

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Materials Management

Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling, 9th Floor

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Joe Martens
Commissioner

December 17, 2014

Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street
Suite 100
Denver CO 80202

Dear AASHE Stars Review Team:

Re: Support Letter for SUNY New Paltz's STAR Innovation Credit

As an Environmental Program Specialist of the Department of Environmental Conservation of New York State, I am responsible for Executive Order 4 Coordination and I am the Chair of the Reporting Committee. Other duties include: DEC Sustainability Task Force, Chair of Waste Reduction & Recycling Subcommittee; Division Representative for Indian Nation Materials Management Issues; Provide outreach to schools, businesses, state agencies and others; Developing educational materials; Board of Directors for the NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling and the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council; Coordination of state-wide annual recycling conferences; Presenting to various audiences; and other duties involving waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and sustainability.

As a part of my duties, I review all annual reports on green procurement from public agencies, including all public colleges and universities in the SUNY System. These institutions are required to report annually on their efforts to date eliminating the purchase of bottled water with state funds and to comply with Executive Order 18. In December of 2014, the State University of New York at New Paltz decided to discontinue the sale of bottle water on campus beginning in the fall of 2015. Among the SUNY System, New Paltz is setting an extraordinary and ground-breaking the example on bottled water policy. SUNY New Paltz is the second college in New York State and the first college in the SUNY System that has adopted policies discontinuing the sale of bottled water; they are setting the bar high for the State.

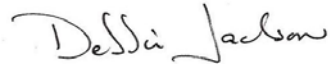
New Yorkers consume over 3.2 billion bottles of water every year; that is over 167 bottles of water per New Yorker per year. The benefits of eliminating plastic water bottles include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas in production, transportation and recycling/disposal.
- Reducing waste.
- Saving resources.
- Decreasing litter.
- Saving students' money.

Also, in April 2008, Governor David A. Paterson signed Executive Order No. 4 which established a State Green Procurement and Agency Sustainability Program, directing state agencies, public authorities and public benefit corporations to green their procurements and to implement sustainability initiatives. SUNY New Paltz's action on banning water bottles is a great sustainability initiative.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at 402-8706.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and "J".

Debbie Jackson

Environmental Program Specialist 2

Bureau of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

debbie.jackson@dec.ny.gov