

March 4, 2022

Quinnipiac University (QU) is proud to publish its first Sustainability Tracking and Assessment System (STARS) report. We thank the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for its mission of inspiring transformation on school campuses globally. These results reflect QU's institution-wide efforts and commitment towards a sustainable future. We affirm that the information contained herein has been reviewed for accuracy and reflects our true assessment of QU's programs and performance.

As background on our university's recent history related to sustainability, in December 2019, I appointed a university sustainability committee, with membership drawn from administration, faculty, staff and students, to provide:

- 1) a vision and goals for what sustainability means for QU, the University of the Future,
- 2) strategies that promote the most efficient and responsible use of resources in all of our operations to enhance sustainability,
- 3) opportunities to integrate principles of sustainability across the academic curriculum,
- 4) approaches to embed sustainable practices into the daily experiences of students, faculty and staff, and
- 5) metrics that enable measurement of progress against the university's sustainability vision and goals

Following a series of town hall forums, meetings with stakeholders and a review of best practices, the committee identified a vision and framework that defines sustainability in three strategic areas: learning, living and leading.

- Learning: QU students, faculty, staff and alumni are agents of sustainability for the communities they engage and enrich locally and beyond;
- Living: In both physical presence and action, QU serves as a responsible steward of its natural resources and supports the long-term environmental sustainability of humanity;
- Leading: The presence of environmental sustainability in all pertinent practices becomes a hallmark of QU. External communication and internal execution of sustainable practices benefit from focused, continuous administrative support and executive-level interest.

In March of 2021, I appointed a Sustainability Implementation Committee to develop a plan for QU with tangible approaches, timelines and metrics that measure progress, and then produce an annual report to the QU community.

Our collective goal is to position Quinnipiac as a model for sustainability, develop practices that promote a healthy regional ecosystem and nurture current and future students, faculty and staff to embody sustainable practices in their personal and professional lives in a world increasingly influenced and threatened by environmental disruption.

Assessing our progress towards our goals is an important part of our strategic plan. The results of the STARS report will serve to guide ongoing strategic planning at the university and indicates direction for incrementally building a sustainable campus community and establishing an iterative process of study, action, and reform to attain these objectives.

Our vision is clear, our focus is undeterred, and our work is continuous. At QU, we cultivate a culture where all members of the community are invited to get informed and get engaged. As leaders of global sustainability transformation, we are delighted to share, and are looking forward to learning from the experiences of our AASHE STARS colleagues.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Olian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "O".

Judy Olian