

February 15, 2011

Dear AASHE STARS Review Committee,

WKU seeks an Innovation Credit for the development of the WKU Green Tour.

The WKU Sustainability Committee established as a goal for 2010 the development of the WKU Green Tour for purposes of outreach and awareness of WKU's sustainability initiatives. The Green Tour includes physical signage for sustainable features on campus, as well as a web-based virtual tour of green initiatives at WKU. Such features include solar thermal array installed to heat the activities center swimming pool, the LED renovation of the WKYU-PBS studio, rainwater harvesting sites, ecologically designed parking lots, rain gardens, and other such features. Each sign will include a description of the feature and sustainable benefits and graphics and photos as appropriate, much like interpretive signage found at natural or historic sites of interest. At present, we have determined approximately 20 features for which signs will be developed. The virtual version will serve visitors and potential students and include a downloadable map.

The campus Landscape Architect and Sustainability Coordinator are working collaboratively with a variety of individuals to develop content for the signs. A sign design has been created and accepted by the campus Master Planning Committee. Funding for Green Tour signage is secured. The Sustainability Committee is presently reviewing draft content for the first batch of signs to be created. Estimated completion and installation date for the first 10 signs is April 2011.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information or with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Christian Ryan-Downing
WKU Sustainability Coordinator