



# Black Hills State University

## Facility Services

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Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to affirm Black Hills State University's Innovation Credit for our self-collection refuse system as part of our application for a STARS Sustainability rating. To improve campus aesthetics and reduce our carbon footprint, BHSU Facilities Services moved from a system of garbage collection at each building on campus to a two-stop collection in spring 2014.

There are many environmentally beneficial impacts from the new system of refuse collection. Diesel powered garbage truck stops have been reduced to two campus locations instead of nine. Inter-campus transportation for refuse collection is now by an all-electric collection vehicle. The new refuse collection system increases the green space surrounding building entrances and reduces facility worker labor for trash disposal. The electric vehicle also increases visibility of our campus sustainability initiatives.

Our new hands-on effort for trash collection supports our expansion of recycling efforts to reduce the amount of refuse delivered to the landfill. Facility staff is required to separate cardboard to be baled and recycled. Cardboard alone represents about 4% of our total refuse by weight.

We are proud of the team effort we've witnessed between our facilities and grounds crews to improve our campus sustainability and beautification.

Sincerely,

Art Jones  
Director of Facilities Services  
Black Hills State University