

July 19, 2011

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education 213 ½ N. Limestone Lexington, KY 40507

Re: Okanagan College STARS® Report Submission

Okanagan College has committed to sustainability. In our recently completed Strategic Plan, our vision includes the statement "We serve, lead and anticipate the social, economic and environmental needs of communities." One of the five key directions for 2010 to 2015 in our Strategic Plan is to become a leader in sustainability with the objectives of imbedding sustainability in the full range of educational programming, increasing sustainable practices in all operations, educating students and employees to act sustainably, and promoting leadership and collaboration with communities in developing sustainable practices.

Nowhere is this better illustrated than in our newly completed Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation. Built to meet the Living Building Challenge, the Centre of Excellence is one most innovative and sustainable buildings in the world. From the outset, Okanagan College was motivated to pursue an ambitious sustainable agenda, based on the thinking that there is no better way to teach and encourage sustainable building practices than to feature the facility as part of the curriculum. The building itself is a living classroom that will practice what the faculty will teach: an integrated, site-specific approach to sustainable building that aims to reduce energy use, conserve water, and mitigate its impact on the surrounding environment.

We have adopted STARS as the key performance indicator of progress in our commitment to become a leader in sustainability. This submission sets the baseline for our performance, and the process of reviewing our sustainable practices has served to challenge and inspire our planning for sustainability in all of our activities.

Okanagan College has achieved a silver rating, and the following submission is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

Jim Hamilton, President



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