

January 31, 2011

RE: Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System
College of Lake County Innovation Credit 1

To whom it may concern:

Access to fresh, nutritious, locally-grown food is a vital component of the wellness of our students, employees and community members. It is a priority for our institution to play a leadership role in increasing availability of quality food for the populations we serve. We have worked toward this goal through the establishment of a Community Garden, and serving as a pick-up site for a Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA).

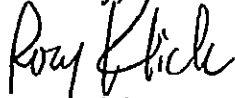
Our Community Garden was founded in spring 2009 with thirty-eight plots available to local residents and the college community to grow their own fruits, vegetables and herbs. In spring 2010 plot rental grew to fifty community gardeners with a waiting list. The college has partnered with the Avon Township Food Pantry to refer overflow gardeners to their newly established garden.

The CLC Community Garden has been constructed on a parcel of college-owned land, and is managed by our Horticulture Department. Plot rental is an affordable way for community members of all income levels to produce healthy food for their families. The garden also serves as an educational tool for students in our Horticulture programs and the general public to gain long-lasting agricultural skills and benefits.

In addition, the college serves as a pick-up site for a local Community Supported Agriculture, Simply Wisconsin (<http://www.simplywi.com/>). College students, employees, and local residents can sign up to receive a share of produce grown by a cooperative of local farms in our region. Organized by Math Instructor, Jeff Andrews, the program increases the accessibility of local food, while supporting local farming operations.

Both of these initiatives promote our region's economic growth, accessibility of locally-grown food, and increases awareness of the benefits and strategies involved in sustainable agriculture.

Sincerely,



Rory Klick

Horticulture Department Chair



Jeffrey Andrews

Mathematics Instructor