



February 15, 2017

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff,

This letter serves as affirmation that the Flex Laboratory, housed at the Institute for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern (ISEN), qualifies Northwestern University for AASHE STARS innovation credit.

The state-of-the-art, 8,000-square-foot ISEN Flex Lab facilitates the type of interdisciplinary collaboration that is essential to making punctuated advancements in the fields of sustainability and energy. The innovative lab space facilitates research projects among scientists, engineers, economists, and policy experts from academia, industry, and national laboratories.

The design and mission of the collaborative facility is truly unique. Given its size, customizable design, and proximity to available resources within the university, the Flex Lab facilitates the entire lifecycle of sustainable product development. Researchers are able to generate original discovery, characterize new synthesis, and develop prototypes that deploy the research findings, without ever stepping foot outside the lab. A sampling of current research being conducted in the ISEN Flex Lab spans solar fuels/ artificial photosynthesis, improved fuel cell technology, and sustainable chemical manufacturing among others.

Northwestern University's \$20 million investment in the ISEN Flex Lab is a testament to the university's commitment to sustainability and the important role that the Flex Lab plays in fulfilling that commitment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have at 847-491-3485.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Walsh".

Jay Walsh, Ph.D.

Vice President for Research

Professor of Biomedical Engineering