



CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

December 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Representing the City of Columbia Office of Sustainability, I am pleased to affirm my support to the University of Missouri (MU)'s innovative Energy Strategies Student Advisory Group (ESSAG) as an example of MU exceeding the criteria of the AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System. The forming of ESSAG demonstrates MU's commitment to sustainability, engagement with students in the operations of the campus, and the strong role that research plays in the operations of the campus.

It is unique for universities to involve students in the direction and operation of their campus power supply and distribution. By doing this, MU is showing their commitment to the research and education needed to inform the future decision-makers of our world on the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy. MU is also showing an extraordinary effort by being open and flexible to the ideas and suggestions by the younger generation in how the campus operates.

The motto for the state of Missouri is the "show-me state" – often this means Missouri lags behind innovative practices used in other states unless they "show me" an example of it working. This is not the case at the University of Missouri and they are demonstrating that with the importance their ESSAG students play with energy decisions at MU. I encourage the ASHAE to acknowledge the University of Missouri's claim of innovation and look forward to working with the University and ESSAG on their ongoing sustainability efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Buffaloe".

Barbara Buffaloe, Manager
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