



Montreal, May 24, 2016.

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

Subject: PolyFAB letter of support to STARS

Dear STARS Program Representatives:

Polytechnique's FabLab **PolyFAB** wishes to support Polytechnique requesting an innovation credit for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Program. PolyFAB is innovating by bringing Polytechnique to the FabLab community and innovation to market.

A FabLab (Fabrication Laboratory) is a small-scale workshop offering digital fabrication to individuals. PolyFAB is equipped with an array of flexible computer-controlled tools that cover several scales and various materials, with the aim to make "almost anything". This includes technology-enabled products generally perceived as limited to mass production. While FabLabs have yet to compete with mass production and its associated economies of scale in manufacturing widely distributed products, they have already shown the potential to empower individuals to create smart devices for themselves. These devices can be tailored to local or personal needs in ways that are not practical or cost-effective using mass production.

The PolyFAB concept was first developed in 2014. It now provides an accessible and open laboratory with substantial space to help share material resources, tools, ideas and experiences among innovative engineers and entrepreneurs who need tools, facilities and partners to develop their ideas. PolyFab is now open every day and offers leadership and support to the entire Polytechnique community. Its list of equipment, tools and machinery is expanding constantly. This year Polytechnique will be investing more than \$250,000 in this initiative.

Polytechnique strongly believes that PolyFAB helps co-working experience, co-creation and promotes innovative ideas and projects. As it brings together students, professors, researchers, technicians, graduates and entrepreneurs from different engineering disciplines, it is currently creating a new community of innovators. Moreover, it has a high educational value for future engineers who want to transform their ideas into real prototypes and products during their training.

Currently, more than 100 students, employees, graduates are benefitting from PolyFab. Polytechnique plans to expand the current 1,000-square feet facility to a more substantial and accessible space within the next 18 to 24 months.

We feel that this initiative is helping Polytechnique contribute to the STARS program in the Innovation category.

Best regards,

Jean Choquette, P.Eng., M.Eng.
Director, Strategic Planning and Government Relations

Direction générale

Pavillon Principal
Téléphone : 514 340-4943
Télécopieur : 514 340-4600
Courriel : direction.generale@polymtl.ca

Adresse postale

C.P. 6079, succ. Centre-Ville
Montréal (Québec) Canada H3C 3A7
www.polymtl.ca

Campus de l'Université de Montréal
2900, boul. Édouard-Montpetit
2500, chemin de Polytechnique
Montréal (Québec) Canada H3T 1J4