

February 4, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to offer affirmation that the Innovation Credit #4 for the Ohio University 2015 STARS submission is accurate, unique and worthy of consideration. The adoption of Smart Growth Principles by Ohio University's Office of University Planning and Space Management will significantly improve the long-term sustainable approaches utilized by campus planners, designers and builders for years to come.

Ohio University is undergoing a 6-year Capital Improvement Plan (2015-2020). Additionally, the University is in the midst of developing a Ridges Master Plan, Utilities Master Plan and University Master/Strategic Plan. All of these documents, coupled with the growth of and new administrative emphasis on the University Space Management and Planning Office has allowed for new conversations surrounding institutional planning principles have allowed for significant sustainable tenets to be incorporated into the policies and general operating procedures called Smart Growth Principles.

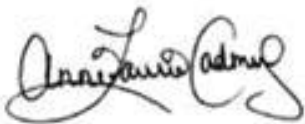
These planning documents and processes incorporate Smart Growth goals and strategies which address importance tenets such as multi-use facilities, sustainable transportation, resource conservation, stewardship and big-picture sustainability.

Such goals and strategies allow the institution to intelligently approach space needs, efficiencies and creative use of institutional property that all positively contribute to the sustainable building and design practices outlined by the Ohio University Sustainability Plan. "Smart Growth Principles" unique to Ohio University were adopted by the University Planning and Space Management Office in 2014. While the concept of "Smart Growth Principles" is relatively well known in the planning profession, the particular emphasis on sustainability that has been adopted by Ohio University is extremely unique and allows for potentially exceptional long-term outcomes on institutional planning processes.

Smart Growth Planning principles will allow for increased presence of sustainability in the planning process. We at the Office of Sustainability are deeply appreciative of Ohio University administration for creating and supporting such principles and will do our best to ensure they are upheld in the intention in which they were developed.

It should be noted that these principles were adopted by the Office of University Planning and Space Management independent of Office of Sustainability. While Office of Sustainability is supportive of this decision and will work toward supporting proper implementation of the Principles, we were not participants in the research, development and adoption of Smart Growth Principles at Ohio University.

Sincerely,



Annie Laurie Cadmus
Director of Sustainability
Ohio University