

Date: August 29, 2013, 2013  
RE: Embedded Energy Manager Program

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff:

This letter is being submitted in support of Niagara College's STARS documentation for an Innovation credit. In the fall of 2012, Niagara College applied to the Ontario Power Authority's Embedded Energy Manager Program. The program provides institutions funding of up to 80% of the positions annual salary, in which the position is responsible for implementing measurable and verifiable electricity reductions at the institutions. While initially rejected from the program because our electricity load was not high enough to meet the minimum thresholds, we were able to demonstrate commitment to significant electricity reductions through the sustainability targets already set and were accepted into the program. If the college is able to reach the targets set out by the program, the local distribution company will fund the other 20%. Not only will Niagara College see significant cost savings having the position funded, but there will be significant cost savings through the electricity reductions. Upon entering an agreement with the OPA and Welland Hydro (our local distribution company), we committed to a 300kW demand reduction per year as well as 10% kWh electricity consumption reduction per year; a very aggressive target for Niagara College.

In February 2013, the position was filled and the electricity reductions began. Since introducing this new position in February, we have seen a reduction of over 100kW and 250,000kWh through a variety of projects, which will save an average of \$35,000 per year. We have many more projects planned and look forward to having a designated person on board focusing specifically on reducing energy for the college.

Sincerely,

Taryn Wilkinson  
Sustainability Coordinator  
Facilities Management Services  
Niagara College Canada