



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Anthony P. Monaco, *President*

November 2, 2022

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

In 1990, Tufts President Jean Mayer initiated the Talloires Declaration—a visionary commitment by institutions of higher education to encourage advocacy for sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations, and outreach. In 2016, I signed on to the Second Nature Climate Leadership Commitment, further solidifying Tufts dedication to carbon neutrality and climate resilience. Today, I am proud to continue carrying forward Tufts' legacy of sustainability leadership.

Guided by these and other climate commitments, the past several years have been a time of enormous progress for sustainability at the University. Most notably, Tufts recently completed construction of the Joyce Cumming Center, a 140,000 square foot building on our Medford/Somerville campus with the lowest energy intensity use in Tufts' history. We have also recently completed decarbonization plans for two campuses to achieve our goal of carbon neutrality no later than 2050. Finally, in 2020 we were pleased to announce restrictions to direct investments in 120 coal and tar sands companies and a commitment to invest \$10 - \$25 million in positive impact funds over the next five years to fight climate change.

Our faculty continue to research the impacts of climate change on our world and develop cutting-edge solutions to mitigate and adapt to our changing environment. This research contributes knowledge towards all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have contributed to the resiliency and sustainability of our community: reducing waste through single-use mask recycling, reusable to-go containers, and remote programming; subsidizing a local bike-sharing program to provide a healthy and environmentally conscious commuting option; and providing services and support to our host communities so they can better manage the impacts of COVID-19. This year we are proud to have received the Casella Sustainability Leadership Award in recognition of our efforts to reduce waste and advance sustainable material management on our campuses. These accomplishments were achieved through a university-wide commitment to sustainability that engages students, faculty, and staff across all disciplines.

As an institution focused on solving the issues of the future, a new iteration of the Tufts Sustainability Council was created that consists of faculty experts and student representatives with expertise in climate solutions. This council has created an overarching sustainability vision and drafted goals for the university which are currently being refined through engagement with the Tufts community.

Tufts University recognizes the vital importance of measuring and tracking our sustainability efforts. As we commit to new and more ambitious goals, it is important to reflect upon our accomplishments and identify ways we can continue to make Tufts a more sustainable institution. The STARS platform is a valuable tool for doing this. It is thus with great pleasure that the University submits its data to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System. The data encompasses our four Massachusetts campuses in Boston, Grafton, and Medford/Somerville from fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony P. Monaco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Anthony P. Monaco M.D., Ph.D.