

Friday, April 26, 2019

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

Supporting letter for Polytechnique Montréal to the STARS Program

As President of the NPO PolyCarbone, I would like to affirm my support to Polytechnique Montréal's request for an innovation credit for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Program. PolyCarbone is an NPO registered since July 2017. Our mission is to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the university community in the province of Québec by promoting more sustainable behaviours. The support of Polytechnique Montréal, as well as the knowledge and skills, learned during our activities in Polytechnique Montréal have been essential for the creation and development of PolyCarbone.

PolyCarbone started with the following observation: to date in the province of Québec, no project exists to promote the reduction of GHG emissions in the university community thanks to individual behaviour changes, and even less by quantifying the GHG savings related to those behaviour changes. Therefore, we decided to create PolyCarbone to fulfil this gap, starting with the university community of Polytechnique Montréal. Our main idea is to guide people on the most sustainable actions they can take by creating activities and tools based on the life cycle assessment perspective.

PolyCarbone has been created thanks to initial financial support of \$5,000 in 2016 from the «Fund for Sustainable Initiatives» of Polytechnique Montréal. The latter trusted our project as an efficient avenue to implant the principles of sustainable development in the community of Polytechnique Montréal. Polytechnique Montréal renewed its trust in PolyCarbone in 2017 and 2018 by funding our projects that took place in Polytechnique Montréal.

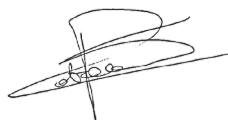
Since the beginning, we have been developing innovative tools and targeted incentives for the Polytechnique Montréal's community to promote sustainable behavioural changes. We organized various activities at Polytechnique: implementation of awareness-raising and commitment to action campaigns; organization of challenges to engage the community into more sustainable actions and calculation of the related avoided GHG emissions based on a life cycle perspective; development of a mobile application to support the adoption of more sustainable habits.

In this way, we support the Polytechnique Montréal's community to fight against climate change and act for a more sustainable world by:

- Raising awareness and supporting moving on towards more sustainable actions;
- Accounting for the reduction of GHG emissions, which makes it possible to quantify the positive impacts of those actions;
- Developing a carbon point trading system: avoided GHG emissions will eventually offset some people's GHG emissions on a voluntary basis,

For all these reasons, I warmly support and recommend Polytechnique Montréal in the Innovation category of the STARS program.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Patouillard", written over a horizontal line.

Dr Laure PATOUILARD, Postdoctoral fellow at Polytechnique Montréal and President of PolyCarbone

PolyCarbone

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