PART I – NOMINEE INFORMATION

School, District (LEA), or Postsecondary Institution Name: The Catholic University of America
Category of Nomination (School, District, or Postsecondary): Postsecondary

Address: 620 Michigan Ave NE City: Washington State: DC Zip: 20064
Twitter: NA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CatholicUniversity

Top Official (School=Principal; District=Chancellor/CEO; Postsecondary Institution=President)
Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Dr. First Name: Peter Last Name: Kilpatrick
Position/Role (Principal/ Chancellor/ CEO/ President): President
Email: office-of-the-president@cua.edu Phone: 202-319-5100

Lead Applicant (if different)
Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Ms. First Name: Gabrielle Last Name: Choate
Position or Role (e.g., Teacher/ Sustainability Director/ Facilities Director): Manager, Office of Campus Sustainability
Email: jette@cu.edu Phone: 202-319-6897

Check all that apply:

Early Learning ☐	Middle ☐	Public ☐
Elementary ☐	High ☐	Charter ☐
Magnet ☐	Two-Year ☐	Community College ☐
Non-Public ☐X	Four-Year ☐X	Career and Technical ☐

Provide percentages, if any are relevant to your school, district, or institution:

Pell Recipients: 11%
Free and Reduced Price Lunch: NA
Minority: 39%
Limited English Proficient: NA
Special Education: NA
Graduation Rate: 76.3%, 6-year graduation rate for class of 2016
Attendance Rate: NA

Provide the following:

Total Enrolled: 5,059 Number of Schools: 12 Buildings: 53 Campuses: 4

PART II – DOCUMENTATION OF SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENT

Narrative for Pillar I: Your Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs
Use 1-4 pages to describe how your school, district, or postsecondary institution is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions; improving water quality, efficiency, and conservation; reducing waste production; and using alternative transportation. Identify your energy-efficient facilities and practices, ecologically and educationally beneficial uses of grounds, and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes. Use supporting data and reference participation in pertinent benchmarking programs to demonstrate progress where possible.

The Catholic University of America is committed to improving the environmental well-being of the campus and the greater community.

Energy
The Catholic University of America has long been dedicated to renewable energy. In 2009, the University installed 2,600 solar panels on Aquinas Hall, Flather Hall, Gibbons Hall, Pangborn Hall, the DuFour Center, the Grounds and Maintenance Building, and the O'Boyle Parking Lot. At that time, it was one of the largest installations in the District of Columbia. These rooftop and canopy solar panels have a combined 677 kW of installed capacity.

In 2022, Catholic University broke ground on a new solar array on the University's campus in partnership with Standard Solar. The new array will be the Washington metropolitan region's largest urban solar array, providing locally generated, renewable energy. The 7.5 MW DC (6 MW AC) ground-mounted solar array is currently under construction with an opening date in Spring 2024. In addition to generating renewable energy, Catholic University has offset 100% of its electricity usage through the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs) since 2012.

The most significant investment in energy efficiency in recent years was the three-phase Energy Project completed in 2021. The campus-wide Energy Project modernized the way the majority of buildings on campus are heated and cooled. The project aimed to convert the existing steam-based heating system to a more efficient hot/chilled water system. The drastic renovation changed the energy distribution across campus and improved efficiency at the Power Plant building. The Energy Project also enables real-time adjustments to the heating/cooling system on campus via the autonomous system.

Catholic University installs energy-efficient appliances such as ENERGY STAR-certified lighting, IT equipment, AV equipment, and kitchen equipment across campus. Catholic University regularly upgrades buildings to more efficient equipment when undergoing renovations and uses a building automation system to increase control over all campus building heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

Recycling and Waste

Catholic University is committed to reducing the amount of waste generated and disposed of on campus. To encourage a circular economy mindset, Catholic University has a variety of zero waste initiatives.

