

# Information Guide 2011-2012

## *Thinking Green*



Common Cause Community

Department of Community Living

Brandeis University

2011-2012 Academic Year

# PART 1: PRE –APPLICATION

The First-Year Experience Common Cause Community (C3) brings together new students who share an interest in building inclusive communities, while also becoming actively involved in sustainability efforts and green initiatives. This is a unique opportunity available to a limited number of first year students who are ready and willing to participate in sustainability initiatives and programs in a first-year residential setting.

The environment encourages relationships, conversations, and reflection among students, staff, faculty and community members about leadership, citizenship and responsibility. C3 residents will be challenged to be active leaders in the Brandeis community and beyond.

## STEP 1: COMMUNITY

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The First-Year C3, called *Thinking Green (TG)*, is all about sustainability. Students involved in this C3 will have the opportunity to collaborate with Brandeis's Sustainability Coordinator and the campus Eco-Reps, as well as other student organizations focused on green initiatives. All *Thinking Green* students will participate in the quad organic garden, recycling, composting, volunteering in the local community and the use of Real Time Energy Monitoring – helping the quad reduce energy use.

This community receives on-going support and direction from the quad Community Development Coordinator and the hall Community Advisor. All *TG* students are expected to participate in programming and various initiatives, which may take place on the second or fourth Sunday of every month from 7-9p.m. Students applying for this community must have this time available each month to be eligible.

### **Community Size:**

- Students will apply to live on a co-ed floor in Massell Quad
- The capacity for the floor is 25 residents

### **Eligibility for Community Members:**

- As designed, the *Thinking Green* floor is for incoming first year students.
- First-year students must be enrolled at Brandeis University for the full 2011-2012 academic year.

## STEP 2: Common Cause Community Goals

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- To develop an intentional residential community dedicated to principles of mutual respect, integrity learning, and democratic participation.

- To build meaningful, sustained connections with the Brandeis and greater Waltham communities through sustainability efforts.
- To build relationships with Brandeis students, staff, and faculty, the Brandeis community, as well as members of the greater community.
- To aid in the successful transition to college, which includes developing knowledge of campus resources and feeling capable of accessing those resources.
- To enhance the University's commitments to social justice and experiential learning, and provide students with the skills to be effective leaders in a changing world.

## STEP 3: Common Cause Community Expectations

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Students who are accepted to be part of the *Thinking Green* experience are expected to complete the following:

- To actively engage in the residential community, abiding by community standards and core values of citizenship, integrity, respect, civility, lifelong learning, and embracing diversity
- To participate in C3 meetings (meeting times will be established by the CA and community during the opening weeks of the semester)
- To participate in C3 initiatives/monthly programs that educate the campus community
- To be green room certified through the Eco-Rep program
- Volunteer for the Move in Market and the Give and Go efforts at the beginning and end of the academic year (dates TBD).
- To attend the C3 retreat in September 2011
- Strongly consider enrolling in PE44a: First-Year Experience: Spirit, Mind and Body course. This course is listed under the Physical Education courses section, as it counts towards one of the two PE general education requirements. Topics covered in this course include values clarification, health and safety, time and stress management, skills for academic success and more.

# PART 2: APPLICATION REVIEW

## STEP 4: APPLICATION EVALUATION

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Applications must be e-mailed into the Department of Community Living no later than **June 1, 2011 by 4:30p.m.** Applications received after this time may not be considered. Applications are available online at [www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/dcl/forms/thinkinggreenapplication.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/dcl/forms/thinkinggreenapplication.html). Applications must be submitted online in order to be considered.

- Each application is reviewed by members of the Department of Community Living.
- Applications will be selected for the *Thinking Green* C3 based on excellence and criteria including: strong, thoughtful and persuasive responses. Only minor possibilities for improvement; demonstrates major commitment to topic and purpose of the *Thinking Green* community.

## STEP 5: FINAL DETERMINATION

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The Department of Community Living will determine the *Thinking Green* finalists. All applicants will be notified of their status following the completion of the application review process.

Applicants that were not accepted into the *Thinking Green* C3 will be notified and will receive their housing assignment during the regular housing assignment notification period.

# PART 3: ROOM ASSIGNMENT & CONFIRMATION

## STEP 6: PAPER WORK

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To continue in the *Thinking Green* C3 process:

- Finalists will be notified on June 10, 2011 through e-mail.
- Students must return their acceptance letters and roommate surveys by June 20, 2011.

## STEP 7: ROOM ASSIGNMENT

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Students are given a survey about roommate and housing preferences. Once all the surveys are returned, staff members of Community Living will determine roommate pairs. C3 placement and roommate notification will occur at the beginning of July.

### ***Withdrawals***

It is possible that a student's interest in living in the *Thinking Green* C3 changes. To withdraw from the *Thinking Green* C3 process, a student needs to connect with Community Development Coordinator (CDC) Caitlin Capozzi.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the entire process or if you have specific question please contact the Community Development Coordinator of Massell Quad.

Caitlin Capozzi  
781-736-5060  
[ccapozzi@brandeis.edu](mailto:ccapozzi@brandeis.edu)

# IMPORTANT DATES

May 4, 2011	<i>Thinking Green</i> C3 applications available <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Living website</li><li>• Department of Community Living Office</li></ul>
June 1, 2011	Applications due to Department of Community Living
June 10, 2011	Finalists announced through campus e-mail
June 20, 2011	C3 acceptance and roommate survey due
Beginning of July 2011	C3 placement and roommate notification
August 28, 2011	Move into residence halls/New Student Orientation begins <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First C3 hall meeting</li></ul>
September 2011 TBD	C3 Retreat

# Application 2011-2012

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The majority of this application required thoughtful responses. **Each part of the community questionnaire should be answered and submitted electronically. Applications are available at [www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/dcl/forms/thinkinggreenapplication.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/dcl/forms/thinkinggreenapplication.html).** Creativity and detail are very important to the application process.

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- Required attendance at the First C3 Hall Meeting
- Required attendance at the C3 retreat in September 2011
- To be green room certified through the Eco-Rep Program
- Volunteer for the Move in Market and the Give and Go efforts at the beginning and end of the academic year (dates TBD).
- Active participation in the residence hall community
  - I.e. programs, roommate contracts, floor meetings, etc.

# Thinking Green Application

A copy of the Thinking Green Application is below. To submit an application, please go to [www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/dcl/forms/thinkinggreenapplication.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/dcl/forms/thinkinggreenapplication.html). Applications must be submitted online in order to be considered.

## Applicant Information

### Personal Information

Name:

Current Address:

Brandeis Email:

Phone:

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### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

Please list leadership and suitability experience:

Position	Organization	Involvement Dates
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### QUESTIONS:

Please answer the following:

1. Please describe in detail a meaningful sustainability experience and what you learned from it. For example, leading a student green initiative or working for a sustainability organization.
2. What element of sustainability are you most passionate about and why?
3. What anti green activity frustrates you most? What program/activity would you do to counteract it?
4. How comfortable do you feel approaching your peers and asking them to change their behaviors? How would you educate your peers about sustainability issues?
5. What do you do on a regular basis to reduce your carbon foot print?