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October 23, 2014

To whom it may concern:

My name is Phil Metzler, and I am a grassroots community organizer in Goshen, IN. I am very involved with Transition Goshen which is part of the worldwide movement of Transition Towns that seeks to build resilience in small towns in the face of climate destruction, peak oil and economic instability. In 2012, I became connected with a class called Roots of the Environmental Crisis at Goshen College through the professor, Ryan Sensenig. After guest lecturing for the class, I agreed to be a point person for their community projects.

The Roots of the Environmental Crisis class at Goshen College focuses heavily on sustainability. The class has many interdisciplinary themes and brings in a variety of guest lecturers. For their final project, students in the spring 2012 Roots of the Environmental Crisis class were put into teams and began investigating questions of sustainability within their community. These projects included: analyzing energy savings at a local historic theater, converting an old gas-guzzling van to electric, to be used for delivering meals to community members in need, and assessing efficiency of home heating systems within the community through an energy audit and thermal imaging.

Because of my involvement with Transition Goshen, I was able to be a contact person for the students and connect them to others in the community who could offer additional perspective and help for their projects. I also attended the students' final presentations as they shared what they had done and learned throughout their work in these projects.

Between the strong emphasis on sustainability in the Roots of the Environmental Crisis class and the themes of sustainability within the community-oriented projects that the students conduct, I can confirm that these projects were an innovative way to teach students about sustainability in a tangible and real-life way. This project is a good example of increasing awareness of sustainability within the community.

Sincerely,

Phil Metzler