- At the end of every spring semester, the University hosts a move-out donation drive for any students to donate items they do not want to take home with them over the summer. The final week of the semester, donation boxes are placed in every laundry room on campus and emptied daily. Students are encouraged to drop off small items (e.g., clothes, room accessories) in the laundry room boxes and drop off larger items (e.g., furniture) during a day-long donation event. All donations collected are either donated off-site or are included in a move-in free sale that occurs every August to provide students with free room supplies and clothing at the start of the new academic year.
- Every June, the Office of Campus Sustainability hosts an office supply swap for employees to donate items they no longer need and claim new items they do need for free. During the year, employees who have office supplies not owned by the University that they would like to part with, can join the Sustainability Office Swap Google Group to post their items or receive notifications when others have items to share.
- Cardinal Closet is a free thrift store located on campus. Open three days a week for all students and employees, Cardinal Closet has a large collection of casual and business clothing, maternity clothing, shoes, and accessories. All items in the thrift store are free and donations are encouraged and accepted year-round.
- Cardinal Cupboard, located in the Pryzbyla Center, is a food pantry available to all students and employees. The Cupboard accepts non-perishable items as donations. The Office of Campus Sustainability collaborates with Dining Services to recover excess food from on-campus vendors and events for donation to the food pantry and to the DC Chapter of the Food Recovery Network.

At Catholic University, recycling is available across campus and composting is available in the Pryzbyla Center and the dining commons, Garvey Hall. The University also collaborates with the DC Department of Energy and the Environment to host electronics recycling events on campus once per semester and has a comprehensive ink and toner recycling program and hazardous waste management system.

Green Buildings

Catholic University comprises 53 buildings totaling more than two million square feet. Campus facilities feature many sustainable and environmental best practices. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is one of the most prominent green building certifications in the world; Catholic University is home to four LEED-certified buildings and is currently certifying two additional buildings.

- Construction of Catholic University's new nursing school is substantially complete and pursuing both LEED Gold Certification and WELL Certification. WELL Certification places people's health and wellness at the center of design through a focus on air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind. To achieve these certifications, a variety of environmental and wellness considerations have gone into the construction of the building. Five stormwater management devices have been installed on site, and there is no irrigation system. In addition, 48 bike spaces will be included on site and new trees will be planted around the building while existing heritage and mature trees were preserved during construction. The building is projected to achieve a 37% reduction in indoor water use and 14.5% reduction in energy use compared to similar buildings. The building also includes submeters to allow for regular tracking of water, natural gas, and electric use. Once the building

opens, the University will conduct annual testing for air and water quality and lighting issues and make the data publicly available. The University will conduct occupant comfort surveys to ensure spaces are performing well for learning and working.

- Catholic University's new dining commons, Garvey Hall, which opened in Fall 2022, is currently pursuing LEED Silver certification. The building installed two permeable pavement facilities, one bioretention facility, and one infiltration trench, and it has no irrigation on site. As a result of indoor water-conservation measures, it has achieved a 30% water use reduction based on the LEED baseline. It has also achieved a 10% energy reduction based on the ASHRAE 2010 energy baseline. Its design includes light pollution reduction strategies and focuses on reducing the heat island effect through light-colored sidewalks and concrete, and permeable pavers.
- The University's Crough Center is notable as the first student-led, LEED-certified building and as the first-ever LEED-certified architecture school. The building features many best practices such as efficient lighting and controls, rain gardens, building management policies, occupant feedback and encouragement systems, and water-efficient plumbing fixtures.
- Opus Hall, one of the newer residential buildings on campus, was designed with sustainability in mind. The building is 10.5% more energy efficient than average residence halls, and 75% of spaces have access to a view and/or adequate daylight. Water fixtures are 20% more efficient than standard indoor plumbing fixtures and the building achieved a 50% reduction in potable water used for landscaping. Opus Hall earned LEED certification in 2010.
- Maloney Hall, the recently renovated home to the Busch School of Business, features a rainwater collection system, LED lighting, and temperature, light, and occupancy sensors to adapt to internal and external changes, thereby maintaining optimal comfort. The renovation achieved LEED-Gold certification in 2020.
- During the 2009 renovation of Father O'Connell Hall, 95% of the existing structure was reused and 75% of demolition waste was diverted from the landfill. Low-flow plumbing fixtures achieved a 30% indoor water use reduction. This renovation project was LEED certified.

