

Graham Gund Architects



Tufts Solar Residence Hall
Tufts University
Medford, MA
(LEED Silver Rating Anticipated)

Tufts University's new Solar Residence Hall acts as a showcase for renewable energy technologies in a university setting. The project is pursuing a LEED Silver Rating and has secured a \$500,000 grant from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust.

In conjunction with numerous energy efficiency measures and green building features, the residence hall includes 32 kilowatts of roof-mounted photovoltaic panels, as well as a curtain-wall with integrated photovoltaics. The residence hall also includes a solar hot water system. Residents of the dormitory as well as members of the Tufts community will be able to monitor the energy produced by these renewable technologies.

The building envelope is designed to exceed Massachusetts Energy Code with superior insulation, continuous air barrier, and high-performance glazing. Ample daylighting is supplemented by energy-efficient compact fluorescent lighting. Low-flow showers, toilets and lavatories conserve water, and roof runoff is collected and used for irrigation. Building materials include low-VOC, low maintenance, recycled content and locally manufactured products.



The new 150-bed residence hall is organized in an L-shaped scheme. The main bar building houses freshmen and sophomores; the wing houses juniors, seniors and graduate students. The wing building, containing only single rooms, is also used to house visiting faculty and conferences. The program also includes a 3 bedroom faculty penthouse apartment and roof terrace.

As a way of encouraging more social and intellectual interaction among students and faculty, the new residence hall program includes a variety of common spaces used for study, meetings and community gatherings.