



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300 | 800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us



Minnesota GreenStep Cities

July 16, 2014

RE: MACALESTER COLLEGE STARS INNOVATION CREDIT

Dear STARS Review Committee:

I write to enthusiastically to affirm the work Macalester College is doing with their new Sustainability Staff Network. In assisting cities across the state of Minnesota with their sustainability initiatives, I end up working with colleges, universities and technical schools to enlist their help. To date I have not seen a staff network and understand what a vital role it will play in advancing a campus' sustainability efforts.

Faculty sustainability networks exist – notably at the University of MN – and a few student or student worker sustainability networks exist, such as the successful one at Macalester. And staff “green teams” are not unusual in cities across Minnesota. I know these best, and see their power in harnessing the very detailed knowledge staff have of an organization’s material flows, energy use, operations and routines. Like staff green teams in business, it is not unusual to see such teams cut energy use at on organization by 15% in their first year of operation.

Hence the innovation led by Suzanne Hansen, Macalester’s Sustainability Manager, to bring the staff sustainability team concept to the college. Suzanne and I worked together briefly over 15 years ago and we have stayed in touch over the years as I have been on campus for guest lectures and other opportunities. As Suzanne has discussed the staff network I am inspired by this addition to Macalester’s portfolio of efforts across all campus groups to make the college a more sustainable institution.

Sincerely,

Philipp Muessig
GreenStep Cities Program Co-director at the MPCA
<http://www.MnGreenStep.org>
651/757-2594; philipp.muessig@state.mn.us

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. The program, governed by a partnership of state agencies and non-governmental organizations, is led by the MPCA.