Landscape & Water

Set on the southern slope of one of the highest points in the city, Catholic University has a beautiful natural landscape graced with extraordinary views, rolling topography, and pastoral plantings. Across campus, our landscape and grounds are maintained with a focus on caring for our natural spaces and implementing best practices to reduce potable water use and stormwater runoff.

Catholic University is home to nearly 4,500 trees. Altogether, the campus' trees save over 10 million gallons of water and sequester over 1.2 million pounds of carbon dioxide every year. The University hosts community tree planting days on average once per semester in collaboration with Casey Trees, a local non-profit organization with a mission to restore, enhance, and protect the tree canopy of Washington, DC. The tree planting days offer our students and employees the opportunity to spend time outside and learn how to plant and care for the trees of our campus. Catholic University's collaborative relationship with Casey Trees also includes a formal agreement allowing their use of a portion of campus as a staging area for their trees for nearly a decade.

Flash flooding and waterway quality are major concerns in Washington, DC. To manage stormwater on campus, the University has more than 80 stormwater management devices designed to reduce the volume of water that reaches the sewer system as well as the number of pollutants carried in it. The devices range from green roofs and rain gardens to permeable pavement and underground filters.

Catholic University has two rainwater harvesting systems to collect and store rainwater for future non-potable use. The first is a 15,000-gallon stormwater harvesting cistern and filtration system that collects rainwater for use in the cooling towers at the Power Plant. A second cistern collects rainwater for non-potable uses in Maloney Hall. Using captured rainwater conserves over 270,000 gallons of water per year.

Over the last decade, the University has moved away from permanent irrigation for capital improvements, such as at Garvey Hall, Maloney Hall, Father O'Connell Hall, the Welcome Plaza, and Opus Hall. In 2021, the University installed a new irrigation control system with an improved rainwater sensor to reduce the need for constant irrigation during rain events.

Catholic University focuses on water-efficient landscaping practices by selecting native and adaptive plants. At the site of the new West Campus Solar Array, Catholic will be installing a native pollinator meadow beneath the 25-acre solar array. The meadow will provide slope stabilization and rainwater benefits, as well as provide a natural habitat and food for pollinators.

Catholic University also focuses on water efficiency by installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures such as aerators, flushometers, and low-flow showerheads. The University regularly upgrades buildings to more efficient fixtures when undergoing renovations. Major infrastructure projects such as the Energy Project to transition the former steam-based heating and cooling system to a more efficient hot/chilled water system also conserve water on campus.

Sustainable Transit

In addition to being located on the Metrorail Red Line and within close proximity to several Metrobus lines, Catholic University offers students and employees other sustainable transit options, including a campus shuttle and access to ZipCars. The University participates in a commuter incentives program for employees using public transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking, or bicycling. By logging commutes in the incenTrip app, employees can earn up to $600 per year. Catholic is also a Bike Friendly Campus with discounted access to Capital Bikeshare, over 400 bike racks, and access to the Metropolitan Branch Trail, which runs from Silver Spring to Union Station. The University was certified as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists in 2019 and again in 2023. Catholic University also offers car charging stations on campus to encourage electric vehicle ownership.

In 2019, the Transportation and Parking Services team installed a Transit Screen on the first floor of the Pryzbyla Center to display real-time transportation feeds from various transit options, including Metrorail, Metrobus, ridesharing (such as Uber and Lyft), car-sharing (ZipCar), and the campus shuttle. The goal is to provide students and employees with a visible reminder and easy knowledge of local transit options to encourage sustainable modes of travel around DC.

Narrative for Pillar 2: Your Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff
Use 1-4 pages to describe how your school, district, or postsecondary institution improves the health and wellness of students and staff by integrating an environmental health program and promoting sound health and wellness practices. You should discuss cleaning and maintenance; mold and moisture; chemical and environmental contaminants; ventilation; pests and pesticide, as well as nutrition and outdoors physical activity. Other components you may include are health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, sun safety, staff health promotion, and family and community involvement. Incorporate metrics and include program participation where possible.

