Colorado State University

Knowledge to Go Places

Facilities Management
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-6030

Innovation Credit Letter
Sustainability Tracking Rating and Assessment System
Biomass Boiler

March 30, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to endorse Colorado State University's Biomass Boiler as a fulfillment of the STARS Innovation Credit. As the Energy Engineer responsible for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs at Colorado State University, I feel I am qualified to asses the sustainable value of this project. My work experience includes solar energy research and applications, energy and water conservation, green buildings, greenhouse gas accounting, and utility system maintenance & operation. I have devoted many years to the implementation of renewable energy on Colorado State University's campus. Additionally, I am a licensed Professional Engineer, a LEED AP, and an adjunct professor in the Construction Management Department.

The biomass boiler is a heating plant that serves the Jud Harper research complex at the CSU Foothills Campus. The plant burns wood chips to provide hot water for building heating rather than rely solely on natural gas. The wood chips are a result of forest management efforts which typically supply about 10 tons of wood chips per acre. The boiler is rated at 46 boiler hp, or 1.5 million Btu/hr. Wood chips are classified as renewable energy because burning biomass releases the atmospheric carbon that was absorbed during a tree's growth cycle. The greenhouse gas emissions associated with this energy source are essentially just those resulting from transporting the fuel.

The biomass boiler was constructed under a partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service, an agency under the umbrella of the university's land grant charter. The CSFS provided both technical expertise and 40% of the funding required to build the plant. This unique partnership capitalized on the agency resources available to land grant universities.

By utilizing this local, low carbon, renewable resource, Colorado State University maintains a serious commitment to follow sustainable practices. Clearly, the biomass boiler perfectly succinct with the goals of the STARS Innovation Credit.

Thanks you.
Sincerely,

Carol J. Dollard, P.E., LEED AP
Energy Engineer
Facilities Management
Colorado State University

EPA Green Lights PARTNER