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March 7, 2014

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff,

This letter is being submitted in affirmation of the University of New Hampshire's Energy Efficiency Fund for Innovation Credit through the AASHE STARS program.

The green revolving fund has dedicated over \$1.2 million to energy efficiency investments on campus. The projects reduce the campus' environmental emissions, improve infrastructure, and lower the campus' operating costs, providing a financial benefit to the positive environmental impacts.

The fund's innovation is demonstrated through the unique way that cost savings are recaptured. The Energy Efficiency Fund works by establishing a set amount of dollars that can be invested into projects that reduce energy, waste, or resource use. The resulting reduction in operating costs is revolved back to the fund, ensuring that the next generation of projects has the opportunity to be financed. UNH is one of 80 campuses that operate such a fund in the U.S.

So far, the Fund has financed 12 energy- and resource-saving projects, including: increasing efficiency in the campus cogeneration plan by updating equipment, installing higher-efficiency lighting upgrades across campus, installing occupancy sensors in a garage, installing insulation on pipes and inside buildings, and upgrading HVAC systems.

The fund allows UNH to invest in their campus' sustainability across buildings, departments, and independent of individual budget availability. The fund also helps UNH to reach their larger commitments to sustainability and carbon reduction by taking action to reduce the school's overall greenhouse gas emissions. As such, I believe that this program qualifies for inclusion as an Innovation Credit through the AASHE STARS' program.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily M. Flynn". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Emily Flynn
Associate Director, the Sustainable Endowments Institute

About the Sustainable Endowments Institute

The Sustainable Endowments Institute was founded in 2005 as a special project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. The Cambridge-based nonprofit organization has pioneered research and education to advance sustainability in campus operations and endowment practices.