



Date: January 4, 2011

Re: LEED Pilot Program

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff:

This letter is being submitted in support of American University's STARS documentation for an innovation credit. Since late 2006 American University has been working collaboratively with the U.S. Green Building Council as one of eight universities participating in the LEED Volume Certification pilot program. A goal of the pilot is to identify opportunities to streamline the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification process for multiple campus buildings and develop a strategy for organizations to implement green building strategies at a campus-scale. This pilot is innovative in that it is designed to dramatically advance the use of green building concepts by streamlining the administrative processes for planning, implementing and reporting LEED green building practices. The university has committed to certifying 30 campus buildings for LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance certification (LEED EB:O&M) and is actively working towards their goal of transforming these facilities into sustainable high performance learning spaces.

By participating in this pilot, not only is American University greening its own existing buildings, but they are helping to create new approaches to greening existing buildings that will benefit other organizations around the world. As such, I believe this qualifies as an Innovation Credit in STARS.

Sincerely,

Jaime Van Mourik
Higher Education Manager
Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council