



April 22, 2019

Dear Faculty, Students, and Staff:

Nine years ago this spring, with the global community facing increasing threats from climate change, Johns Hopkins University made an ambitious pledge to reduce its carbon emissions by 51 percent by 2025. We are excited to share significant progress toward that goal and the new steps we are taking to build a sustainable future.

Under an [agreement with Constellation announced today](#), Johns Hopkins will be buying 253,000 megawatt hours of solar power a year starting in 2021, a move that will significantly offset the carbon emissions from our Maryland and Washington campuses. This purchase, one of the largest of its kind among institutions of higher education, will enable us to hit our 51 percent target on schedule, cutting our carbon emissions by 123,000 metric tons in the first year alone.

This move also represents a key next step in our comprehensive effort to advance sustainable solutions at our university—investing in cogeneration on our campuses, increasing use of renewable energy sources, making efficiency gains, and pursuing a bold research agenda.

Since 2009, we have launched new centers for learning on sustainability, including our cross-divisional Department of Environmental Health & Engineering. We have spent more than \$80 million in energy conserving infrastructure—constructing cogeneration plants at the Homewood and East Baltimore campuses, installing thousands of solar panels across our Baltimore facilities, and building LEED-certified labs and learning spaces. We have made marked efficiency gains in our lighting, vehicle fleet, and central plant operations. And in the last academic year, after hearing from students and weighing how best to balance our fiduciary obligations and our environmental stewardship, we decided with the full support of our trustees to divest from thermal coal in any of the university endowment's separately managed holdings, an uncommon step among our peer universities.

Reaching our 2025 emissions reduction goal does not mean that our efforts to fight climate change cease. There is more that we believe we can do to build a sustainable future at Johns Hopkins, and this requires input and expertise from across our divisions. For this reason, we are launching today a new universitywide Sustainability Leadership Council. The SLC is charged with providing advice and recommendations to the provost on policies, programs, and other initiatives that will build a greater role for Johns Hopkins in teaching, research, and leadership on environmental sustainability, both locally and globally. It is also tasked with amplifying Johns Hopkins' research and practice around environmental sustainability, through fostering academic collaboration and supporting the work of the Office of Sustainability.

The SLC will be co-chaired by Bob McLean, vice president for facilities and real estate, and Peter Winch, a professor in the Social and Behavioral Interventions Program at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Its members will include representatives from each of the university's schools and divisions and from each registered student group with a relevant environmental focus. To apply to join this committee or to nominate others, please contact provost@jhu.edu.

To turn many of the SLC's recommendations into action, we will rely upon our Office of Sustainability. We are excited to welcome Julian Goresko as our new director of Sustainability. Julian comes to Johns Hopkins from the University of Pennsylvania, where he helped with the launch and implementation of its Climate Action Plan 2.0. Julian's work will complement, through university operations and outreach, the outstanding research, teaching, and advocacy being done by our faculty and students.

All of these steps—our expanded renewable energy commitment, our new model for advancing sustainability efforts universitywide, and dedicated leadership through the Office of Sustainability—demonstrate our commitment to combat global climate change and protect the long-term health of our planet. The fulfillment of these promises is impossible without the sustained contributions from all members of the university community. We value your efforts to bring us closer to our goals and push us to aim ever higher.

We look forward to working with you to make Johns Hopkins a global leader in environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Daniels
President

Sunil Kumar
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs