

July 15, 2011

AASHE STARS

To whom it may concern:

As stated in Appalachian State University's Strategic Plan, "We have genuine respect for the natural environment and a commitment to principles of sustainability." Combining these two notions is what two student-based travel programs have done. After all, we want the beautiful places to which we travel to continue to inspire future generations of ASU students.

International travel requires a lot of energy to move people from place to place. As we begin to measure the environmental cost of the programs, we have to think how we can begin to travel more sustainably. This is the motivation for our carbon neutrality program. In these programs, carbon neutrality is seen as 'business as usual'. Students are taught the impact of their expedition and are engaged in the process of evaluation, development and implementation of offsetting programs.

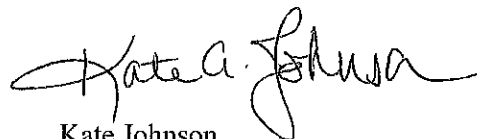
Here at Appalachian we engage our student community in solutions, furthering the educational value of our university. Through this carbon neutrality program, students learn how to think about and solve complex problems of our changing world. What we teach students out of the classroom is equally as important to what we teach them in the classroom.

We affirm this projects' innovative nature as outlined in the STARS 1.1 Technical Manual.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Campbell
Associate Director, Outdoor Programs
University Recreation



Kate Johnson
Associate Director, Community Service
Appalachian & The Community Together



outdoor programs
University Recreation
Appalachian State University

