



September 21, 2017

Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS) Innovation Credit

RE: Ditch the Dumpster

TO: AASHE's STARS Committee:

In 2015, the Office of Sustainability began the annual Ditch the Dumpster move-out campaign. This campaign was an effort to reduce the amount of waste generated by students during move-out and to "re-home" items in good condition with local non-profits and other organizations. During Finals Week, student volunteers help staff a centrally located collection site to collect various items (see list below). Students whom donate items receive raffle tickets to be entered into a drawing to win an Amazon gift card (as a little incentive to think twice before discarding usable items).

In 2016, the Office of Sustainability joined forces with the college's Mobilization of Volunteers Efforts (MOVE) office to expand the campaign's impact on and off campus. With MOVE's help, the campaign was able to increase the list of acceptable items (and organizations whom benefited from the campaign) to include clothing and non-perishable food items.

Since its inception, the Ditch the Dumpster campaign has not only successfully diverted thousands of pounds annually from the waste stream, but it has also raised awareness about the importance of donating items to those in need rather than carelessly tossing them away.

I, Lara Scott, Director of MOVE, affirm that the Ditch the Dumpster campaign meets the criteria for an innovation credit from STARS.

Sincerely,

Lara Scott

Director, MOVE (Mobilization of Volunteer Efforts)
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