information provided in this Sustainability Tracking & Assessment Rating System (STARS) report for the University of Massachusetts Amherst is an accurate reflection of our commitment to a sustainable and healthy campus community.

This is the third STARS report submitted on behalf of UMass Amherst in three years. While recognizing that the latest report still requires validation by AASHE, I am proud to state that each of the three reports has resulted in a Gold Rating. Our continuing membership in AASHE and the frequency of reporting to STARS demonstrates UMass Amherst's commitment to sharing our sustainability progress with the international community as well as providing best practices and sustainability resources to our students, faculty, and staff.

We are one of the first institutions of higher education to hire a Sustainability Communication & Marketing Manager. That function has enabled "Sustainable UMass" to become a highly visible campaign engaging the entire community in sustainable education and campus solutions.

Additionally, our Facilities & Campus Services division has recently completed an Energy Master Plan which outlines strategies for additional emissions reductions and long-term, reliable energy to support the future growth of our world-class campus facilities.

In recognizing that diversity is important to a sustainable campus, the Diversity Strategic Planning Steering Committee has been charged with developing an action plan regarding issues of diversity, equity, and inclusiveness, and is engaging the entire campus in that process.

Our campus operations continue to become "greener" each year. In 2014, our Transportation Services installed the first Level III electric vehicle charging station in Massachusetts and five other Level II chargers across the campus. As we enter 2015, the campus is slated to install the first renewable energy project within the campus core, a 300 kW solar photovoltaic parking lot canopy at our Robsham Memorial Center for Visitors. In April, I will be participating, along with my Five College colleagues, in "Strengthening Ties for Collective Impact: Campus Sustainability in the Northeast Region," the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium conference which will be hosted for the first time at our campus.

In summary, the efforts/successes achieved over the last three years at our campus are a testimony to the University of Massachusetts Amherst's commitment toward a more sustainable community and thus a more sustainable world.

Sincerely,

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

Kumble R. Subbaswamy

Chancellor