



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

ANTHROPOLOGY

**March 17, 2016**

Hannah Debelius, Sustainability Manager  
Office of Sustainability, American University  
4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

Re: AASHE STARS – ECOllaborative

Dear Hannah,

American University's Environmental Collaborative ("ECOllaborative") is the gathering place for members of the American University community who are working to advance environmental protection and societal prosperity during a period of rapid global environmental change.

Beginning in spring 2015, the ECOllaborative was created to enhance and showcase American University's ground breaking environmental and sustainability research, degree-granting programs, and campus infrastructure. Our efforts pull together the diverse perspectives and talents of more than fifty American University faculty and numerous staff and students, united by considerations of justice, equity, and inclusion.

Our Colloquium Series is one ECOllaborative initiative that brings faculty from diverse disciplines to present their work in panels that address specific issues of interest to the AU community. These monthly colloquia—organized around themes like water, conservation, climate, energy, and sustainability—bring faculty, staff, and students together to consider one topic from multiple perspectives. Short presentations are followed by group discussions. This format has provided space for rich, nuanced discussions of pressing environmental problems, including conversations about supporting research between colleagues and brainstorming how faculty can utilize this knowledge base to integrate sustainability and behavioral change into the curriculum and campus sustainability plans.

This unique collaboration, managed by faculty, not only develops and fosters a culture of sustainability on campus, but allows faculty and students to further their own research and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Anne Claus'.

C. Anne Claus  
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Department of Anthropology  
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American University  
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