

## 2019-2020 Executive Summary

### Structure

This year, the Eco-Rep program grew to consist of 25 Eco Reps and three coordinators. 20 Eco-Reps staffed the residence halls on the Medford/Somerville campus, while two represented the SMFA Beacon Street residences. In the fall, the program included one Blakeley Eco-Rep and two Posner Hall Eco-Reps, while in the spring there were two Blakeley Eco-Reps and one Posner Eco-Rep.

The coordinator structure was different this year than it has been in past years, with the addition of the campus coordinator position. This position grew out of the need to better support the non-Medford campus-based Eco-Reps. The oversight and guidance that the position offered to the SMFA, Blakeley, and Posner Eco-Reps (which we group as “Area 6”) allowed for these reps to have the strongest participation to date. The addition of the campus coordinator position also really reaped fruit as the program transitioned to on-line engagement after the campuses closed due to COVID-19.

Another structural adjustment implemented this year was how the halls were grouped into areas. Four Eco-Reps make up an area, which was historically determined based on hall location. This year, we grouped the halls by resident year, in addition to their location, so that areas could better focus on the needs of a particular type of student (i.e. first years vs. returning students). This is also better aligned with the structure used by the Office of Residential Life and Learning (ORRL).

Another significant change this year was a pre-test for the Reps about sustainability at Tufts during fall training. Guest speakers visited the weekly meetings more frequently than they have in past years. Another change was the encouragement of collaboration between areas on event planning so that more resources and time could be combined to create large, impactful events. In the spring, the number of required events per area decreased to offer the Reps the opportunity to focus even more on well-developed events. Also, we added required “Eco-Rep office hours” in the residence halls and “week of engagement” programming.

### Events & Activities

In the fall semester, we completed an Eco-Rep wide event by partnering with the Office of Sustainability Recycling Fellow on an inter-residential hall recycling competition. West Hall won the competition by reducing its recycling contamination rate by 33% during the week of the event. The Spring semester presented unique challenges with the closing of campus, and the

program adapted to continue to provide a supportive sustainability-minded community by continuing virtual weekly meetings, holding virtual events, and providing online resources.

This year, the Eco-Reps hosted 30 in-person events that reached a total of 855 attendees. Additionally, the program produced two virtual events after the closing of campus. Some of these events included collaboration with over 12 other groups on campus like Another Option, the Women's Center, and The Rez. In 17 weeks of tabling in Dewick this year, the Eco-Reps received a total of 2,234 Meatless Monday engagements. Reps collected a total of 2,683 gallons of compost from the residence halls, which was on track to match other years had campus not been shut down early. Between the three campuses, the program awarded 190 Green Room certifications this year.

The focus for next year will be to continue our efforts to deepen Reps' relationships with the ORLL staff and hall residents, create meaningful events and engagement with students, and expand outreach to new audiences.