



University of California, Merced  
5200 N. Lake Road  
Merced, CA 95343

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

RE: CropMobster - AASHE Innovation Credit

Dear AASHE Committee,

I am writing this letter to affirm of The University of California Merced (UC Merced) CropMobster program. UC Merced partners with CropMobster, an innovative online platform to connect communities to food related endeavors including, nutrition and agriculture. This is an effort to reduce food insecurity and food waste, while serving as an outlet for local farmers throughout Merced County. CropMobster is a community driven website where individuals, including but not limited to organizations, farmers, and county constituents can post or take advantage of alerts related to food systems.

CropMobster complies with the criteria within the innovation credit because the platform provides an innovative way to accomplish reducing food waste and food security, while improving campus sustainability. For example, CropMobster website has provided an avenue to alert students of food available from the campus community garden. The program has also reduced food waste directed to the landfill through CropMobster alerts. The program is also innovative because there are multiple exchanges in Sacramento and San Francisco, but CropMobster Merced is the first exchange to partner with a University (UC Merced).

Program Highlights:

1. CropMobster is an innovative program within California and the Central Valley.
2. CropMobster Merced is an ongoing program.
3. CropMobster was implemented and officially launched May 22nd, 2017 in Merced County.
4. This program has not been widely adopted, and as such, is innovative.
5. This program is a partnership between UC Merced and CropMobster. The first affiliated with a higher education institution.

For more information regarding CropMobster please visit [merced.cropmobster.com](http://merced.cropmobster.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Meyer".

Erin Meyer  
CropMobster Coordinator  
5200 North Lake Road, SSM 130  
Merced, CA 95340