

July 22, 2014

To whom it may concern,

As Programming Coordinator for the Division of Housing & Ancillary Services at Western University, please accept this letter as an affirmation that the “Rez Powers Down” initiative meets the criteria of the innovation component of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System® (STARS) report. The “Rez Powers Down” initiative meets the STARS Innovation requirements as 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.

The primary goal of this challenge is to promote energy conservation and awareness among students while they live in residence on campus and prepare them to become renters in the London community, paying their own utility bills. Over the two-week period, students compete against other residences to reduce their building’s energy usage. Organizers of this event are able to utilize Facilities Management’s unique real-time energy dashboard ([wes-utilities.dashboard.uwo.ca](http://wes-utilities.dashboard.uwo.ca)) to monitor progress over the weeks and to determine the amount of energy that each residence saves. Students are encouraged to: turn off as many lights as possible, take the stairs instead of the elevator, turn the thermostat down and dress in layers, take cooler, shorter showers, wash laundry in cold water, and unplug electronics and appliances that are not in use.

I am proud to report that in 2012, participating residences reduced their energy consumption by an average of 5.5% compared to the previous two weeks, totaling savings of 38,710 kWh, and over \$4000 on Western’s utility bill. Similarly, in 2013, participating residences were able to reduce their overall energy consumption by 8% compared to the previous two weeks. Half of the money that each residence saved on their utility bill can be put towards paying for damages that occurred throughout the year, supporting a residence program, or donating to a charity. This event is planned to take place in the fall of 2014, where even greater energy savings are anticipated with the support of Western’s students, faculty, and staff.

The goals of this initiative align with the university’s vision of an environmentally sustainable environment where campus engagement is of central focus. Not only are students learning to conserve energy at the institution, but they are also building habits that they will carry with them throughout their experiences in Off-Campus Housing, and beyond Western. As such, I believe that “Rez Powers Down” is both innovative and essential to Western and its surrounding community’s sustainable future.

Sincerely,



Angela Treglia