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DICKINSON, EMERSON, WELLESLEY, AND WILLIAMS SUBSCRIBE TO INNOVATIVE NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY TOOL

Four top liberal arts colleges become first to sign on to the Green Revolving Investment Tracking System (GRITS) Affiliates Program

Dickinson College, Emerson College, Wellesley College, and Williams College are the first four subscribers to the new Green Revolving Investment Tracking System (GRITS) Affiliates program. Through GRITS Affiliates, schools gain access to GRITS, a web-based tool that simplifies project management for energy efficiency upgrades by tracking financial, energy, and carbon-emissions data—well beyond the capabilities of spreadsheets. GRITS Affiliates can be used by institutions with or without green revolving funds (GRFs).

The tool provides a variety of benefits to schools, including:

- Access to a library with currently over 280 projects worth of data from other institutions
- Simplifying calculations of project-specific savings on both annualized and life-of-project timeframes
- Automatically calculating carbon emissions savings from specific projects
- Creating and printing customized graphs and reports that tell the story of current and anticipated financial and environmental performance
- Facilitating investments in efficiency projects by enabling administrators to easily and clearly communicate with stakeholders

Emerson College is using GRITS to track savings for a number of campus conservation projects and plans to use it for GRF projects over the next few years.

"Emerson College is thrilled to partner with SEI and to be the first GRITS Affiliate. We are very impressed with how robust the software is while remaining easy-to- use. It is the ideal platform to track and manage all our energy and greenhouse gas reduction projects," said Eric Van Vlandren, Sustainability Coordinator at Emerson. "ROI isn't only for [green revolving funds] and while we have a donor-generated GRF of our own, we feel like GRITS is invaluable beyond the scope of the fund. We recommend it to all our colleagues."

Wellesley College joined GRITS Affiliates after the creation of its GRF this past spring. Dickinson College and Williams College both also recently subscribed to GRITS. Williams, which does not operate a GRF, will provide an educational opportunity for student interns who will focus on entering project data from sustainability projects and energy efficiency upgrades from across the campus. With GRITS, the schools see their up-to-date energy and resource savings, compare current and future projects, and evaluate the effect of individual campus projects.

Schools can access the GRITS tool with a 30-day free trial. All AASHE members and the ACUPCC signatories are eligible to receive a discount on annual subscription. For more information, contact GRITS@GreenBillion.org or visit GreenBillion.org/GritsAffiliates.