



**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY

OPERATIONS

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Facilities Services

July 29, 2011

RE: Tufts University's Winter Break Residence Hall Shutdown Program

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff:

On behalf of Tufts University, we are pleased to submit our annual Winter Break Residence Hall Shutdown Program for a STARS innovation credit.

On the day that Tufts' residence halls close for winter break, a team from Facilities, Residential Life, the Office of Sustainability, and Public Safety working in pairs inspect every residence hall on campus. The team checks bedrooms, bathrooms and common rooms to be sure that windows are closed, stoves are off, refrigerators are empty and unplugged, radiators are turned down, lights are turned off and faucets are shut tight. A check list was developed by the Program and is distributed by residence hall staff to help students leave their rooms in "shutdown mode." This unique program saves energy and water, and prevents accidental freeze-ups caused by windows left open near water and sprinkler piping. A few years ago, the program became institutionalized when Residential Life incorporated the policing of staffed dorms into their annual practices.

We are unaware of other college or university campuses with a similar program.

Sincerely,

Betsy Isenstein  
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