The Catholic University of America is dedicated to creating an environment on campus that promotes the health and wellness of our students and employees.

Campus Buildings
A healthy environment starts within our buildings. Catholic University comprises 53 buildings totaling roughly two million square feet. There are currently four LEED certified buildings on campus–one residence hall and three academic/administrative buildings–with two more, including the new nursing school and dining commons, undergoing the certification process. In addition to LEED certification, the new nursing school is pursuing WELL Certification which places people's health and wellness at the center of design through a focus on air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind.

As part of our green building efforts, Catholic University emphasizes sustainability and occupant health and wellness during building renovations. For instance, in 2023 the University completed several interior projects with a focus on sustainable design and furnishings that support healthy indoor air quality.

- In the Anthropology Suite in O'Boyle Hall, 87% of the furniture met stringent environmentally-friendly certification criteria from Greenguard, InterTek Clean Air, or SCS Certified Indoor Advantage, with 6% repurposed from elsewhere. The flooring materials received CRI Green Label Plus and Cradle-to-Cradle Silver level certifications.
- The Columbus School of Law Lower Level Improvements achieved a 93% certification rate for its furniture selections, emphasizing indoor air quality, while the carpet, certified with CRI Green Label Plus, boasted post-consumer content and low volatile organic compounds.
- The Pryzbyla Nest (Student Engagement Hub) featured many eco-conscious carpet and luxury vinyl tile selections, with 86% of the furniture meeting environmental certificates.
- The Pangborn Lobby renovation continued the university's sustainability commitment with furniture bearing Greenguard and InterTek Clean Air certifications.

LED lighting was incorporated into each project to ensure energy efficiency.

Environmental Health and Safety
In addition to our physical infrastructure, Catholic University's Environmental Health and Safety teams focus on workplace safety, laboratory safety, fire safety, biological safety, radiation safety, and risk management. The University's

Environmental Health and Safety Manual covers everything from chemical safety, to toxicology, hazardous waste disposal, biosafety, respiratory safety, and more.

The University uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach that focuses on the long-term prevention of pests. IPM looks at environmental factors that affect the pest and its ability to thrive. This practice allows us to work together to create conditions that are unfavorable to the pest.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, facilities staff have evaluated and updated indoor air quality conditions in all campus buildings with the support of consulting architects and engineers. As a result of these studies, the University made air ventilation and filtration modifications in numerous locations across campus. We installed new filters at the highest grade possible for our equipment, mounted air handling equipment, and deployed portable air filtration units.

Physical Activity
Catholic University offers students and employees a variety of ways to connect with the environment and pursue physical health and wellness.

Catholic University's Kane Center is a fitness and recreation center available to all students and employees. The Kane Center facilitates club sports for students and offers fitness classes with different exercise experiences such as yoga and high intensity interval training for the entire campus community. The Kane Center also offers free personal training sessions led by personal trainers on campus. Every week, the Center hosts a wellness walk open to students and employees to encourage everyone to spend some time outside every day.

To encourage students to step out of the classroom and connect with nature, the Fitness and Recreation program created an initiative called Cardinal Adventures. The program arranges monthly off-campus activities such as hiking, rock climbing, paddle boarding, horseback riding, and ice skating. Similarly, CUAdventures is a student-led club that takes students hiking and camping in and around the DC area while educating students about different aspects of the environment. Recent trips include Great Falls Park in Virginia and Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland.

On Campus Food Pantry and Community Garden
Cardinal Cupboard is the on-campus food pantry at The Catholic University of America. The Cardinal Cupboard operates on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and aims to provide each patron with a dignified shopping experience. Students or employees who find that they have difficulty purchasing adequate and sufficient groceries are welcome to visit the pantry to receive assistance.

Cardinal Cupboard is completely donor funded. That means that the pantry is 100% supported through generous monetary and item donations. From food drives to volunteering, Catholic University students, employees, alumni, and families are the driving support system for the pantry. Most items purchased for the pantry are done so through the Capital Area Food Bank; however, the Cupboard also strives to provide hygiene products and toiletries whenever possible.

