



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST

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OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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February 27, 2018

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 fourth STARS report submitted on behalf of UMass Amherst. While recognizing that the latest report still requires validation by AASHE, I am proud to state that each of the four reports has resulted in a Gold Rating. Our continuing membership in AASHE and the frequency of reporting to STARS demonstrates our UMass Amherst 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 the first major public university to divest its endowment from direct holdings in fossil fuels. This decision was made by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the UMass Foundation, a separate not-for-profit corporation that oversees an endowment whose value is \$770 million.

Our operations continue to green on the campus. We have installed the largest solar project on a college campus in New England. We now have 5.5 MW of clean electrical power for the campus to use to support our innovative research and daily operations within our almost 13 million square feet of facilities. This positions the University to provide the state and the region with a model for how to manage a complex micro-grid with a diversity of technologies battery storage technologies which we are planning to incorporate in 2018. We recently completed the largest and most technologically advanced academic contemporary wood structure in the U.S. in the John W. Olver Design Building and provides a beautiful, innovative campus learning laboratory for our studies in the built environment.

With the new School of Earth & Sustainability (SES) we have brought together a cross-disciplinary partnership between five academic departments. SES joins diverse academic programs, research, and outreach that share a common focus on earth, sustainability, and environmental sciences. Together, our community includes over 100 world-class faculty, 1300 undergraduate students, 320 graduate students as well as many research scientists, technicians and support staff.

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