



BOSTON COLLEGE

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & ASSESSMENT

January 25, 2022

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement
of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

Boston College is proud to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability in our teaching, learning, research, and operations across our campus, our community, and the world by submitting information in the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). To the best of our knowledge, the information submitted accurately represents the data and programs of Boston College.

One of the directions in our current strategic plan calls for expanding support for scholarship and research in keeping with our mission to help address complex societal problems and contribute to the common good. During the 2020-21 academic year, the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science & Society partnered with the Forum on Racial Justice in America to offer presentations and panels focused on environmental racism as a challenge of our time and our campus. Through academic programs, research, and co-curricular activities, a continuing responsibility to steward the environment permeates every aspect of the Boston College student experience.

Boston College received accreditation for observer status as a Research and Independent Non-Governmental Organization to the 2021 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26). Boston College sent a multidisciplinary delegation of nine faculty and six students to COP26. The selection of Boston College to attend COP26 reflects its academic and research strengths on the issue of climate science and policy. Boston College's research initiatives benefit local and global communities. For example, the Global Observatory on Pollution and Health's 2020 report focused on ocean pollution. It is the first comprehensive examination of the impacts of ocean pollution on human health and it describes how toxic substances that make landfall imperil the health of more than 3 billion people.

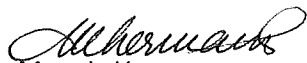
Not only has the University committed to achieving a minimum LEED Silver Certification for all new buildings, but we are also finding innovative ways to conserve energy and water while minimizing waste and emissions. Over the past ten years we have worked with the University's electrical provider to implement energy-efficient measures in new and existing buildings that resulted in an annual 2 million kWh reduction of electrical consumption on our campus.

We took a previously inaccessible, under-utilized four-acre parcel of land and created a Pine Tree Preserve. The area has become a welcome open space that provides pedestrian access, park benches, viewing areas, and lighting in a wooded area with scenic views of the reservoir for all members of the community to enjoy. Boston College oversees maintenance of the property in an agreement with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, which controls the parcel.

The process of gathering data for the STARS submission has allowed us to identify and feature the critical work that is occurring across all levels and areas of the University. These efforts to promote sustainability and resiliency, in alignment with our mission and our strategic direction, continue to guide our academic programs, research initiatives, service opportunities, and operational practices.

Thank you for your support throughout this submission process and for the opportunity to demonstrate that we are united with the broader community in responding to one of the most complex challenges of our time.

Sincerely,



Mara L. Hermano

Vice President

Institutional Research & Planning