The Catholic University community garden was established in spring 2021 as a student initiative to encourage healthy eating and community engagement through gardening. Now in its third year, the garden has grown significantly and offers weekly gardening sessions to encourage students and employees to garden together.

Starting in 2022, the garden partnered with Cardinal Cupboard to offer patrons fresh produce from May - November. In 2022 and again in 2023, the Cardinal Cupboard saw a total of 1,200 visits from patrons. A total of 10,000 pounds of food was distributed; of that amount, more than 600 pounds was produce from the community garden. The partnership with the community garden expands the nutritional value offered to patrons, as a steady supplement to the non-perishable inventory base. Cardinal Cupboard patrons eagerly anticipate the fresh produce from the community garden each week.

Nutrition

At Catholic University, Dining Services emphasizes healthy eating and encourages well-balanced diets through the selections available in the dining commons and other markets and on-campus vendors. The Dining Services provider has a full-time registered dietician on staff to support the campus community with healthy eating. Students and employees can reach out to the dietician to discuss healthy eating, sports nutrition, weight management, and food allergies. The dietician conducts extensive outreach to the campus community to share information about healthy lifestyles and dietary choices. For patrons with food allergies, Dining Services dedicates a section of the dining commons to allergen-free foods and will prepare specific meals for students with more significant dietary restrictions.

Student Health Services

Student Health Services provides primary care for routine medical illnesses and injuries. They maintain a limited on-site pharmacy for patients. Health promotion and education programs are offered to help students maintain and improve their health. Student Health Services is staffed by board-certified healthcare providers who commit to quality healthcare delivery to the University community.

Counseling and Mental Health

Catholic University's Counseling Center provides confidential services including individual psychotherapy, group therapy, psychiatry, and emergency services for mental health crises. Full-time students whose treatment needs fall within the Counseling Center's scope of services are eligible for individual psychotherapy, psychiatry, and group therapy. Full-time students may receive weekly individual therapy appointments for up to 10 consecutive weeks following intake before shifting to appointments held every two weeks. The Center provides referral services to outside agencies or practitioners when the University believes a student can receive better services off campus.

The Counseling Center also serves as a testing center for students registered with Disability Support Services and for graduate school language exams.

Office of Disability Support Services

The Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) provides programs and services designed to support and encourage the integration of students with disabilities into the mainstream of the university community. DSS assists in creating an

accessible university community, where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of the educational environment. DSS supports both the teaching and learning environments through partnerships and in-service training with students and employees.

DSS evaluates and maintains disability-related documents; certifies eligibility for services; determines reasonable accommodations and develops plans for the provision of such accommodations; assists students in negotiating disability-related barriers in the pursuit of their education; strives to improve access to university programs, activities, and facilities for students with disabilities; and promotes increased awareness of disability issues on campus.

Staff and Faculty Wellness Resources
Catholic University's healthcare provider partners with Sharecare to provide staff and faculty with a wellness program. The program provides wellness tools, resources, and personalized recommendations based on individualized health assessments. Tools and resources include articles and videos on a wide variety of health topics and an app to monitor daily health habits such as steps, diet, sleep, fitness, stress, and others. Additionally, staff and faculty are able to participate in a health coaching program to speak directly with a certified health coach about any health or wellness topic of interest. By participating in the program, staff and faculty are eligible to receive up to $200 in rewards, depending on their level of engagement, that can be redeemed for gift cards and prizes.

Wellness Committees
PEERS is Catholic University's peer education group dedicated to educating students on relationship violence, collegiate alcohol, healthy masculinity, substance abuse, mental health, healthy relationships, safe spring breaks, sexual assault, and bystander intervention, among other topics. PEERS, through the support of the Office of the Dean of Students, engages with students to create a safe and open dialogue about how to raise awareness for these issues and shift campus culture, where necessary.

