

June 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

We are pleased to confirm that Parsons Green Supply program meets the criteria set forth in AASHE's STARS Reporting Framework for Innovation credits.

During the Spring 2011, Parsons the New School for Design launched a pilot program that implemented a two-part strategy, one half physical and the other virtual, to effectively support the reuse and recycling of commonly discarded materials, furniture, and equipment within the university. The New School University Green Fund provided the necessary support to begin.

The Green Supply Center is the physical side of the program that collects reusable or useful materials and items from the multiple waste streams across Parsons and the University, and makes them available for all students, faculty, and staff to claim for free. The website at <http://green.parsons.edu/the-green-list> is the online home for both The Green Supply Center and the Green List. The latter operates as Parsons internal classifieds much in the way that Craigslist or the Freecycle Network function. Students, faculty, and staff post ads for any excess materials or items to buy, sell, and trade.

This project was accomplished from the collective efforts of a group of fourteen faculty, staff, and one dean that included representation from all five schools of Parsons, in addition to partnering with the Facility Department's Assistant Director and Coordinator that are dedicated to sustainability and energy management.

Following the successful achievement of the intended outcomes, this program could expand to function as an intermediary stage in support of material recycling. Currently, there is no system established to encompass recycling eligible materials that are outside narrow limits required in New York City recycling programs. Parsons Green Supply Center has also linked with the NYC Sanitation's Wastematch program for additional redistribution alternatives.

Perhaps the greatest benefit to the Parsons community has been the integration of the sustainability literacy that is stressed across the Parsons curriculum with real practice. A commitment to environmentally responsible practice is not understood as supplemental, but integral to design thinking and artistic processes. Outside the positive results from our community's more responsible management of local waste streams, this reinforces part of Parsons educational mission that has global influence through our international community of alumni that help shape the constructed environment we live in.

Best regards,



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