

Friday, May 11, 2012  
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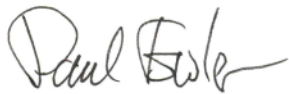
May 9, 2012

To whom it may concern:

This letter shall serve as affirmation that the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology project on the recycling of bio-based plastics meets the criteria for an innovation credit in the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point sustainability assessment for the STARS program.

As director of the institute I have worked closely with graduate student Waneta Kratz in developing and implementing a study of end-of-life options of bio-based plastics (poly lactic acid, or PLA). A pilot study was done on campus in summer/fall 2011, in which Kratz and students under her supervision collected, separated, cleaned, shredded/compacted and transferred the PLA to a facility that will re-use the commodity. The project continued in spring 2012, with the graduate student marketing the project, and completing a cost-benefit analysis and environmental impact analysis. The project has been successful in educating the campus community on bio-based plastics through a variety of outreach methods including a website (<http://www.uwsp.edu/wist/FRESH/Pages/default.aspx>), posters, kiosks, surveys and social media. It also provided baseline data on recycling potential for PLA.

Best regards,



Dr Paul Fowler  
Executive Director