

POLYTECHNIQUE
MONTREAL

TECHNOLOGICAL
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Tuesday, April 2nd, 2019.

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut St. – Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103 USA

Subject: Letter of support for STARS – Repair Café

Dear STARS Program Representatives,

As coordinator of Polytechnique Montréal's fab-lab PolyFab Normand Brais and co-initiator of Polytechnique's Repair Cafés, I wish to support Polytechnique Montréal's request for an innovation credit for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Program.

Repair Cafés are an excellent example of sustainable development, as they touch on all three spheres of sustainable development. People who bring their objects for repair get to exchange with skilled volunteers and learn new skills (social), while saving money (economic), diverting materials from waste, and reducing their consumption of new materials and energy (environmental). Through our four Repair Café events, nearly 200 articles of various natures have been repaired and given a second life.

Though Repair Cafés have been around for about 10 years, Polytechnique's Repair Cafés are unique because of the networking that is made between our highly trained and skilled volunteers, local social economy enterprises who participate in the events, and an "apprenticeship" program implemented in the last two editions, where experienced volunteers are paired with people who want to learn new skills and be ready to volunteer for future editions.

I feel that this initiative constitutes a valid contribution by Polytechnique Montréal in the Innovation category of the STARS program.

Best regards,

Laurence Martel

Laurence Martel, Jr. Eng.
Operations Manager, PolyFab Normand Brais