



*INSTITUT DE LA DUREE, GENEVE*  

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*THE PRODUCT-LIFE INSTITUTE, GENEVA*  
*INSTITUT FÜR PRODUKTAUER-FORSCHUNG GENÈVE*

<http://product-life.org>

Founders: Orio Giarini, Walter R. Stahel  
Established 1982 in Geneva, Switzerland

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Dear AASHE STARS Program staff,

It is my great pleasure to offer my affirmation that the creation of the EDDEC Institute meets the intention of the innovation credit for STARS reporting.

The EDDEC Institute, founded in 2014, is the forerunner in Canada and probably in North America on the theme of the circular economy. The Institute involves more than sixty researchers from all disciplines to study all the facets of this new socioeconomic paradigm. The Institute is a leading example of multidisciplinary and interinstitutional research as it involves three institutions, Université de Montréal, Polytechnique Montréal and HEC Montréal.

Moreover, in August 2015, the Institute has pioneered the formation of a committee of fifteen strategic stakeholders to work on the transition towards a circular economy in Quebec and to ensure a dialogue with the community. In the absence of a consensus definition at the international level, the committee co-built a Quebec definition of circular economy. The proposed definition is: "Circular economy is production, exchange and consumption systems considered to optimize the use of resources at all stages of the life cycle of a good or a service, while reducing the footprint environmental and contributing to the well-being of individuals and communities".

Finally, in addition to having supported the development of new exhaustive and interdisciplinary graduate programs incorporating circular economy, the Institute launched in May 2016 the first summer school in circular economy in Canada.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Stahel  
founder-director of the Product-Life  
Institute, founded in Geneva 1982.