Catholic University has a Student Wellness Committee of staff and faculty members dedicated to ensuring student wellness on campus. The Committee has created an online, comprehensive set of resources for students seeking information about how to achieve various dimensions of wellness, and it collaborates with PEERS on student-led initiatives to raise awareness about wellness. The committee includes representatives from the Counseling Center, Student Health Services, the Office of the Dean of Students, Campus Ministry, Fitness & Recreational Sports and Wellness, the Center for Cultural Engagement, the Office of Campus Sustainability, Dining Services, Athletics, the School of Nursing, and the Department of Psychology.

The Center for Cultural Engagement
The Center for Cultural Engagement (CCE) plays a prominent role in the recruitment, retention, and graduation of Catholic University students from minority backgrounds. The CCE creates an environment where students can explore their own identity, become more confident in themselves, and find their place and purpose at Catholic University and beyond. The CCE plays a significant role in the learning and development of traditionally under-served students while serving as an institutional advocate for their overall success. The CCE is a recognized and respected partner in the development of comprehensive academic support and the accompaniment of minority students on campus. The CCE

builds strong networks that connect the university with other local and regional partners invested in the success of minority students, their families, and communities.

The CEE has a program for first-generation students called Take Flight. As part of Take Flight, incoming freshmen have access to resources to help them navigate the new waters of higher education. Students in the program are connected with a peer mentor, participate in several skills-building workshops, and join several community-building activities. Students have the support of CCE's professional staff, who make them aware of opportunities and assist with troubleshooting any issues they might encounter.

The Guadalupe Project

The Guadalupe Project is dedicated to building a culture of radical welcome for moms, dads, and babies at Catholic University. This project has led Catholic University to increase staff paid parental leave, provide faculty paid parental leave, support moms on the tenure track, provide classroom accommodations for pregnant instructors, and study child-care benefits. Additional efforts as a result of the Guadalupe Project include: providing pregnancy resource informational materials to expecting families; creating a website hub for pregnancy and parenting resources; adding baby items to Cardinal Cupboard, the on-campus food pantry; increasing access to pregnancy testing; holding masses of remembrance for pregnancy and early infant loss; starting mothers' and fathers' groups; providing welcome swag for baby Cardinals; initiating a student-led babysitting program; serving moms and babies in the DC community; and providing access to a maternity clothes closet through Cardinal Closet, the on-campus free thrift store.

Narrative for Pillar 3: Your Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Use 1-4 pages to describe how your school, district, or postsecondary institution ensures effective environmental and sustainability education throughout the curriculum. Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems. Demonstrate how your institution uses the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills, and teach all subjects in context. You should discuss how your school, district, or postsecondary institution develops and applies civic knowledge and skills to environmental and sustainability education. All STEM and civics work should be described as it relates to environmental and sustainability learning. Detail any environmental or sustainability literacy standards, show how these concepts are integrated into assessments, and describe environmental and sustainability literacy professional development. Include co-curricular opportunities such as field trips, study abroad, clubs, and service learning. This section should describe hands-on, place-based, project-based, authentic learning across the curriculum, not limited to one subject, such as science courses.

Catholic University centers environmental and sustainability learning across a wide variety of academic programs, courses, and immersion experiences.

Environmental and Sustainability Academic Programs

As sustainability and the environment are interdisciplinary in nature, students can find sustainability-related courses across two dozen majors, minors, and concentrations in the School of Architecture and Planning, the School of Arts and Sciences, the Busch School of Business, the School of Engineering, the Columbus School of Law, the Conway School of Nursing, the Metropolitan School of Professional Studies, and the School of Theology and Religious Studies. Examples include:

- Sustainability Minor: The Sustainability Minor is an interdisciplinary minor open to the entire undergraduate student body. The curriculum for the minor seeks to combine the liberal arts (ethics, social sciences, science and technology) with courses that focus on the practice of sustainability (mostly housed in the professional schools). The goal is to combine a strong foundation in Catholic teaching with an understanding of current scholarship and practical skills that students can take with them when they venture out into the workforce.
- Environmental Chemistry: Housed in the School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, the objective of the environmental chemistry program is to provide high-level education for students interested in environmental chemistry and environmental science. Environmental chemistry is offered as a major or a minor.
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering: Students in the environmental engineering major are exposed to a wide range of fundamental science and engineering courses as well as courses designed to prepare them to tackle present-day environmental problems using modern technology. Environmental engineering is a multi-disciplinary area of engineering that combines physics, chemistry, biology, ecology, geology, geography, mathematics, and public policy.
- Civil Engineering: A professional degree in civil engineering with a concentration in environmental engineering has an interdisciplinary focus that combines sciences, engineering, and public policy. The curriculum provides students with the knowledge base and skills in physical, chemical, and biological sciences and engineering. Students also learn how to help protect the environment and solve problems in waste disposal, remediation, and pollution prevention.

- Mechanical Engineering: A professional degree in mechanical engineering with a concentration in energy and the environment provides students with knowledge and skills of the growing and challenging areas in energy and environmental engineering and technology. Coursework related to this concentration focuses on various traditional energy systems and their drawbacks, modern or renewable energy technologies, fuels and combustion, environmental protection in ambient and indoor air, and waste, pollution, and climate change.
- Masters of Science in Net Zero Design: Housed within the School of Architecture and Planning, the Net Zero Design program provides students with an opportunity for full immersion into the theory and application of sustainable design, and it provides graduates with leadership skills in the field of sustainable design. The Master of Science in Net Zero Design program has earned the U.S. Department of Energy's Zero Energy Design Designation.

Project Based and Place Based Learning

Many courses at Catholic University use the campus as a living lab. Examples include:

- Sustainable Living Independent Study: This independent study provides students with the opportunity to earn course credit for working on sustainability initiatives on campus. The independent study serves as a bridge between the Office of Campus Sustainability, other sustainability and environmental organizations on campus, and the student body and employees. The goal of the course is to embrace student ideas, energy, and initiative and turn them into tangible actions and programs through a guided, hands-on approach. Independent study projects have included: creating the on-campus free thrift store; developing sustainability resource guides for faculty interested in incorporating more conversations about sustainability into their courses; and conducting waste audits and installing infrastructure to address compost contamination in the student center.
- LEED Lab: LEED Lab is a course designed to explore sustainability principles through the LEED certification process. LEED is an internationally recognized green building rating system, and LEED Lab provides students with first-hand green building experience to prepare them for the workforce upon graduation. Through the class, students certified the Crough Center, completed a feasibility study to certify Opus Hall, Maloney Hall, the Dufour Center, and the Crough Center, and established a campus-wide LEED “Master Site.”
- Busch School Team Field Studies: Since Spring 2020, the Office of Campus Sustainability has collaborated with Busch School graduate students taking a team field study class. Throughout the course, students work in teams to analyze a real-world business problem under the guidance of a sponsoring company, which in this case is the Office of Campus Sustainability. The students develop solutions to campus sustainability challenges by drawing on lessons learned in the classroom, and they present their final recommendations to key University stakeholders.

Center for Teaching Excellence

To foster more conversations about sustainability and the environment in the classroom, Catholic University’s Office of Campus Sustainability has partnered with the Center for Teaching Excellence to host a monthly conversation series on the topic. The program is open to part-time or full-time faculty members and instructors and encourages conversations focused on how to integrate conversations about sustainability into the classroom, how to make our classrooms more sustainable, how to encourage more sustainability research, and how to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration on sustainability initiatives.

Sustainability Captains and Orientations
To educate our staff about sustainable work environments and sustainability initiatives on campus, the Office of Campus Sustainability created a Sustainability Captains program. Each building on campus nominates one representative ("captain") each year to join the program. The group meets at least once per semester and is focused on addressing sustainability needs in each building, as well as brainstorming opportunities to improve sustainability in work spaces across campus.

The Sustainability Captains program complements our orientation program. At each staff and faculty orientation, new employees are presented with key sustainability information including an overview of recycling and composting policies on campus, sustainability initiatives they can join, and sustainability resources available to them. Sharing this information as part of the orientation program emphasizes to all new employees that the University is committed to sustainability.

