



November 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: STARS innovation credit affirmation

Please accept this letter as affirmation that the University of Alberta Waste Experiential Learning Project meets the necessary criteria for the STARS assessment.

I have been involved with this project since its early stages and have been impressed by the collaboration and innovation it has fostered. The uniqueness of this project comes from the incorporation of a hands on waste audit of a U of A building into a Civil and Environmental Engineering class (EnvE432 / CivE628) offered by the University of Alberta. Planning, execution, and data analysis from this waste audit provided applied, real-world experience to augment the theory taught in the classroom. To further legitimize this experience, not only were students able to write up their assessment and make practical recommendations to the U of A Facilities and Operations unit, but the U of A staff involved are utilizing the students' recommendations in a comprehensive waste diversion pilot project.

Much of the challenge of successful waste management processes lies in public knowledge and participation, and the university setting provides a unique vehicle for testing new ways to achieve this. The Waste Experiential Learning Project successfully engaged approximately 35 undergraduate and graduate students who were learning about municipal solid waste, with faculty and staff who are experts in this field. The success of this project indicates that experiential learning and its practical application, such as waste management methodology for a large post-secondary institution, could help to increase the understanding of our waste systems and serve as a method to improve participation in our waste diversion efforts, while exploring innovative ways forward in the field of waste management.



Shouhai Yu

Acting Advisory Service Manager
Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence
Site 310, 13111 Meridian Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6S 1G9
Phone: (780) 239-3691
Fax: (780) 944.5709
Email: shouhai.yu@edmonton.ca