



July 13, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted in support of the University of Massachusetts Amherst's STARS documentation for an innovation credit. The UMass Green Building Committee, a cross disciplinary group of faculty, staff, and students chaired by Jim Cahill, director of UMass Amherst Facilities Planning, created the university's Green Building Guidelines.

The Green Building Guidelines outline and prioritize strategies for sustainable design and construction at UMass Amherst. The Guidelines use the US Green Building Council's LEED rating system as a framework and address sustainable site development, water efficiency, materials and resource use, indoor air quality, and energy efficiency. Project teams for all new UMass Amherst building projects are using these guidelines to focus the design and construction process on sustainability.

During the summer of 2010, the Green Building Committee met biweekly to produce a document which is based on, but not limited to, the LEED for New Construction rating system. The committee reviewed the LEED credits and prerequisites and established priority and feasibility levels for each based on the environmental realities and mission of the University. LEED points are not the end goal of these guidelines; rather, they will be a by-product of the design of high performance buildings.

The Green Building Guidelines provide a framework for approaching new construction and major renovation at UMass Amherst by focusing the conversation on the aspects of green building most important to the campus. They are intended to be the beginning of a dynamic conversation between designers, UMass stakeholders, and users of new buildings. They have also opened a dialogue between faculty, students, and staff on the challenges and opportunities of green building. The committee surrounding the creation of the guidelines is in and of itself innovative due to the dynamic work and participation of students, faculty, and staff.

I, Lawson Wulsin, am a Green Building Researcher in Facilities Planning and a graduate student pursuing Masters Degrees in Architecture and Landscape Architecture. I have served on the Green Building Committee since the spring of 2010 and am one of the primary authors of the Green Building Guidelines. By creating these guidelines, UMass is ensuring a sustainable future by streamlining the sustainable design and construction process. As such I believe that the UMass Green Building Guidelines qualify for an innovation credit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'LAWSON!' with a stylized underline.

Lawson Wulsin, LEED-GA
Green Building Researcher