



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
State University of New York

November 27, 2012

AASHE
1536 Wynkoop Street
Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter at the request of Dr. Susan Powers on behalf of the greenhouse-digester project on the Clarkson campus. My name is Mary Ellen Mallia and I am the Director of Environmental Sustainability at the University at Albany. In my professional capacity, I am responsible for coordinating, facilitating and monitoring all sustainability initiatives and programming at the university.

I strongly support Susan and her student's work getting an Innovative Credit through AASHE. This program personifies so many characteristics that we strive for in the sustainability world: progressive research, engagement of students, appreciation for the life cycle of waste and energy and the junction of facility operations and academic endeavors.

Planning for the greenhouse component was initiated in 2008, built in the Fall and Winter 2010 and has been operated by students since January 2011. The Clarkson team has since worked on integrating the student-built greenhouse with a commercially-available Energy Cabin (wood pellet and solar thermal heating system) and a donated food waste digester to create a system that represents a true industrial ecology.

Dr. Susan Powers and her students have presented both the technical and educational value of this system at several conferences and competitions to share their ideas. The students are to be especially commended for their receipt of the Platinum Award, which was the top prize for international students, for their poster and presentation at the 2012 International Capstone Design Contest on Renewable Energy Technology in Mokpo, Korea.

I believe that the integration of these systems as part of the educational experience and with each other is a truly innovative and unique feature of these systems. If you have any additional question for me, please feel free to email me at mmallia@albany.edu, or call me at 518-956-8132.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen Mallia
Director of Environmental Sustainability
University at Albany