EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

When Tufts President Anthony P. Monaco joined the university in August of 2011, he identified sustainability as one of the strategic priorities of his administration. He formed the Campus Sustainability Council and personally serves as its chair.

The council convened for the first time in January 2012 with members from all three campuses and representation from university leadership, staff, faculty, and the undergraduate and graduate student bodies. While acknowledging that a sustainable campus encompasses much more than a reduction in energy and water use, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste production, the council focused its work on these three areas of Tufts' campus operations as they have the greatest environmental impact.

Three working groups were established: the Water Working Group, Waste Working Group, and Energy and Emissions Working Group. These groups reviewed current goals related to these topic areas, progress towards those goals, existing data, and relevant benchmarks. They then developed goals, objectives, and recommended strategies for each area. At each stage, the council provided feedback to the working groups on their recommendations.

During March 2013, feedback on the draft report was solicited from the Tufts community. Comments were addressed or cataloged for consideration during the next step in the process—the creation of implementation plans.

Summary of Working Group Goals

The *Waste Working Group* envisions the entire Tufts community playing an intentional role in fostering a cradle-to-cradle economy. The primary goal is to reduce waste by 3 percent each year, on average, through source reduction, waste management strategies, and behavior change.

The *Water Working Group* sees Tufts employing an integrated water management approach that reduces consumption, promotes reuse, and minimizes impacts on the environment. Within one year, the goals are to:

1. Develop a plan to evaluate and prioritize targets to reduce consumption.
2. Identify water reuse opportunities and implement appropriate strategies.
3. Institutionalize policies and protocols to proactively meet and exceed federal, state, and local regulations related to stormwater and wastewater.

The *Energy and Emissions Working Group* envisions Tufts as a leader in responsible climate action through energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, clean energy, and adaptation. The group created the following goals:

1. Reduce energy consumption 5 to 7 percent per year for three years starting in 2013.
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 10 to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 75 to 85 percent below 2001 levels by 2050.
3. Develop a renewable portfolio standard.
4. Begin the process of adaptation planning.
5. Address non-carbon greenhouse gas emissions.
6. Develop transportation initiatives to reduce the impacts of campus vehicles (fleet), commuting, and business travel.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Throughout the process, certain cross-cutting issues emerged that were common to all working groups. They are as follows:

- Responsibility, accountability, and incentive structures must be developed to support progress towards the new goals.
- Additional cross-departmental, proactive planning regarding facilities renovations and construction is needed to identify important questions or issues early on in decision-making processes.
- Data, reporting, and feedback loops are necessary to track and measure progress.
- Laboratory and hospital facilities have some of the largest environmental impacts on each campus and warrant special attention.
- There is a desire to use the campus as a learning lab to tie together sustainability work on campus with academic research and teaching.
- A culture shift towards more sustainable behaviors across the Tufts community is necessary and must be addressed in an intentional way.

Education and Behavior Change Goals

The following education and behavior change goals were also identified for Tufts faculty, staff, and students. Within five years, the entire Tufts community will:

- Know how to divert and reduce waste and actively participate in waste reduction and diversion practices.
- Understand how individual actions impact water usage and quality, why water conservation is important, and how to reduce use and mitigate negative impacts on the watershed.
- Know how to reduce energy consumption as building occupants and use that knowledge to create less energy-intensive habits.