

**Institute for Sustainable Solutions
Portland State University**

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Dear Ms. Bressers,

As the Program Manager for the PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions, I regularly implement and assess the measurable impact of sustainability-related programs. Last year, Portland State University launched two new interdisciplinary graduate-level certificate programs that both required unprecedented cross-department and college collaboration to develop, launch, and implement.

Developed collaboratively with partners from across the local and regional energy industry, the new Graduate Certificate in Energy Policy and Management unites areas of energy policy and management expertise across the University into a cohesive program. Graduate courses from Public Administration, Urban Studies and Planning, Economics, Engineering Technology Management, and Systems Science come together to prepare students for careers in energy—an important cornerstone of the regional and global economy. These five units, spanning three PSU colleges, are working together to strengthen the energy content in existing courses as well as to offer the Energy Certificate.

The Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Food Systems similarly takes an interdisciplinary approach. The certificate is housed in the Public Administration Division of the Hatfield School of Government, but requires courses in a range of other disciplines, including Community Health, Urban and Regional Planning, Business, Geography, Education, and Sustainability. The certificate spans four colleges and schools at the University, and a memorandum of agreement was developed between the deans of the participating units to facilitate a coordinated approach to certificate administration and evaluation. The innovative, collaborative approach offers students a more integrated education than any single department or school could offer on its own.

The methods used to develop both these certificates breach the ridged disciplinary silos that are so prevalent in academia. Please consider this for a STARS innovation credit.

Sincerely,

Beth Lloyd-Pool
Program Manager
Institute for Sustainable Solutions
Portland State University