



24 October 2016

To the AASHE Representative:

My name is Jason M. Kelly, Director of the IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute through which I also direct the Rivers of the Anthropocene Project (RoA). The mission of RoA is to create and sustain an international collaborative network of scientists, social scientists, humanists, artists, policy makers, and community organizers to produce innovative transdisciplinary research on global river systems. These collaborations result in transdisciplinary research projects, publicly engaged scholarship, educational outreach, and service work.

In addition to holding conferences at IUPUI and our partner institutions, we pursue a variety of research and community engagement projects. In the past year alone, these have led to the creation of an edited volume on transdisciplinary research on rivers (in press with University of California Press), a partnership with Water Future (a project of Future Earth), and funding for a transdisciplinary conference at IUPUI, which will take place in May 2017 and focus on sociocultural and biophysical entanglements. Additionally, we have teamed up with local groups such as Reconnecting to Our Waterways, the Butler Center for Urban Ecology, and the DaVinci Pursuit to create public educational programs that bridge art and science.

RoA is a particularly innovative project in that it focuses on transdisciplinary and publicly engaged research. In this sense, it attempts to bridge both disciplinary divides and the separation between university-based experts, policy makers, and citizens. We have been quite successful locally, and are working with our network researchers, who reside in nine different countries to develop local iterations of our work.

I affirm that RoA is innovative and that it meets the AASHE STARS 2.0 criteria for an Innovation credit. For more information on RoA, please visit rivers.iupui.edu.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Kelly
Director, IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute
Associate Professor of History