



May 31, 2018

To: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

Re: Submission of Innovation Credit for the Use of Treated Salt at Muhlenberg College

To the AASHE and STARS Review Team:

Muhlenberg College Plant Operations has started using a treated rock salt product. Our salt starts out as regular rock salt, but is treated prior to use with a liquid agricultural by-product. This product is the result of the distillation process used for making rum.

This liquid product is patented and transforms the rock salt into a new type of de-icing material. The product is effective for snow and ice management by forming a barrier between the macadam and the snow, and eliminates hard pack areas that become hazardous. This will reduce the amount of material tracked into buildings, which results in lower clean-up time and product use. It is also pet friendly.

We have also started using the straight liquid form to treat sidewalks and steps, which have a similar impact.

This product is highly effective to a temperature of minus thirty degrees- a lot lower than untreated rock salt. It works faster and lasts longer. By using this product effectively at Muhlenberg College, we have been able to **use thirty- five percent less product**. This dramatically reduces the amount of salt getting back into the adjoining soil and groundwater. This product will also decrease the corrosiveness of rock salt by up to eighty percent. This results in less damage to the turf, the concrete and other plant material.

We are extremely pleased with the results of this product- we have been able to reduce our impact on the environment as well as reduce snow and ice management costs. This aligns with our departments sustainability goals, and gives us peace of mind in winter events.

Sincerely,

Brett A. Fulton

Assistant Director

Plant Operations