

## **Eagles Sustainability Competition**

### **March 28, 2025**

#### **Context and Background**

Professor of Biology Phil Landrigan, M.D., director of the Schiller Institute's Global Observatory on Planetary Health, warned that "climate change and air pollution are major threats to human health and economic development that must be addressed."<sup>1</sup> The repercussions of a changing climate are serious and interconnected, affecting environmental, public, and economic health.

Although scientific organizations like NASA have alerted us to the unprecedented climate warming of the past 1,000 years, we have the power to counteract climate anxiety with action.<sup>2</sup> The Jesuit values, academic excellence, and various facilities of Boston College (BC) provide the resources and impetus to change campus for the better. Furthermore, dining halls, volunteering programs, climate courses, campus organizations, and offices already serve as access points to make BC more green. These individual efforts may also come together to aid in tackling larger, structural operations at BC that can result in climate gains.

The Boston College Office of Sustainability was created in 2007. Some of the first campus sustainability initiatives it spearheaded included composting and single-stream recycling. Today, the Office of Sustainability works with student interns and various departments under the broad administrative umbrella of Facilities. Key programs highlighted within the Office are the Tree App, LEED certifications, the University Garden, and the Fulton Bee Hive (check these and more out at their [website](#)). Within Facilities, there is an extensive range of projects, from larger Capital Projects to dorm-by-dorm composting initiatives. Each of these projects, however big or small, help contribute to Boston College's overarching goal of working towards a more sustainable campus and community.

#### **What Can We Do?**

The Office of Sustainability has undergone changes over the last couple of months, and these changes have opened up new opportunities. We challenge you to re-envision the Office of Sustainability. We want you, in your interdisciplinary teams, to use what you have learned at BC to provide recommendations, ideas, plans, and insights that the Office of Sustainability could

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<sup>1</sup> Ed Hayward, "Global Research Report Identifies Top Five Actions to Benefit Health and Climate," Boston College, June 1, 2020, <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/bcnews/science-tech-and-health/earth-environment-and-sustainability/air-pollutions-interventions-report.html>.

<sup>2</sup> "Climate Change Evidence: How Do We Know?," Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet, accessed January 10, 2023, <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence>.

potentially implement. The goal is for teams to tackle this from an interdisciplinary standpoint, bringing in relevant science, policy, and business perspectives to create a holistic plan. We encourage the development of realistic yet ambitious plans that can foster long-term sustainability progress at Boston College.

We want to emphasize that the Office of Sustainability has asked teams not to recommend hiring policies, creating particular roles, or hiring specific administrators. It is your role as students, stakeholders at Boston College, and participants in this case competition, to present feasible ideas to the administration that could better the Office of Sustainability, and BC as a whole, in a tangible way.

Your recommendation should address stakeholders, financial and ethical considerations, and implementation and engagement with the student body. Outside research and engagement with BC's offices and resources are encouraged. A multidisciplinary approach combining fields like business, environmental science, sociology, philosophy, history, political science, psychology, etc. can strengthen your proposition and promote a culture of sustainability at BC that stems from and welcomes diversity of thought.