

Coldham & Hartman Architects

Lea Lupkin
Sustainability Program Manager
Greener U, Inc.

April 11th 2014

Dear Lea,

Ref: Smith College Bechtel Environmental Classroom Living Building Challenge

This letter is to support the proposition that this project at Smith College deserves to be regarded as a highly innovative effort by all concerned. The building has achieved full “living building” status — only the fifth building project world-wide in the ten years since the International Living Future Institute announce their initiative.

A living building, under the terms of the ILFI Living Building Challenge, has to achieve twenty demanding “Imperatives” and to so demonstrate through at least a full year of operation. The innovation then extends not just to the design and construction teams that conceive and construct to building, but to the building’s managers and users that need to thoroughly understand the creation that they have acquired, and learn how to operate it to its full potential.

All that is required for a successful living building — and it is a clearly documented achievement; one that is determined by a colossal set of data. We are not guessing here. It is real.

The real innovation then is the complete, across-the-board, collaboration the a successful response to the LBC requires.

Sincerely

Bruce Coldham FAIA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Coldham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.