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To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to submit this written affirmation that the University of Alberta's Dialogue on Campus Sustainability (DoCS), meets – and, in my belief, exceeds – the criteria necessary for an Innovation Credit for the AASHE STARS Assessment.

From its inception to completion, I supported DoCS by providing strategic guidance based on best practices of public engagement in sustainability decision making. Specifically, I served on the DoCS Executive Committee and provided specialized knowledge & experience to increase the quality of the engagement process including suggestions on design, recruitment, reporting, planning for impact and sustaining participation.

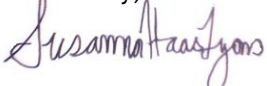
I have been developing and implementing large-scale public participation processes for about ten years, for all three sectors across North America. Some examples of my work include citizen participation in developing plans to rebuild post-Katrina New Orleans, review British Columbia's electoral system, address health care reform in California and, most recently, public priorities to guide the City of Vancouver's Transportation Plan update.

DoCS brought hundreds of people at the University of Alberta into an in-depth and consequential conversation about the sustainability of their community. Its unique and innovative approaches to advancing campus sustainability include:

- Ambitious student-initiated project with wholesale support of the University's Office of Sustainability
- Dual purposes of broad campus involvement in identifying priorities for sustainability actions as well as activating grassroots campus projects
- Participants reflected a diversity of the campus community by effectively engaging students, staff and faculty – not only in the deliberations but also in planning efforts
- DoCS programs built the capacity and skills of student and staff leaders to support community ownership of sustainability outcomes
- And importantly, DoCS was designed and followed through on the intention to integrate its process and outcomes within the University's planning procedures

For these reasons and many more, I argue that DoCS is a compelling project that meets the criteria set out by AASHE for a STARS innovation credit. I would be pleased to discuss this further; feel free to contact me at the addresses below.

Sincerely,



Susanna Haas Lyons
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