



Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Program Staff—

This letter is to affirm that Oberlin College's participation in the Oberlin Project meets the STARS criteria for Innovation credits. STARS reserves innovation credits for "new, extraordinary, unique, groundbreaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit" as well as "outcomes, policies, and practices that are innovative for the institution's region." The Oberlin Project satisfies both of those criteria.

In 2010, Oberlin College and the City of Oberlin jointly signed on to become one of sixteen Climate Positive Development Program cities, an initiative of the William J. Clinton Foundation's Clinton Climate Initiative and the U.S. Green Building Council. The college and the city, together with private and institutional partners, created the Oberlin Project to improve the resilience, prosperity and sustainability of the community.

The Oberlin Project's aim is to revitalize the local economy, eliminate carbon emissions, restore local agriculture, food supply and forestry, and create a new, sustainable base for economic and community development.

Our current goals include:

- Creating one of the first climate positive cities in America by shifting the city and college to renewable energy sources, radically improving efficiency, sharply reducing our carbon emissions, and improving our economy in the process.
- Creating new business ventures in energy efficiency and solar deployment, food and agriculture, and the sustainable use of local resources.
- Establishing a 20,000-acre greenbelt and developing a robust local foods economy to meet at least half of our consumption.
- Creating an educational alliance between the College, the Oberlin schools, the Joint Vocational School, and Lorain County Community College focused on education appropriate to issues of sustainability.
- Developing a 13-acre Green Arts District at the US Green Building Council Platinum level as the main driver for community economic revitalization.
- Replicating the Project in other communities.

Oberlin is one of only two Clinton Foundation Climate Positive Development Program cities in the United States. The Agreement holds the community to its reduce carbon emissions below zero.

Oberlin College's participation in the Oberlin Project marks it as an innovative leader in sustainability.

Sincerely,

Bryan Stubbs  
Managing Director, The Oberlin Project