

December 26, 2013

Fahmida Ahmed
Department of Sustainability & Energy Management
Stanford University
327 Bonair Siding
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Fahmida Ahmed,

I am applying for the Interim Sustainability and Conservation Program Manager position at Stanford University (#61370). I have a bachelors of arts in Environmental Studies and Biology from UC Santa Cruz. I have worked as a sustainability advisor and student leader at UC Santa Cruz, a manager in sustainability based non-profits, and as a sustainability candidate in the political arena. In total, I have over six years of direct campus sustainability implementation experience.

As one of the founders of the sustainability movement in the UC System from 1999-2006, I facilitated working with the UC Regents to pass one of the most comprehensive sustainability policies in higher education across the State. I was instrumental in initiating Chancellors' Sustainability Committees at every UC campus, with most establishing Sustainability Offices. As a leader in Student Sustainability Organizing I helped build teams and networked with many outstanding individuals who have built careers in this field. I also worked to establish more than five sustainability related organizations, and secured permanently funded budgets for their operations.

I was fortunate enough to grow up in faculty housing at Stanford University. As a long-time resident of the community I have witnessed first-hand the steps taken at Stanford to establish recycling programs and implement sustainability measures. I was invited and attended the Roundtable Discussion on Sustainability at Stanford in May 2006 as a representative from UC Santa Cruz. Stanford has made great progress toward sustainability, and I would be eager to contribute to the University's long-term sustainability goals by involving students, university departments, facilities and vendors in sustainability education and projects.

My experience working with various Committees at UC Santa Cruz has honed my ability to effectively manage and carry out project objectives. As the elected Chair of the Student Committee on Committees at UC Santa Cruz, I got a bird's eye of how a university decision making systems operate, which is essential for managing campus projects. I am an excellent multi-tasker and relationship builder, with the ability to create clear replicable processes, and develop sustainability indicators to measure project achievements. I also am a trained facilitator with the experience to create campaigns to motivate student engagement. Since my years of practicing Campus Sustainability at UCSC I continue to attend the Annual Campus Earth Summit when possible.

After completing my goal of setting UC Santa Cruz on a Sustainable path, I changed trajectory and began focusing my sustainability efforts on the outside world, including enacting change from within the political system. I ran for Santa Cruz City Council, the California State Assembly, and the U.S. House of Representatives. My sustainability platform advanced many applications of sustainability including renewable energy, green purchasing and green health care. My goal was to be the greenest representative in government, a proponent of direct sustainability implementation, and of catalyzing political power towards carbon neutrality.

While my political campaigns were ultimately unsuccessful, I have learned from these experiences which are applicable to the job of a sustainability manager. I acquired extensive administrative, management and communication skills. I also learned about the challenges of implementing sustainability initiatives in the real-world, how funding agencies operate from the inside, and how special interests often work to prevent meaningful change. In addition, I have developed a strong network of environmental connections both with sympathetic politicians and numerous members of non-profit organizations working on environmental and sustainability causes.

These experiences have brought me back to my initial sustainability goals and objectives. My efforts will be most beneficial working to enact change in a campus setting. On-campus sustainability programs provide a chance to change not only the local campus culture but also the wider culture of our world, as students take views and understandings with them into their careers. Combining my knowledge of university sustainability programs and my unique understanding of the politics of sustainability I believe I would be an excellent fit for your opening. I am passionate about sustainability and eager to find a rewarding career in this field.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Blas Jacob Cabrera