



City Hall, 426 Brant Street
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z6

April 7th, 2015

STARS - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

Re: Sheridan's Repair Café for Innovation Credit

This letter is to validate Sheridan College's pursuit of an innovation credit in STARS. Repair Café is a non-profit organization originating in Amsterdam in 2010 that has spread across the world. Sheridan College has hosted Repair Café events through the Toronto Chapter of Repair Café, of which Wai Chu Cheng, Sheridan's Sustainability Coordinator is a co-founder.

Sheridan College was the first institution of higher education to host a Repair Café event. The first event was launched in April of 2014 with subsequent events hosted across Sheridan's campuses. I am not aware of other post-secondary institutions hosting Repair Café or similar events or this being standard practice.

Repair Café is a free event where members of the campus community and the public can bring broken items to be fixed by volunteer expert "fixers." This initiative promotes re-use of products rather than sending them to landfill and purchasing new ones. Common items include small electronics, clothing, and other household items. The fixers also show the visitors how to fix the item they have brought in. This not only gives them knowledge, but also allows them to feel part of the process and empowered to be able to fix items on their own in the future, thereby promoting culture change.

In addition, the community engagement aspect promotes exchange of knowledge, best practices and motivates everyone who attends to build new cultures of sustainability in their personal and work lives. These are principles that the City of Burlington embraces through its own practices, particularly its efforts to reduce and divert waste and to engage the local community in sustainability initiatives.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Robichaud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Robichaud
Sr. Sustainability Coordinator