



January 31, 2012

Michael Lizotte
Director of Sustainability
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Dear Dr. Lizotte:

The UW Oshkosh Biodigester is a strong candidate for Innovation Credit in the AASHE STARS submission. This project constructed the first commercial scale dry fermentation anaerobic biodigester in the Americas. The facility generates electricity and heat from biomass equivalent to 10% of the campus use. The biodigester is generating energy from biomass, including food and yard waste from the campus and the community.

This project was also innovative in terms of financing. The main financial partner is the UW Oshkosh Foundation, who will use proceeds to fund scholarship programs.

The project has had numerous benefits in developing new collaborations with corporate partners, municipalities, and funding agencies. It also has impacted learning at the institution by serving as a laboratory for science courses and a research platform for commercial scale applications such as testing degradability of bioplastics.

Sincerely,

Thomas Sonleitner
Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh