



September 15, 2017

AASHE STARS Steering Committee  
2401 Walnut Street  
Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a letter affirming that our "Reusable To-Go Program" meets all of the criteria for a STARS Innovation Credit.

As the Director of Dining Services at Virginia Tech, I oversee our award-winning campus dining program. At Virginia Tech, we have built our reputation on innovative, as well as exceptional food and service, and we extend the same energy and dedication to our sustainability efforts within Dining Services. One of the cornerstones of our sustainability efforts is the Reusable To-Go Program.

The Reusable To-Go Program began in part as an effort to help Virginia Tech meet its Climate Action Commitment. The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment states, "Virginia Tech will minimize waste and achieve a 50% recycle rate by 2020." The Reusable To-Go Program has played an integral role in allowing Dining Services to reduce waste while meeting student demand for new and innovative ways to "go green" in the dining centers on campus.

In the past two years, Virginia Tech Dining Services has pursued several creative solutions to improve student participation. In the fall of 2016, based on student feedback, we integrated our program with the campus ID system, making it significantly easier for students to use. In addition, we extended free access to our program to all students, faculty, and staff on campus. Last but not least, we continuously strive to collaborate with partners across the University to promote the success of the program and increase student engagement.

University-wide collaborations and partnerships, the adoption of innovative technology, and the expansion of the program have all played a critical role in improving the Reusable To-Go Program at Virginia Tech. These efforts and our cross-campus commitment to sustainability efforts make our program truly unique. As such, the Reusable To-Go Program at Virginia Tech is an example of exceptional innovation within the field of college and university sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration of our program. If you have additional questions, I would be more than happy to answer such at any time.

With Hokie Pride,



Ted Faulkner

**Director of Dining Services**

*Invent the Future*