

July 11, 2014

To whom it may concern,

As Director of Business Operations within Facilities Management at Western University, please accept this letter of affirmation that the “Global Adjustment Days” initiative meets the criteria of an Innovation credit for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System® (STARS) report. To the best of my knowledge, I can affirm that the program is new (offered in the last 3 years), and has not been awarded a STARS credit through previous innovation submissions or through existing STARS credits.

A Global Adjustment (GA) tax was implemented by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to recover costs associated with surplus electricity put on reserve each day. This tax specifically applies extra fees to large energy users on days in which energy is in the greatest demand, also known as peak days. Western is taking a strategic approach to reducing energy consumption on campus through the implementation of “Global Adjustment Days”. By dialing back energy use during the peak days (i.e. the hottest summer days requiring high air conditioning and fan usage), Western can reduce its demand on the grid and lower its percentage of consumption compared to other provincial users. At Western, of the \$16 million energy costs, roughly \$7 million goes to the university's contribution to the GA tax. By reducing demand, the university not only pays less in energy costs during that time, but also pays a smaller portion of the Global Adjustment (GA) tax.

I can affirm that this innovation described is a unique initiative since Western was honored by the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) with the 2013 Quality & Productivity Award-Ontario Regional Prize for the university's energy-reduction plan. This award specifically recognized Western's efforts to reduce its portion of the Ontario's Global Adjustment (GA) Tax. It is also of notable importance that Western was the only university in the province to successfully predict and act on all five peak days in 2012. Once again, Facilities Management is encouraging campus members this summer to actively participate in this initiative. For instance, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to lower blinds to prevent sunlight from heating their workspace, turn lights off when not needed, avoid phantom power, and set computers and laptops to energy saving mode.

As energy prices continue to rise, this initiative is imperative in order to reduce costs associated with Western's greatest consumer of electricity throughout the summer. I am also confident that this activity promotes long-term campus sustainability by encouraging behavioural change for social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Sincerely,



Paul Martin