# **UofL Sustainability Council October 28, 2025 Minutes**

<u>Attendees:</u> Brent Fryrear (Chair), Justin Mog, Debra Anderson, Sherri Brown (CEHD rep), Andrew Hovekamp (Metro College), Emma Beck, Asma Addarrat-Edwards, Katina Kulow, Tami Harbolt, Sammie Holmes, Eli Mudd, Emily Rasmussen, Scott Campbell, Alarah Gillum, Terri Holtze, Jacek Jasinski (Speed rep), Jen Jones, Scott LaJoie (SPHIS rep), Andrew McClung, Cassidy Polack, Brian Barnes, Leo Saunders, Tony Piedmonte, Mary Brydon-Miller

#### **One Green Thing Introductions**

- Brent: Kept his poinsettia from last year alive all summer and gets to "reuse" this season.
- Debra: Brought her reusable bottle to the airport.
- Sherri: Models reusing and cleaning things for her students.
- Scott C.: Been buying lots of green things by walking to the farmers market.
- Emma: Cutting up old t-shirts for rags instead of paper towels.
- Alarah: Did a trunk or treat with reused costumes.
- Tami: Helping students with tech
- Terri: Working to convert lawn to garden just got her spring bulbs.
- Andrew M: On Sunday he started canning his garden tomatoes with his girlfriend.
- Andrew H: Composting his lawn clippings.
- Jacek: Eating the pumpkins he used as decoration.
- Jen: Eating more plant-based and shopping locally, even with an 8 year old daughter
- Katina: Trying to embrace glasses rather than daily disposable contacts
- Justin: Still holding off on turning on the heat can we make it to Thanksgiving?! Already started
  guerilla tree planting and looking forward to volunteering for <u>community plantings with Louisville</u>
  <u>Grows</u>, starting next week.
- Eli: Instead of three different Halloween parties, decided to have one big one with his friends and share the decorations
- Cassidy: Making own holiday decorations
- Emily: Reusing last year's Halloween costume
- Pat: Recycling and patching together homemade Halloween costumes; propagated a thyme plant from Garden Commons and has plenty for Thanksgiving
- Asma: Reusing kids' clothes from her older siblings and then passing them on
- Sammie: Just put her garden to sleep and planted next year's garden; reusing/reimagining pieces of her Halloween costume

## **Committee Updates:**

#### **Operations**

- Operations meets on first Tuesdays of every month at 2pm in person (SAC W107, or on-site for tours). Our planned meeting on October 7th was cancelled due to flooding.
- Our next meeting is at 2pm on Tuesday 11/4 we will be touring the new Engineering Student Success & Research Building. All are welcome! Meetup in the lobby.
- Asset Preservation Project Updates:
  - Complete Projects: JB Speed MEP Upgrade; Natural Sciences MEP Upgrade & Roof; Pedestrian Bridge (Floyd Street Parking Garage) Structural Repairs; Strickler Roof; Brigman Roof; Ernst Roof; KY Lion's Eye Atrium Roof; Multiple HSC Plumbing projects

- Chemistry: MEP Upgrade Pods 1, 2 & 3: Complete. Pod 4: In progress through January 8, 2026.
   Final weather event repairs scheduled for winter break . AHU2 exhaust energy recovery coil replacement scheduled for winter break
- Life Sciences (MEP, Roof, & Safety): Occupant relocations in progress through December 12, 2025; Roof bids were due October 28; Building will be offline January December 2026; Collaborating with EHS & Biology to also address lab safety needs. Six fume hoods and 11 safety showers to be added.
- Grawemeyer (HVAC): President's Conference Room HVAC: Complete; Jefferson Room HVAC: In progress through December 5, 2025
- Roof Replacements In Progress: Schneider Hall: In progress through mid-November; Kentucky Lion's Eye: In progress through December; Davidson: In progress through January; Humanities: Demo started October 27
- Chilled Water Plant upgrade: In progress and on schedule. New cooling towers in place. Meeting with year-round cooling departments to discuss winter break equipment change impact.
- Eli: Wonders why we had flooding issues in the basement of Houchens and is there anything additional that can be done to address it?
- Eli: Are there any plans to replace the stop signs along Speed Parking/Service Drive after new Engineering Building opened?

## **Education & Research** (Mary Brydon-Miller)

- This semester, E&R meets on third Fridays at 2pm on Teams. Our last meeting planned for October 17<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to a variety of conflicts. Our next meeting will be November 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm.
- Masters in Sustainability: Mary tried to setup a meeting including Cara Cashon from the A&S Deans Office and learned that they are still intending to pull us together.
- Sustainability Roundtable has relaunched
- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, we are partnering with KAEE on a Green Careers Summit for high schoolers that will be held on campus. Contact Mary if you have flyers you'd like to direct to high school students.

#### **Planning & Administration** (Pat Smith)

- P&A next meets Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am on Teams.
- Since we last met, there's been some important revisions to the draft UofL Strategic Plan, incorporating sustainability into the Vision and Values statements! These drafts are open for public comment through October 31<sup>st</sup>. See: <u>Draft UofL Strategic Plan includes sustainability in vision and values statements</u> (UofL Sustainability News, Oct. 27, 2025)
- Last met on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed:
- History of the UofL Sustainability Council (Justin Mog): See last month's Council minutes.
- <u>Previous Work of the Committee</u> (Pat): Since Pat took over, he's tried to respond to the Provost's charges around progress in the STARS goals within Planning & Administration. He's sent reports to the Provost in the past about our progress in these areas and received no response.
- <u>Current Committee Charge</u> (Pat): We had not yet received a charge from Provost Cardarelli, but we know that the anti-DEI legislation makes it hard for us to address about 40% of P&A's STARS goals.
  - Tom: Would like to see healthier food available on campus and cannot believe the claim that students only want fast food.
  - He's been frustrated by the regional failure to offer passenger rail.
  - Lee: The single-stream recycling systems here are abysmal and there's no education, including of the custodial staff, who treat all the trash the same (Pat: these folks have no motivation to care because they are paid so little and under-valued.)

- Follow up on strategic planning input (Pat/Justin): We came up with some great recommendations for the Strategic Planning team about how to integrate sustainability into the university-level plan.
  - Lee's helping lead the LEARN pillar and he's currently working on another draft for the administration to review after the last round of community input. The goal is to make a new draft available for town halls and additional community input not sure of the timeline, but things are moving a little slower now.
  - Pat recommends this language: "Under LEARN: Goal 2 / Strategy 2 Integrate intentional curricular and co-curricular experiences to equip every student with essential workforce and life skills, fostering adaptability, social/environmental responsibility and global awareness for a rapidly evolving world."
- New Business (all):
  - On-going impact of HB4 and what's the way forward for STARS reporting around diversity goals.
  - Our Sustainability website needs to be rebuilt in Drupal. Justin's been aware of this and has not had any bandwidth to make progress on that goal.

# **Engagement** (Brian Barnes)

- The committee meets during the academic year at 11am on last Fridays before EcoReps Workshops.
   Our next meeting will be this Friday 10/31 at 11am at the Center for Belonging, Access & Engagement (as well as on Teams).
- <u>EcoReps Workshops</u>: Our monthly vegetarian Lunch & Learn workshops continue on last Fridays at noon at the Center for Belonging, Access & Engagement (Belknap Village North room 176) or virtually via <u>Microsoft Teams Meeting</u>:
  - Aug. 29 <u>Civic Engagement: Jean Christensen with Citizens' Climate Lobby</u> (watch recording)
  - Sept. 26 Food Recovery: Meghan Kontic with Glean KY (watch recording)
  - Oct. 31 <u>Industrial Composting: Laura Veldman with Smith Creek</u>
  - Nov. 21 Addressing Climate Chaos: Sarah Lynn Cunningham with Louisville Climate Action Network
- The Engagement committee last met 9/26 and discussed:
- Bombs Socks (Patty): We've been a Giving Partner with Bombas since 2013, so we are one of the many groups around the country responsible for making sock donations possible and getting them to those in need, specifically those experiencing houselessness or at risk of it. We have on campus thousands of pairs of socks and it's our job to get them out in the community. Since the new shipment arrived in May, we've donated about half of the 5000 pair shipment through: St. John's Center, UP Women & Children, Forgotten Louisville, Hope's Closet, God's Way Church in Radcliffe, and Louisville Outreach for the Unsheltered. Thanks to Allarah for connecting us with Forgotten Louisville who serve the houseless population in greater Louisville. You could be a point person to connect us with organizations that can distribute and we need occasional help with delivery of boxes or bags (20 pairs per bag). We have lots of XS, S, and M right now (fewer L and XL). Centro Latino will pick up some small socks next week. Home of the Innocents might be good, but Patty doesn't have any contacts there. Patty also keeps socks in her car to give out to individuals. Patty will reach out the Med students about stocking our little free pantries at HSC. Reach out to patty.payette@louisville.edu if you can help in any way!
- Adulting 101: A How-To Skill Fair: Ekstrom Library is organizing this on Wednesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 12-3pm on Humanities Quad. UofL's Sustainability Council will have a whole Green Wing at the fair with 5 booths:
  - 1. How to grow and eat healthy on campus. Staffed by Patty Payette <a href="mailto:payette@louisville.edu">patty.payette@louisville.edu</a> and Savannah Dowell <a href="mailto:savannah.dowell@louisville.edu">savannah.dowell@louisville.edu</a> and/or Jacob Brown <a href="mailto:jacob.brown.3@louisville.edu">jacob.brown.3@louisville.edu</a>, the backup will be Mo Early morgan.early@louisville.edu.

