



**February 2013**

**Brandeis University**

**Waltham, MA**

**RE: STARS Innovation Credit – Charles River Apartments Solar Thermal Systems**

Brandeis is installing a solar hot water system on four residence halls, Charles River Apartments, this upcoming summer that is innovative in multiple ways:

- The project was proposed by an undergraduate student for the Brandeis Sustainability Fund 2011-2012, a fund by the students and for the students. The project was selected for funding by the BSF and also awarded additional funding from an external sustainability grant received by the Sustainability Initiative.
- The project will be first under the recently announced Massachusetts CEC Commercial Solar Hot Water Financing Program, which looks to increase the adoption of solar thermal systems across the commonwealth. The project will be one of the first, if not the first nationally to utilize and Energy Services Agreement, a strategy widely used in the efficiency business. The University has partnered with a renewable energy company and a third party investor to install and maintain the solar hot water systems on the four buildings.
- Projects in the Mass CEC program referenced above are intended to be proof of concept for financing solar thermal systems in the commercial space. Thus the firm and investor intend to be heavily involved with the project operation. Additionally, since it is a student-funded project, students will remain heavily involved through-out the project installation and life. The firm and investor are committed to working with students and providing information or resources to students for classes and internships.
- The system will achieve the largest environmental impact of any possible project as it will offset heating oil. 52,313 pounds of CO2 will be offset annually by the system.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Hogan, Manager

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