



Middlebury

Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

February 18, 2014

Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS)

To Whom It May Concern:

Middlebury's Solar Decathlon project, InSite, demonstrates innovative design thinking that is worthy of a STARS Innovation Credit. InSite displays Middlebury students' initiative and drive to create a more sustainable future that starts by simply "living close to home." The team of students completed a proposal to compete for the second consecutive time in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013 and was admitted. Students led the planning, fundraising, designing, and construction for the project while also organizing their educational outreach and communications.

InSite echoes Vermont vernacular architecture, while showcasing design that is efficient and creative. Following five points of "InSiteful" design, the Middlebury team built a home that is economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable. The house features a green roof, solar path, and cellulose insulated walls. The chimney core centralizes the mechanical systems into one modular unit. To reduce the carbon impact of traveling from Middlebury, VT to Irvine, CA the team constructed the house so that it could be transported across the country via train. To make disassembly for transport feasible, the team designed a panel system supported and joined by a steel structure. This structure composes the "skeleton" of the home, but is visible on the interior.

Middlebury finished 8th overall. The team tied for 1st place in the Hot Water category and was awarded 3rd place in Communications, Affordability, and Home Entertainment. Team Middlebury was again the only liberal arts institution in the competition. The team members brought knowledge and skills from a variety of backgrounds and academic disciplines. InSite demonstrates the importance of teamwork, design thinking, and the power of a liberal arts education.

The house is now a part of Middlebury residential housing and is in the process of becoming LEED certified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah L. McGowen".

Sarah L. McGowen
Special Assistant to Academic Affairs
Administrative Advisor for the Solar Decathlon 2013 Team

CC/cc