

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100,
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Letter of Affirmation, STARS Innovation Credit for Solar PV Array

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to affirm the construction and ongoing operation of a 280kW solar photovoltaic array on the Bard College campus, and to affirm the project's suitability as a STARS "Innovation Credit" candidate.

Development and planning for the solar project began in the Fall of 2012, with the College breaking ground in Summer 2013 on a phased construction of a 280kW-DC (~230kW-AC) ground-mount PV solar array, sited on campus grounds west of its athletic fields. Completed in Winter 2013, the array covers roughly an acre of land and is expected to generate about 330,000 kWh annually. For many institutions, dedicating limited land resources and funds to such a project can be a challenge, if not impossible. Bard is proud to have reached consensus across the institution's governing bodies— economically, technically and aesthetically— to begin generating renewable energy on campus.

Funded via a "pre-pay" Power Purchase Agreement, in addition to providing electrical supply at parity with grid prices, the array will help reduce the College's daytime power demand, especially during the summer months when power demands peak due to the air conditioning needs of buildings. The system is expected to operate for 25+ years.

The solar array will be incorporated academically into various course modules, and furthermore will help to demonstrate the technology to the campus community and visiting public; showing how solar can be integrated nicely into a rural campus setting.

Sincerely,



Daniel Smith
Energy Efficiency Coordinator