



A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

December 23, 2014

Dear AASHE STARS Reviewers,

In October 2012, the Office of Sustainability was given a university-owned residence from which to operate and conduct activities, including the Big Red Bikes program. The Office was granted the house upon the condition that it would serve as a project: a sustainability best practice demonstration home. The house, built in 1931, is sound, but the building envelope and heating and cooling systems were inefficient. Additionally, the appliances were outdated and the house was in need of basic upgrades such as paint. The yard was basic, a blank slate for sustainable landscaping. Essentially, the house is meant to serve as a living laboratory project for interdisciplinary, applied learning and research.

The Office of Sustainability staff occupied the house for one year to collect baseline data in energy use and efficiency before upgrades were made. Students have been engaged from day one, conducting measurements (door blower test, thermal imaging, for example) for pre and post-performance metrics. As improvements have been made (sustainable landscaping, insulation, high efficiency windows installed, solar thermal array, for example), research and full cost analysis has been conducted by students under the direction of the Sustainability Coordinator. The house has even served as the topic of an Honors Thesis/Capstone Project.

Ultimately, the house is meant to demonstrate sustainable solutions for present and future homeowners. It is presently included in the WKU Green Tour, and interpretive signage will be developed for placement around the house so that visitors can fully understand the reasons behind the improvements.

We are very proud of this project. The Office of Sustainability is a sustainable home for the Office of Sustainability staff and their various activities, and supports students and community in a variety of ways.

It is my honor and privilege to provide this documentation to you in support of our Office of Sustainability accomplishments.

Best regards,

Bryan B. Russell,
Chief Facilities Officer

cc: Christian Ryan, Coordinator, Office of Sustainability

The Spirit Makes the Master

Western Kentucky University | 1906 College Heights Blvd. #21091 | Bowling Green, KY 42101-1091
phone: 270-745-8708 | fax: 270-745-2126 | email: pdc@wku.edu | web: www.wku.edu

Equal Education and Employment Opportunities • Printing paid from state funds, KRS 57.375 • Hearing Impaired Only: 270.745.5389