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Tufts University Named One of the Ten Most Environmentally Friendly Schools in the Nation

MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE, Mass. – Tufts University has been named one of the top 10 environmentally responsible schools in Sierra Magazine's ranking of "10 Coolest Schools" in its annual green college listing, which was released today.

This is the second year that Sierra has ranked institutions based on green initiatives and the second year that Tufts has made h list. In addition to the ranking by Sierra, Tufts was recently honored as one of the nation's top 25 environmentally responsible schools in the Kaplan College Guide 2009, which was released on Aug. 5.

Tina Woolston, project coordinator for Tufts Office of Sustainability, noted Tufts' success in creating a campus wide focus on making sustainability a priority. The magazine highlighted several programs.

Tufts became the first school in Massachusetts to join "Clean Energy Choice-On Campus," the green energy development program coordinated by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. This fall, students, faculty and staff at Tufts will be able to purchase renewable energy credits, spurring matching grants which will finance renewable energy projects in Medford, low-income communities across the state, and on Tufts' campus.

"We have seen a real upswing in interest in 'greening' the campus, not only are students and faculty passionate about it, but the facilities and administrative staff are eager to find ways to bring sustainability to their departments, said Woolston.

Woolston pointed out that Tufts Office of Sustainability is launching an "Eco-Ambassador" program designed to bring together the university's administrative staff and students and train them to act as "green-ambassadors" within their offices.

Ongoing efforts include a program that encourages off-campus students to commute green by offering a discount on monthly passes to ride public transportation. In addition, students over the age of 21 can use one of the campus' four Zipcars.

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Tufts University, located on three Massachusetts campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville, and Grafton, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.