

October 9, 2014

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

SUBJECT: Letter of Affirmation for the STARS Innovation Credit “Green Office Certification Program”

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

I am delighted to take this opportunity and provide a letter affirming that our “Green Office Certification Program” meets all the criteria for a STARS Innovation Credit.

As the Assistant Vice President, Office of University Planning, I have the responsibility of overseeing the university’s Office of Energy and Sustainability (OES). Charged with coordinating the implementation of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan, OES spearheads all aspects of our Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) Program. Virginia Tech is committed to being a leader in campus sustainability and we are making tremendous progress on many fronts.

One of our primary goals is to find ways to engage our faculty, staff and student and provide opportunities where everyone will think about adopting a more sustainable lifestyle. The Green Office Certification Program is directly focused on the workplace and at the department level. In the spirit of friendly competition, it is patterned after the US Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program. Units earn points for adopting sustainability practices. A Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum Rating and Certificate will be awarded based on their cumulative point total. This program will effectively foster behavior change through friendly competition among university departments.

All indications suggest that this program will be very successful. OES is leading implementation and the Office of University Relations is fully engaged in its promotion. University governance is on board and supportive through the Energy and Sustainability Committee. In conclusion, the Green Office Program is a perfect example of a STARS Innovation Credit.

Sincerely,



Jason Soileau
Assistant Vice President, Office of University Planning

Invent the Future