

January 14, 2011

The reputation of Babson College as a leader in Entrepreneurial Thought and Action® and curriculum innovation is widely recognized. Less well known, however, is its firm stance among academic institutions as an environmental steward. For several decades, the College has been developing programs and initiatives aimed at reducing its impact on our global environment and climate. Today, as an on-campus wind turbine helps supply the college with electrical energy, and converted cooking oils power its landscape equipment, Babson's entrepreneurial students search avidly for new business concepts and practices that could soon lead to a more sustainable global environment. In addition, as we look forward, Babson is committed to integrating social and economic sustainability concepts into the business practices of the next generation of leaders, in the hopes of creating a resilient and lasting, holistic prosperity.

As I am a firm believer in practicing our pedagogy, it was logical for Babson to join the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, which I'm proud to say we were able to do in 2008. Making this commitment gives us an opportunity to put our words into action, and it enables us to compare our progress and acquire fresh insight from a myriad of other higher learning institutions nationwide.

Our growing sustainability commitment has been well shepherded by a sustainability steering committee that includes representatives from diverse segments of the Babson community. This STARS submission is the outcome of their fledgling yet substantial collaborative effort, in conjunction with a host of partners across the campus. It provides a broad overview of our most significant recent accomplishments, makes our current goals concrete, establishes milestones along the way, and highlights our plans for achieving them in the decade ahead. And, as a leading educator of tomorrow's business leaders, making environmental sustainability an integral and permanent part of our curriculum will be a vital consideration.

I am pleased with the substantial progress Babson has made toward building a more sustainable society for us all. I affirm the accuracy of our STARS reporting submission and invite you to revisit us in the future as this vital effort continues to expand and unfold.

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