January 31, 2011

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ N. Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Re: Santa Clara University STARS Submission

Santa Clara University is proud to submit our sustainability self-assessment using the new Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Ratings System (STARS). I affirm that the data is accurate, current and representative of our campus-wide sustainability efforts. The STARS report captures the wide-ranging aspects of sustainability that are part of the fabric of Santa Clara’s curriculum, research, operations and campus culture.

Our participation in the STARS program is a natural progression from the many initiatives we have pursued over the last decade. Adoption of our Comprehensive Policy on Sustainability, signing of the American College and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), submission of the Climate Neutrality Plan, University-wide programming including The Sustainability Initiative at Santa Clara, implementation of core curriculum courses that engage students in sustainability, sustainable building design, and using our campus as a living lab – these are just a few examples of our commitment to sustainability. In all our initiatives, Santa Clara looks at sustainability not just through an environmental lens but also in a framework of social justice, examining how sustainability can be just and economically viable.

I commend the AASHE for their work in advancing sustainability efforts in all aspects of higher education. The STARS program administered by AASHE helps institutions benchmark and measure their related work in a comprehensive way. Because it emphasizes a multi-faceted approach in understanding sustainability, STARS has assisted us in looking broadly and deeply within our institution with a view to improve and expand our performance. Thanks to our faculty and staff who collected and analyzed the data, STARS has proven to be a useful tool that affirms our past work and guides us on our way to help create a more humane, just, and sustainable world.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Engh, S.J.
President