



February 25, 2014

Re: Support Letter for Green Mountain College's AASHE STARS Innovation Credit

Dear AASHE STARS Review Team:

This letter is to affirm that Green Mountain College's Supply Chain Impact Assessment is an innovative mechanism for assessing the ecological impacts of Green Mountain College's purchases.

I am the Sustainability Coordinator at Wesleyan University, where I work with students, faculty, and staff to promote sustainability in all aspects of campus life. I work closely with our campus's sustainability committee, SAGES, and its subcommittees, which focus on energy, transportation, academics, waste, building and grounds, and purchasing. Through my leadership, Wesleyan completed its first STARS report in October 2013.

I believe that Green Mountain College's Supply Chain Impact Assessment represents an innovative program because it goes far above and beyond common standards established by the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and AASHE's STARS program. The ACUPCC assesses only greenhouse gases associated with paper and no other purchasing externalities. STARS evaluates paper, cleaning product, and electronics purchases, but allows schools to establish their own criteria of what is classified as a "sustainable" purchase. Green Mountain College's supply chain assessment evaluates all of these purchases and many more by assessing impacts through a standardized Ecological Input-Output Life Cycle Analysis model. This model considers each product's impact on land use, chemical emissions, water use, and fossil fuel use.

Green Mountain College's assessment began in Fall 2013 and will continue into the next stage in Spring 2014 to verify results and determine next steps. In its first few months, this assessment has evaluated over \$11 million of the College's purchases directly, and another \$2.23 million purchases were assessed indirectly. This Supply Chain Impact Assessment will further Green Mountain College's place as a sustainability leader and will move the College closer to its goal of authentic sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer G. Kleindienst".

Jennifer G. Kleindienst  
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