



Dominic Boyer
Director, CENHS, the Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences
Professor, Department of Anthropology

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

RE: STARS Assessment

To Whom It May Concern:

The Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences (CENHS) is the first research center in the world specifically devoted to sponsoring research on the relationship between energy and the environment in the arts, humanities and social sciences. CENHS was the first research center founded (in April 2013) as a part of Rice University's campus wide Energy and Environment Initiative (EEI) which seeks to bring all the intellectual resources of a research university together to tackle the pressing energy and environmental challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. As the first center of its kind, CENHS's mission is pathbreaking and two-fold: (1) to help cultivate and expand human-scientific research on the energy/environment nexus and (2) to make sure the expertise of human scientists on energy/environmental issues reaches across and beyond the Rice campus to engage the public, government and industry.

CENHS's specific efforts to advance sustainability awareness and participation in higher education include: 1) developing the first "introduction to energy humanities" course taught anywhere in the United States (including an undergraduate research competition), 2) organizing the only annual research symposium in energy/environmental humanities (now in its fourth year), 3) creating four multidisciplinary faculty and student led research clusters (in Arts/Media, Catastrophes/Literature, Philosophy/Ethics, and Social Analytics), 4) publishing an influential energy humanities blog via our website culturesofenergy.org and 5) inaugurating a new NSF-sponsored Arctic Research Initiative.

Dominic Boyer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Boyer".

Director,
Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences (CENHS,
culturesofenergy.org)

Professor,
Department of Anthropology

Dominic Boyer • CENHS • Rice University

Mail Stop 20 • P.O. Box 1892 • Houston, Texas 77251-1892
Phone: 713-348-2061 • Fax: 713-348-5455 • E-mail: dcb2@rice.edu