



January 30, 2015

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 901  
Denver CO 80202

RE: UMass Amherst STARS v2.0 Report, 2015  
Affirmation Letter for Innovation Credit-4

Dear AASHE,

I am writing to affirm that the UMass Net Excess Generation Credit Program is indeed innovative and sustainable. Under this program, UMass campuses serve as host communities to new Solar Photovoltaic (Solar PV) electric generating projects throughout the Commonwealth. In return, the campuses receive a credit on their monthly utility bill. The UMass campuses won't be able to claim the emissions reductions from these projects, however, using this unique renewable energy program, UMass has directly helped install over 40 MW of solar in Massachusetts, representing an investment in clean energy capacity of more than \$100 million. Without direct support from UMass in the form of a long term Net Excess Generation Credit PPA, many of these solar projects would have been at risk and ultimately may not have been constructed.

A portion of the credit received will be used to finance additional energy efficiency measures on the five campuses that will enable UMass to further reduce energy use, lower greenhouse gas emissions and help control energy costs. Over the next 20 years, the program will provide an estimated \$50 million in savings for the University of Massachusetts. UMass Amherst is supporting a solar project which came online at the Fairview Farm in Whately, MA in July, 2014, which will save the University of Massachusetts between \$60,000 and \$75,000 a year in electric costs. The project provides critical support to the farmer leasing his land as well as to the town of Whately in the form of tax payments. The 2.4 megawatt installation will produce about 2.8 million kwhs of solar energy a year, energy to power about 300 homes.

Please consider this program as an innovation credit for the UMass Amherst v2.0 STARS Submission. If you have any doubt that this program should not be counted as an innovation credit, please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 237-6497 or [zbloom@competitive-energy.com](mailto:zbloom@competitive-energy.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Z Bloom".

Zac Bloom

Account Manager, LEED Green Associate  
Competitive Energy Services