

August 10, 2011

Re: Innovation credits for STARS: College of Sustainability and Campus Green Guide

To Whom it May Concern:

I am the Director of the Office of Sustainability at Dalhousie University. In this role, our Office focuses on operations and partnerships. The College of Sustainability is a separate department that focuses on curriculum programs, research, and community outreach.

Before coming to Dalhousie, I was the Head of Education and Engagement for Atlantic Canada for Environment Canada. In this role, I was engaged in educational program development, audience outreach, and planning. It is with this background and discussion with universities and colleges in Canada that I can comment on the innovative nature of the College of Sustainability and the Campus Green guide.

The College of Sustainability uses an integrative design. The undergraduate Environment, Sustainability, and Society (ESS) program acts as a major or minor concentration to traditional disciplines. This means that sustainability learning is a part of many departmental profiles from management to science to the arts. The interdisciplinary team teaching approach provides a breadth of perspectives for class discussion of sustainability problems. Experiential classes that focus on real situations in the community and on-campus prepare students for the complexity of situations. These are some of the many unique features that saw faculty of the ESS program be invited as the only North American exhibit to UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in 2009.

In 2009, the College of Sustainability also produced the first copy of the Campus Green Guide. This comprehensive publication has been a popular resource that has since seen the creation of annual versions. Its popularity at other institutions as spawned the development of the first Kenyan Campus Green Guide.

I would be pleased to provide more details on the innovative nature of these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Owen
Director - Sustainability Office