

Date: September 9, 2013  
RE: Demand Response Program

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff:

This letter is being submitted in support of Niagara College's STARS documentation for an Innovation credit. In spring 2013, Niagara College became a participant in the Demand Response DR3 program for both the Welland Campus and Niagara on the Lake Campus. The Ontario Demand Response Program was designed by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to reduce the risk of the reliability of the electricity grid by having contracted participants who can reduce demand when called upon. The program compensates participating businesses for reducing energy demand during times of power system need, typically large peaks in demand. This program will also call on participants to reduce demand during times of both planned and unplanned maintenance shutdowns at power generating plants. As a result of the program, all electricity users can benefit from the increased reliability in power supply. This program allows participants to take advantage of savings during these peak hours when wholesale market prices for electricity are typically high as well as the compensation that is received for being a participant.

As an educational institution, both the Welland Campus and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus have a high dependence on the weather for electricity demand, making this program more challenging to participate in compared to an organization in the manufacturing sector for example, with more regulated usage. Niagara College has committed to overcoming the challenges as an educational institution that is associated with this program, to help make a difference in the community and increase the reliance of the electrical grid in Ontario. The summer of 2013 is the first summer that Niagara College has been a participant in the DR3 program and has successfully completed a Demand Response dispatch. All of the monetary gains Niagara College receives through this program help to fund other sustainability related projects and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Danielle Piluso  
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Facilities Management Services  
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