**GSG Environmental Sustainability Report 2021: Fact Sheet**

**Overall Message:** Given the threat posed by climate change, the University of Delaware *needs* to act – not only to enhance its prestige as a sustainable university that provides a healthy environment for students, faculty, and staff to thrive in, but a place that takes environmental well-being seriously.

**General:** UD needs to do more to improve its current poor sustainability record – currently ‘Bronze’ by AASHE STARS standards (scale: platinum, gold, silver, bronze, reporter).

- In 2008, UD committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
- UD failed to meet its 2013, 2015, and 2020 emissions reduction targets based on its Climate Action Plan in 2009.
- Each ‘mini-report’ included in this Report has been written by a member of the GSG Sustainability Committee. Each mini-report provides brief overviews of problems (e.g. waste management), highlights how UD compares to peer institutions, and then provides solutions (e.g. improved recycling).
- A message on indigenous history (UD as a land grant and sea grant institution) and environmental justice values is included.
- Significantly, the Report calls for UD to amend its carbon neutrality goal for 2050 to achieving net zero emissions by 2030, which is in line with the call for drastic action by the IPCC Working Group 1 Report (August 2021).
- In Spring 2021, the GSG Sustainability Committee raised $1,405 for UD’s Green Grants program, which funds UD-related sustainability initiatives.
- Using information from the Report, the GSG Sustainability Committee passed legislation – during the 2020-2021 academic year – on: (1) re-instating the Sustainability Manager; (2) creating a bikeshare program; (3) improving lighting efficiency; (4) phasing-out of pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.; (5) eliminating single-use plastics; (6) diversifying campus dining options to include more vegan food and reduce meat consumption; and (7) improving temperature control and efficiency in buildings.
- Forthcoming legislation includes: (1) endorsement of carbon neutrality; (2) planting more trees on- and off-campus; (3) phasing-out UD’s fleet and eventual electrification; (4) sustainable sourcing and production of university fashion; (5) fossil fuel divestment; (6) improving food waste management; (7) implementing more electric vehicle charging stations; and (8) enhancing e-waste and lab waste management.
- Improvements in UD’s sustainability practices would align with local efforts by Newark City Council (see Sustainability Plan 2019), the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (see Climate Action Plan 2020), and other universities (see AASHE STARS).
- Additional resources are provided for UD (e.g. Second Nature, International Sustainable Campus Network, EcoDistricts, International Living Future Institute, U.S. Green Building Council, LEED for Cities and Communities).

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- More broadly: (1) members of the GSG Sustainability Committee; (2) undergraduate Sustainability Senators in the Student Government Association; (3) former GSG President Samantha Bingaman (2020-2021) and incumbent GSG President (William Repetto); and (4) Sustainability Council co-Chairs (Dr. Chris Williams and Dr. Mckay Jenkins).

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