



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

DATE: May 14, 2012

RE: AASHE STARS Letter of Affirmation

To whom it may concern:

This letter serves as affirmation that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Waste Education Center meets the criteria for an Innovation Credit for the AASHE STARS report. I have been involved in this project since I first proposed expanding the UWSP waste management program in 2001.

The Waste Education Center (WEC) is a \$4.55 million project completed in May 2011. The 12,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility provides students with landfill, recycling, composting and hazardous waste management training and includes a simulated wastewater treatment plant. A portion of the building functions as a materials recycling facility for campus, processing cans, bottles, plastic and cardboard.

As part of the State of Wisconsin "LEED equivalency" standards for new construction, heat recovery units were installed to score energy performance points. The air handler heat recovery systems recycle waste exhaust heat to minimize the amount of new energy required for conditioning of the corresponding fresh replacement air. For the WEC application, the new energy consumed is about half of the energy consumed by an air handler without heat recovery.

Throughout construction of the building, the general contractor and its partners recycled 96.4 percent of construction waste, using local providers, including the campus' existing recycling center. The contractor was presented with a "Top Project for 2011" award from the Associated Builders and Contractors Association.

The waste and wastewater laboratory gives students experience in managing solid waste by running and operating a scaled-down, fully functional waste water facility in real time. Students are better prepared than before, which gives them an advantage in their job search due to hands-on experience and skills. In the 2011-12 academic year, approximately 50 waste management students used the facility for the first time. Students of the first solid waste class performed a waste audit of the Dreyfus University Center. They will interpret results and present recommendations based on the waste stream.

Currently, food waste from the UWSP dining center is taken to the WEC to be composted. A large-scale composting operation is being set up, that one day may be able to compost much of the university's waste and will give students experience in composting organic waste materials.

The Waste Education Center is one example of how UW-Stevens Point incorporates sustainability into the academic environment in order to be an innovative leader in sustainability.

Sincerely,

Dr. Aga Razvi
Professor, Soil and Waste Resources
College of Natural Resources