



CITY OF IOWA CITY

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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter shall serve as affirmation that the University of Iowa Energy Hawks meets the criteria necessary for the Innovation Credit for the AASHE STARS Assessment.

Faced with grim state budget reductions in FY09, The University of Iowa began looking for additional innovative ways to improve energy efficiency and save utilities costs as part of a campus-wide plan to meet financial obligations. UI Facilities Management had already begun to reduce energy usage on campus by conducting lighting audits, automating heating and cooling schedules and upgrading control components.

In order to accelerate these energy-saving efforts, UI Facilities Management assembled a cross-organizational/functional team to streamline processes and develop new methodologies for identifying and correcting operational inconsistencies, equipment deficiencies and system imbalances. The team operates with a quick hit approach and a fast turn-around in terms of project completion.

Since then, the Energy Hawks have been a critical component of the UI's 2020 Target #1: Achieve Net-negative Energy Growth. Every year, this quick-hit, high impact team completes approximately 300 improvements in eight buildings, triggering noticeable changes in energy efficiency, building function and occupant comfort.

We encourage other schools and local governments to learn more about this innovative project.

Sincerely,

Brenda Nations
Environmental Coordinator
City of Iowa City