

February 21, 2017

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
AASHE
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: Letter of Affirmation – AASHE STARS Reporting Framework for Innovation Credits for University of California Campuses

Dear Meghan:

It is my pleasure to offer my affirmation that the formation of the University of California's (UC) Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) meets the intention of the innovation credit for STARS reporting.

With the UC's ambitious goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2025 just a few years away, UC President Janet Napolitano formed the GCLC (see announcement at <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/napolitano-focuses-sustainability-forms-global-climate-council>) to advise her on how to achieve the ambitious goal and to also provide guidance on integrating the carbon neutrality initiative and other sustainability goals into UC's teaching, research and public service mission. The Council consists of representatives of each major system-wide leadership council: Provosts, Vice Chancellors for Budget, Vice Chancellors for Administration, Vice Chancellors for Research, and Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs.

Since its formation, the GCLC has funded and supported 26 research and engagement projects that leverage faculty expertise and student creativity to accelerate climate change research, education, and business practices. For example, see the announcement of the first round of funded projects at: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/new-uc-projects-target-greenhouse-gas-emissions>.

Based on my work as the Climate Programs Senior Manager at Second Nature, I believe the formation of the Global Climate Leadership Council is unique because it brings together high level administrators and faculty expertise from all 10 UC campuses plus the UC Office of the President, UC's Agriculture and Natural Resources system, and the Department of Energy laboratories managed by UC (Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore, and Los Alamos) to work collaboratively to solve one of the greatest challenges of our time. This elevation of a university's public service mission is a great framework for other universities to follow.

Sincerely,

Steve Muzzy



