



## CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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 a 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 undergraduate and graduate students. While acknowledging that a sustainable campus encompasses much more than a reduction in its energy, greenhouse emission, water and waste impacts, the Council focused its work on these three areas as they are the areas of greatest impact on the environment from Tufts' campus operations.

The Working Groups reviewed existing goals related to these topics, progress towards those goals, existing data, and relevant benchmarks. They then developed goals, objectives and strategies for each area. At each stage, the Council provided feedback to the Working Groups on their recommendations.

During March 2013, the Council is soliciting comments, suggestions and questions from the Tufts community on this DRAFT report before the goals and strategies are finalized. **Your participation as a member of the community is extremely important.**

Once the feedback from the public is received and incorporated into a final sustainability plan, Tufts administration will develop an implementation plan to achieve the stated goals.

### *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. Their primary goal is to reduce waste by 3% each year 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 their goal is to:

1. Develop a plan to evaluate and prioritize targets to reduce consumption.
2. Identify and (where appropriate) implement water re-use opportunities.
3. Institutionalize policies and protocols to meet and exceed federal, state and local regulations related to storm and wastewater.

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

1. Reduce energy consumption 5-7% per year for 3 years starting in 2013.

2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 10-25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 75-85% 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 impacts of campus vehicles (fleet), commuting and business travel.

Throughout the process, certain issues emerged which were **common to all groups**. They are as follows:

- Responsibility, accountability, and incentive structures must be developed to support progress towards the new goals.
- Additional 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.

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

### *How to provide feedback*

Please submit feedback online (<http://go.tufts.edu/CampusSustainabilityCouncil>), via email at [sustainabilityoffice@tufts.edu](mailto:sustainabilityoffice@tufts.edu), or in person during open forum events hosted by the Tufts Office of Sustainability. Visit <http://Sustainability.Tufts.Edu> or follow the Tufts Office of Sustainability on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to receive updates. The deadline for feedback is **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**.

For a copy of the complete draft report please go to:

<http://sustainability.tufts.edu/programs/tufts-campus-sustainability-council/>