

FACILITIES SERVICES

Facilities Services

mailing address
8888 University Drive,
Burnaby BC Canada
V5A 1S6

STARS Technical Review Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability for Higher Education (AASHE)
213 ½ N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40507, USA

April 4, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam:

I can confirm that SFU's salt management program fits with the criteria for the Innovation Credit and elaborate below each criteria heading below.

- 1) Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, groundbreaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit.
 - Salt management is currently not covered under an existing STARS credit. Our salt management program is highly uncommon for a mountain top campus especially with our approach of ongoing collaboration with the local stream keepers association.
- 2) In general, innovation credits should have roughly similar impacts or be on the same scale as Tier One credits.
 - The salt management program has roughly similar impacts as other Tier One credits such as OP-23 Stormwater management.
- 3) The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome should have occurred within the past three years.
 - The salt water management program was developed in 2009
- 4) The innovative practice or program has to be something that the institution has already done; planned activities do not count.
 - SFU's program development has been completed
- 5) An institution can only claim a particular activity as an innovation credit once. When re-submitting for a STARS rating, an innovation credit that the institution submitted previously cannot be re-submitted.
 - This is the first time we have submitted this program for an innovation credit.'
- 6) Practices, policies, and programs that were once considered innovative but are now widely adopted (e.g. being the first institution to enact a policy 20 years ago that is now common) may not be claimed as innovation credits.
 - Salt management is not a widely adopted program for universities. SFU is a leader in this area
- 7) Multiple activities or practices whose sum is innovative can be considered for an innovation credit as long as those activities or practices are related. For example, three innovative waste reduction programs in research laboratories could be listed together under a single innovation credit for Greening Laboratories. Listing a series of unrelated accomplishments or events under a single innovation credit is not accepted.

- The salt management program is one program that covers all road maintenance in icy winter weather.
- 8) While the practices that led to receiving an award may be appropriate for an innovation credit, winning awards and/or high sustainability rankings in other assessments is not, in and of itself, grounds for an innovation credit.
 - Not applicable
 - 9) Outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region or school type are eligible for innovation credits.
 - As a mountain top campus at the top of a watershed, salt management is a highly innovative practice.
 - 10) When the innovation is part of a partnership, the summary provided must clearly describe the institution's role in the innovation.
 - Although we work collaboratively with the local stream keepers association, the program was developed and is managed by SFU.

SFU Salt Management Program Information

Background:

Snow and Ice on Burnaby Mountain is an inevitable occurrence during the winter months. The severity and frequency of these snow and ice events vary. As a result, the management of the conditions also varies to ensure public safety on our roads, walkways and stairs. The common practice in managing snow and ice conditions is through the use of Road Salt. This however can have a detrimental effect on our environment (open streams, aquatic life, ground water, vegetation etc.).

Approach:

SFU built a new Winter Operation Facility (WOF) to address the salt issues. This new facility is a complete encapsulated facility from both above and below ground to ensure that the salt stored in the facility will not contaminate the environment.

Strategies employed to reduce salt usage include

- Use of Alternative deicing products on walkways and stairs that are less harmful to the environment.
- Utilizing a 6-part gravel to 1 part salt mix for road deicing thus substantially reducing salt usage
- Use of Liquid Brine a 23.7% saline solution for deicing (black ice)
- Wash water from washing salt trucks is collected within the WOF and used to make Brine.
- Continued investigations into new and innovative alternatives for reducing salt usage

Further details of the Salt Management Plan can be viewed online at
http://www.sfu.ca/fs/Campus-Facility-Profiles/Salt_Management.html

Yours truly,
Simon Fraser University,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Dahabieh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sam Dahabieh
Director, Facilities Services Operations