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December 11, 2013

Attention: AASHE STARS Committee

Re: Letter of Support for the University of Victoria's Innovation Credit for Campus Composting

Since 2002, reFUSE Resource Recovery has been leading the way to zero waste by providing full-service organics recycling in Victoria, British Columbia with collection from businesses including restaurants, grocers and institutions. All collected and sorted organics are sent to facilities that are compliant with municipal and provincial environmental regulations. We are proud to help our community meet local and province-wide waste reduction goals, as well as lessen environmental impacts.

The University of Victoria started composting all food waste from operational activities on campus in 2003, notably with an emphasis on the various food service outlets. Food Services Staff compost virtually all kitchen waste and are responsible for a diversion rate of nearly 90% from the Hartland Landfill.

The University's vision of a zero-waste institution supports composting on campus by offering many centralized outdoor and indoor compost drop stations that are open to students, faculty, staff and visitors. These stations are conveniently placed around the campus grounds. UVic also offers a voluntary office composting program to help academic and support units divert food waste from the landfill. The campus wide program continues to grow steadily over the years. In fact, total waste diversion rates of compostable materials from the landfill have increased from 609.4 metric tonnes in 2010/11 to 791.8 metric tonnes in 2012/13 – an increase of 30%!

In addition to sustainability, action plan goals that educate and guide members on waste reduction initiatives, UVic continues to innovate in this area by creating Zero Waste Event guidelines for use in all events and conferences hosted on campus. The University of Victoria clearly serves as a role model for other large institutions committed to making a visible difference in their communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Adams", is written in a cursive style.

Jason Adams [Owner]
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