

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing this letter in support of our 2011 AASHE STARS submission with respect to our request for innovation credits for our work on creating web-based quality assurance, peer comparison, and benchmarking tools for other campuses.

While there are many drivers to cause schools to report their annual GHG inventories (e.g., the PCC commitment) the repositories of data for schools do not provide any quality assurance or checking of reports, provide no assistance in benchmarking, or in helping schools assess how and who to compare themselves to.

We have been working with Clean Air Cool Planet (CACP) for the past year with funding from the Heinz Endowments to provide such tools. They continue to be expanded. While the full tool is still in private beta testing (with dissemination at AASHE 2011), the already available (and used by several schools) version of our tools continue to be available at the website of our CMU Green Practices Committee (<http://www.cmu.edu/greenpractices/campus-commitments/tools-for-green-campus.html>). CMU's role in this partnership has been to collect and assess all data and to develop the public web interface for the tool.

As there are no existing STARS criteria associated with doing such work, we believe this activity falls under the "innovation" category. We also believe that the impact of this work even at our own school exceeds a Tier One category credit, and as other schools begin to publicly use it later this year, it would provide the benefits of many Tier One credits.

Sincerely,



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Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering /  
Engineering and Public Policy