



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Lawrence S. Bacow, *President*

July 27, 2011

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
213 ½ North Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

RE: Tufts University STARS Submission for the Medford/Somerville Campus

Tufts has a long and deep commitment to issues of the environment and sustainability. The green campus movement worldwide grew out of a conference convened in 1990 by then-President Jean Mayer at the Tufts European Center in Talloires, France. That conference led to the Talloires Declaration, a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities that has been signed by over 350 university presidents and chancellors in over 40 countries. In 1999, under then President DiBiaggio, the university publicly committed itself to meeting the Kyoto goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Since then, we have continued to take a leadership position. We were a founding member, and the first university member, of the Chicago Climate Exchange. We have been recognized as an innovator in finding more efficient ways to utilize and conserve resources throughout the university, including energy and water, and to limit and recycle our waste products. Students at Tufts participated in the first peer-to-peer education program for residential students, a program that went on to be replicated by schools around the country. Staff members volunteer their time to our Eco-Ambassadors program and play a special role in ensuring that the values of sustainability are addressed at the level of individual Schools and departments.

Of course, teaching and research are at the heart of our mission as an academic institution. Here too we are an environmental leader. Sustainability is a central focus for our School of Engineering, while faculty at the Fletcher School played central roles in the work that led to a Nobel Prize for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Our faculty are opening up new opportunities for innovation in areas as diverse, and promising, as green chemistry and the use of recycled waste materials in heavy construction. Tufts students entered a spectacular project, the only one from New England, in the 2009 Solar Decathlon.

After they leave Tufts, our graduates carry on this tradition of being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Today, they hold positions of prominence in government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and academic institutions dedicated to sustainability. Some of the greenest corporations in the United States—DuPont, for example—are led by Tufts alumni. And the future for our environmental research and teaching is bright: The first Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship grant that Tufts has ever received from the National Science Foundation will support work on water diplomacy involving five of our Schools.

I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of the University's first STARS report. As someone who has devoted his entire academic career to research and teaching on issues of the environment and sustainability, it has been a privilege and an honor to lead an institution where everyone embraces these concepts as core values.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence S. Bacow".

Lawrence S. Bacow  
President