

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100,
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Letter of Affirmation, STARS Innovation Credit for "Point of use" in-line water filtration systems

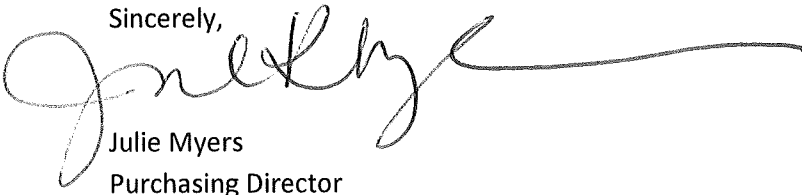
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to affirm Bard College's institution-wide changeover from a delivery-based water cooler system to a "point of use" in-line water filtration system, and to affirm the project's suitability as a STARS "Innovation Credit" candidate.

As part of Bard's "Take Back the Tap" initiative, in the past year Bard has systematically removed all of its carboy-based water cooler units (which relied on scheduled delivery trucks and personnel to continually supply and remove carboys) and replaced with in-line filtration water cooler units. Occupying the same spaces as the old water coolers, and the new units tap into a nearby water supply line (e.g. under a kitchenette sink), in order to better utilize the campus' own local water source and on-site mass filtration facility. Overcoming the inconsistencies of campus tap-water taste (though filtered and safe, water passing through any pipe system can pick up minerals and tastes) the added "point of use" filtration helps to ensure drinking water across has the same high-quality, clean taste. Additional direct benefits include:

- Removing loud, idling delivery trucks and smelly exhaust fumes from campus causeways
- Eliminate the need to transport water from a non-local source to campus, a non-sustainable practice and possible environmental justice issue
- Improving aesthetics and space management by eliminating need to store large quantities of plastic carboys (4-6+ per dispenser location), which encroached nearby corridors and rooms
- Eliminate the supply and service inconsistencies inherent in a delivery-based system and greatly simplify purchasing and maintenance needs.
- Avoid inevitable spillage from replacing carboys

Sincerely,



Julie Myers
Purchasing Director