



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST

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July 29, 2011

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. One of their major contributions has been the completion of our Climate Action plan in 2010. The climate action plan continues to propel UMass Amherst on our path to greater sustainability, and we are proud to report in this STARS submission how far we have come since the creation of our climate action plan.

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. We provide our students with groundbreaking courses and educational opportunities, our faculty with state-of-the-art research and development facilities and funding, and continually strive to reach out to other campuses and communities to develop collaborative solutions to sustainability issues. We recently celebrated the final approval by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education of a new Masters program in Sustainability Science for our campus; this fall we look forward to the approval by our Faculty Senate of a 21-credit undergraduate certificate program in Sustainability Studies, launched in collaboration with our academic consortium partners Amherst College and Mount Holyoke College.

I commend the STARS Taskforce led by Professor Craig Nicolson and Dr. Elena Sharnoff for their hard work in coordinating our reporting efforts, and I am delighted by the contributions made by our Sustainability Fellow Claire Hopkins, and former Fellow Josh Stoffel.

UMass Amherst appreciates the opportunity to participate in STARS and is looking forward to continuing its progress in sustainability with the guidance from STARS and the AASHE community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Holub".

Robert C. Holub
Chancellor