

July 21, 2011

RE: Office Depot Totes Program

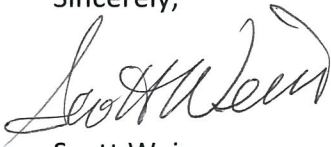
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted in support of the University of Notre Dame's STARS documentation for innovation credit regarding The Office Depot Tote Program. This program was implemented in June 2010 and is the direct result of an ongoing partnership between Procurement Services, the Office of Sustainability, and Office Depot that is focused on reuse first then recycling. The University of Notre Dame was the first university in the Midwest to implement this program and only the second in the nation.

Office Depot orders now arrive at their destinations on campus in green plastic bins called totes instead of being encased in corrugated cardboard and plastic packing materials. While cardboard is easily recycled, these totes promote reuse and resource reduction first. This innovative program will save 9.6 tons of cardboard and plastic annually and will reduce campus-related carbon dioxide emissions by 53 metric tons annually, the equivalent of 5,500 gallons of gasoline.

University of Notre Dame's Tote program, in my opinion, meets the criteria expected for innovation credit.

Sincerely,



Scott Weiss

Vertical Market Manager – Education, Office Depot