



Olin College
of Engineering

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Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
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Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of Olin College of Engineering, I am pleased to submit this report on our progress since 2018 toward a more sustainable campus using the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System.

We take our commitment to sustainability seriously, and our curriculum demonstrates that. In the past academic year (2020-21), our faculty members taught 17 sustainability-focused courses and 15 sustainability-inclusive courses, which meant that nearly 40% of all courses offered addressed sustainability. We have also launched a sustainability concentration program for engineering students, E:Sustainability. This program aligns with Olin's new strategic directions, acknowledging that equity and justice are at the core of sustainability.

Our students are also engaged in sustainability projects on campus through our new Eco-Representative Program. A team of student Eco-Reps helps implement campus sustainability projects, track our progress toward our sustainability benchmarks, and educate our community on sustainability-related projects.

We are proud of some new operational efforts as well, such as an initiative to promote pre- and post-consumer composting. Our dining hall staff now composts pre-consumer waste in small bins, and consumers dispose of their food waste in large bins near the dining hall dishwashing station. The Eco-Reps also manage small compost bins in the residence hall kitchens.

We also seek to establish partnerships with other organizations whose values align with ours. For example, we have entered into a partnership with the climate tech startup incubator Greentown Labs to support collaboration and interaction between Olin and the companies at Greentown. Greentown recruits actively at Olin, and I have joined their Board.

When I arrived at Olin in 2020, I was delighted to discover our participation in the AASHE STARS program, and I am equally delighted to affirm our continued commitment.

Sincerely,

Gilda A. Barabino, Ph.D.
President