Sustainability Tours
The Office of Campus Sustainability offers sustainability tours for individual courses every semester. Tours can be tailored to specific course content based on the class topic, such as renewable energy, LEED buildings, or water management, and they occur during a regularly scheduled class time. All faculty members are encouraged to schedule sustainability tours for their classes.

Co-curricular Activities
In addition to academic integration, Catholic University's active club culture fosters engagement with the environment and sustainability. Undergraduate groups include:

- CUA Environmental Club: Catholic University's environmental student organization is dedicated to demonstrating the efficiency, effectiveness, and importance of sustainability through interdisciplinary educational programs, services, and engagement.
- American Conservation Coalition: ACC believes economic and environmental success go hand-in-hand, and that everyone should feel empowered to take a seat at the table in discussions concerning conservation, clean energy, sportsmen's rights, agriculture, climate, and much more. ACC seeks to activate young people who are tired of partisan inaction at the grassroots, state, and federal levels, and to bring forth prosperous action on environmental issues.
- CUAdventures: CUAdventures is a student-led club that takes students hiking and camping in and around the DC area, while educating students about different aspects of the environment. Recent activities included trips to Great Falls Park in Virginia and Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland.

PART III – SUMMARY NARRATIVE

Use one page to provide a summary narrative describing your school, district, or postsecondary institution's efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve student and staff health and wellness; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. This overarching summary should highlight the best of your work in every ED-GRS Pillar and Element. You view examples of summary narratives in past Highlights Reports. The summary that you submit should be what you would like to see appear in a future Highlights Report, if your institution is selected. Be sure to include concrete sustainability achievements, supporting data, unique partnerships, program participation, awards, and certifications. It may be helpful to pull from your previous three narratives to write the summary.

Inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, the Catholic University of America is committed to safeguarding a sustainable environment on campus. As a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, the University offers a distinctive contribution to the entire nation with an important opportunity to address the national conversation on environmental stewardship within the context of the University's Catholic mission and identity.

Catholic University has a legacy of committed and active leadership in sustainability at the local, national, and international levels. Catholic University's commitments to reduce our environmental impact, improve the health and wellness of our students and staff, and ensure effective environmental and sustainable education are reflected across campus. With 677 kW of installed rooftop and parking lot capacity and the current construction of a 7.5 MW DC ground-mounted solar array opening in 2024, Catholic University is a leader in renewable energy development in our region. Our extensive tree canopy and dozens of stormwater management devices promote a healthy ecosystem on campus, furthered by our commitments to native and adaptive plants, including a pollinator meadow that is planned for the areas beneath and around the new ground-mounted solar array. The University also supports a variety of student and staff-led zero waste initiatives as well as universal recycling and composting in two campus buildings to reduce the amount of waste generated and disposed of on campus. Our four LEED certified buildings and two buildings currently undergoing the certification process exemplify our commitment to occupant health and wellness, as do our free fitness classes, personal training sessions, on-campus food pantry, community garden, and initiatives focused on wellness, cultural engagement, and family and maternal support. Our extensive investments in our environment and sustainability enable us to use campus as a living lab for project- and place-based learning as well as sustainability tours catered to individual faculty members' courses. Collaborations with the Center for Teaching Excellence further encourage conversations on how to further integrate conversations about sustainability into the classroom. These efforts lead to a robust environmental and sustainability education with courses that can be found across two dozen majors, minors, and concentrations.

At Catholic University we have turned our commitments into actions that are visible across campus, from academics to community engagement to our buildings and grounds, resulting in recognition from a wide variety of organizations focused on sustainability. A thorough overview of Catholic University's sustainability efforts can be found in our Five-Year Sustainability Plan adopted in Fall 2020 as well as in our Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report, for which Catholic

University achieved a Silver rating in 2022. In addition to this recognition, Catholic University is included in the *Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges: 2024 Edition*, ranked 21st on a list of the Best Green Colleges by College Consensus, and ranked as the 9th Top Performer in the Energy category by AASHE. Catholic University was also presented with a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly University award in 2023 and a Tree Campus Higher Education award in 2020 by the Arbor Day Foundation.