



## David E. Shi Center for Sustainability

January 22, 2013

To whom it may concern:

The BEST<sup>sm</sup> (Businesses Engaged in Sustainability for Tomorrow) program is designed to help businesses and organizations lower their energy, water and waste management costs. Through the provision of an on-line assessment and plan creation, BEST identifies areas of savings that will positively impact businesses and organizations bottom-line while simultaneously improving our community.

The BEST program uses an online process to allow organizations to easily identify, benchmark and reduce their operating costs through a simple, intuitive process that collects data and provides specific recommendations tied to business types and associated activities. BEST also provides a custom dashboard specific to each organization with detailed reports, snapshots and access to additional information on an on-going basis.

Many of the recommendations generated through BEST have no cost associated with them, while other recommendations are tied to low-cost or capital investment solutions. The program provides calculations that allow businesses to estimate savings upfront, as well as monthly customized reports for each organization. Cost for the program is \$99 annually, which covers the seminar or webinar, BEST assessment tool and plan creation, ongoing monthly reports, and a detailed company BEST webpage.

Companies that have already partnered with Furman and BEST include Lowe's, Greenville Hospital System, The City of Greenville, Greer Chamber of Commerce, Greenville Water System, Laurens Electric, Goodwill Industries, Bon Secours Saint Francis Hospital, Elliott Davis, CBRE-The Furman Company, Piedmont Natural Gas, BI-LO, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Ten at the Top and Waste Industries.

BEST is managed by Furman's Center for Corporate and Professional Development, directed by Dr. Brad Bechtold. The Center is also the home of Furman's Post-Graduate Diploma in Corporate Sustainability. BEST is the culmination of a year-long research and development initiative undertaken by Furman with support from a grant through the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and the participation of many partner organizations. BEST is one of several community commitments on the part of Furman University to reach out and create a sustaining impact. Business growth is critical to the economics of our state and region and Furman University understands economic growth is built on better business and, therein, is committed to supporting South Carolina businesses.

Sincerely,

Katherine Kransteuber  
Program Coordinator  
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