

Letter of Affirmation

Carbon Neutral Commuter

February 27, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Appalachian State University has once again proved itself a leader in sustainability within higher education by developing and implementing the Carbon Neutral Commuter program in partnership with Sterling Planet, a carbon offset broker. In 2013, the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Parking and Traffic came together to design this progressive and innovative program providing students, faculty, and community members who do not have access to public or alternative transit methods, the opportunity to offset the university's carbon footprint. Sterling Planet brokered pricing that enabled participants to offset 1.9 metric tons of carbon dioxide for the affordable cost of only \$8. And because the carbon sequestration and mitigation efforts were made available through simple online access as well as being for sale the university bookstore, the Appalachian community responded with an unprecedented 17.5% participation rate on campus, achieving far greater results than the projected 3%. This level of individual activism for a carbon offsetting program is significant and unique and was made possible by a thoughtful collaboration between Appalachian State and Sterling Planet.

Sincerely,

Donna Presnell, a carbon neutral commuter