

## Institute for Sustainable Solutions

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<http://www.pdx.edu/sustainability>

February 9, 2015

Molly Bressers  
Program and Outreach Coordinator  
Campus Sustainability Office  
Portland State University

Dear Ms. Bressers,

As the Sustainability Curriculum Coordinator at Institute for Sustainable Solutions, I am writing to affirm that the “Waste Audit Living Lab Experience” (WALL-E) program is indeed an innovative program at that is effectively bridging the gap between campus operations and academic affairs at Portland State University. Run by the Campus Sustainability Office (CSO), WALL-E provides students with an applied thought-provoking academic or co-curricular experience where they sort a building’s waste, analyze the data, and prepare a final report for the building’s occupants, allowing them to build connections between their studies, sustainability challenges, and their everyday lives.

While a relatively new program, more than 150 students have participated in WALL-E to date, sorting 1,466 lbs. of waste from five different buildings on campus. Aside from meeting educational outcomes, this project of PSU’s Living Lab is also advancing our campus’ Climate Action Plan goals (Reduce solid waste generated by 25%, and Reduce landfill bound) by assembling a robust data set of what materials are disposed of and where, which is then directly used by sustainability and facilities staff to improve the University’s overall waste management program.

This multi-partner program is extraordinarily unique in how it has successfully bridged academics and operations in order to better educate about and achieve our campus sustainability goals, and WALL-E has been instrumental in developing and informing our approach on other Living Lab projects that we are launching at PSU. WALL-E has been a groundbreaking project, and I look forward to seeing how it influences the future of sustainability at PSU.

Sincerely,

Jacob Sherman, M.S. Ed.

Sustainability Curriculum Coordinator  
Institute for Sustainable Solutions  
Portland State University