

April 28, 2014

Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating Systems  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Reviewer:

As the Director of Sustainability at the University of North Texas (UNT), I supervised the formation of the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI), a component of UNT Sustainability. SCI is designed to be a resource for businesses, municipalities, and educational institutions in North Texas. It helps participants align strategic planning with long-term sustainability initiatives. I verify that UNT should be eligible to claim STARS innovation credits for this program, according to the required criteria.

For businesses, SCI helps to develop behavior-change programming that promotes sustainability amongst employees and staff. Within municipalities, SCI helps to develop comprehensive sustainability plans to guide long-term development, as well as enable them to facilitate stakeholder engagement and sustainability outreach. Lastly, for educational institutions, SCI helps develop programs that help the institution assess and improve its sustainability practices. This enables UNT Sustainability to be a part of the surrounding community in developing strategies that creates a larger culture of sustainability in a more involved manner.

SCI meets the STARS criteria for an innovation credit because it is part of community engagement efforts at UNT. It is designed to help identify areas in which businesses, municipalities, and educational institutions can be more sustainable and to develop ways for them to implement solutions.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.

Thank you,



Todd Spinks, Ph.D.  
Director  
UNT Sustainability  
University of North Texas