



Office of Sustainability

1680 University Capitol Centre
Iowa City, IA 52242-1922
319-335-5501
www.sustainability.uiowa.edu

July 1, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter shall serve as affirmation that Iowa State University's Government of the Student Body (GSB) Director of Sustainability meets the criteria necessary for the Innovation Credit for the AASHE STARS Assessment.

The Iowa State University GSB created this permanent position to create seamless communication and coordination with the Office of Sustainability so that students have the opportunity to be fully engaged in building a sustainable campus.

The GSB Director of Sustainability helped found the Green Umbrella student organization. The mission of The Green Umbrella is to bring together different student sustainability organizations into one coalition with the purpose of building awareness among students regarding the sustainable efforts around them. The group's goals are to:

1. Create an open forum for discussion about green initiatives at ISU.
2. Act as one voice to ISU administration regarding student sustainability issues
3. Teach students how they can make their lives more sustainable, how they can participate in ISU's Go Green efforts, and how to voice opinions on sustainable issues.

The Green Umbrella student group has organized and hosted several major campus events, engaging hundreds of students in volunteer and outreach efforts.

A special focus of the GSB Director of Sustainability is to increase waste diversion by maximizing recycling opportunities. To that end, a GSB-led committee, Students for Sustainability (SFS) was formed. Through their committed efforts, a multi-commodity volunteer-led recycling program was created and piloted for campus office and academic buildings (to build upon current paper and cardboard recycling programs). This successful pilot program has resulted in a partnership effort with Facilities Planning and Management to facilitate multi-commodity recycling throughout campus.

The ISU GSB Director of Sustainability is a unique and critical component of student government and a valuable partner. I encourage other colleges and universities to learn more about this position and its role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Christiansen".

Liz Christiansen, Director
University of Iowa Office of Sustainability