

Boston University

Department of Earth and Environment
685 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215



Sustainability@BU
120 Ashford Street
Boston, MA 02215

Innovation Credit: Earth House

July 22, 2016

STARS Program
AASHE
2401 Walnut St #102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: IN-3 Earth House

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to submit this letter of affirmation that the information presented for credit IN-3 is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. This is a forward-thinking project to educate the students and community of Boston University on sustainable living through an immersive learning opportunity.

The Earth House, located at 7 Buswell Street, is an unprecedented living learning community on campus. It comprises faculty, staff, and students who are interested in exploring how to live a high-quality, sustainable life on a day-to-day basis. All students, regardless of major, are permitted to apply so long as they are enrolled in their second or third year at BU. Residents of the Earth House must also register for the corresponding practicums taught within the College of Arts & Sciences.

Between the in-class environment and experiential learning settings, the program highlights topics including water sourcing from the Quabbin Reservoir and the Deer Island wastewater treatment process. Students learn about the movement of energy from solar fields to our lightbulbs or other sustainability-related threads. The program promotes environmental stewardship and is meant to offer undergraduates a way to apply their studies to actual sustainability challenges set within the very confines of their home and beyond.

Once a historic Boston row house, the Earth House is now teeming with opportunities to implement sustainable design and living solutions. Residents are tasked with exploring how they can implement initiatives within the structure that will mitigate its footprint. The projects that they develop and proposals that they eventually execute are designed to demonstrate how sustainability can be enhanced through technology, policy, and behavioral change. With support from the College of Engineering, the Earth & Environment department, sustainability@BU, College of Engineering, and the Questrom School of Business, plans of the residents become realities.

From Nathan Phillips and Dennis Carlberg

July 22, 2016

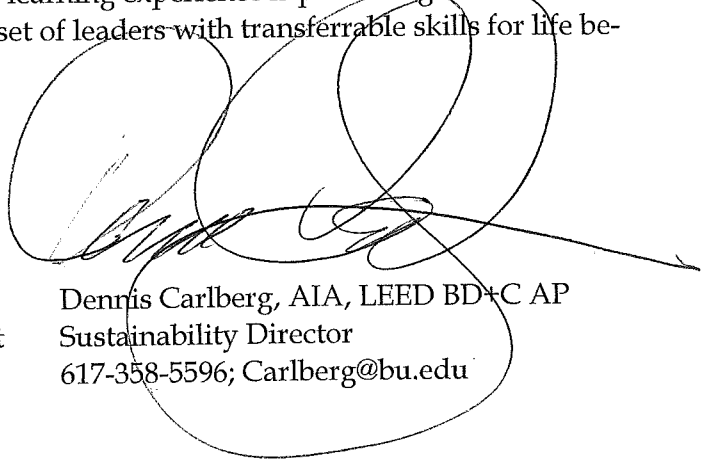
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The Earth House program allows members of the BU community to become knowledgeable of their ecological impact. This learning experience is producing a more informed and environmentally conscious set of leaders with transferrable skills for life beyond the bounds of higher education.

Sincerely,



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