- 2. How to go Zero Waste and Live Green on campus. Staffed by Mo Early <a href="morgan.early@louisville.edu">morgan.early@louisville.edu</a> (and Bailey Klei <a href="morgan.early@louisville.edu">bailey.klei@louisville.edu</a> after 2pm)
- 3. Composting: How to turn trash into treasure while battling climate chaos. Staffed by Lauren Ceresa <u>lauren.ceresa@louisville.edu</u> and one of the compost staff coordinated by Brian Barnes <u>brian.barnes@louisville.edu</u>
- 4. How to fight fast fashion with the UofL Free Store. Staffed by volunteers who will be coordinated by Lily Clagett lily.clagett@louisville.edu
- 5. How to maintain and repair your bike...and how to borrow one free from UofL Bikeshare. Staffed by Sam Shaw samuel.shaw@louisville.edu
- Glenn: Another tabling option if the group is interested:

#### **HSC Connect**

Date: October 29, Wednesday [Delayed until Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>]

Table Set-Up: between <u>10:30</u> & <u>11:00 AM</u>

Event Run Time: <u>11:30 AM-1:00 PM</u>

Location: HSC Courtyard, UofL HSC, 500 S. Preston Street

Audience: UofL HSC students, residents, fellows, faculty, and staff

Resource Fair Tabling Registration (share in your networks!): https://forms.office.com/r/jZb66rmgzA

- Brady Guest, President of the UofL Climbing Club: Brady is a Neuroscience undergrad and he's been volunteering regularly at the UofL Community Compost Project. He has an idea for installing a small DIY climbing wall (called a woody) in the Worm Room. Woody's are usually for home training and they can be free-standing or fixed. He imagines something 10' tall at a 10 degree overhang.
  - Climbing Club is now a sports RSO with 60, but doesn't have facilities to train and practice on campus (and local climbing gyms are expensive or students don't have transportation).
  - He proposes that it operate 1-2 times/week only when club officers are present. Jeremiah Robinson with Campus Rec is their advisor and he has climbing certifications.
  - Need approval from Grounds and Risk Management.
  - It would be stored in the Worm Room and pulled out for use.
  - Working on getting a big rope wall installed at the SRC over next 2-3 years...so they think this would be a quicker solution.
  - The sustainability connection is about promoting healthy outdoor recreation and it gets lots of people coming out to the composting site.
- <u>Papermaking</u>: Rachel's trying to work with the Portland Museum for some public papermaking workshops and she's hopeful there'll be funding from the Interdisciplinary Consortium.
- UofL Sustainability Week Oct. 15-21, 2025:
  - We are always looking to add sustainability related events to the calendar and if you're considering hosting one, but looking for a date, we've got nothing on the calendar yet for Tuesday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>! Just send any event details to justin.mog@louisiville.edu
  - SSC's Pumpkin Carving will now be Weds. 10/22, and 10/17 they are planning to host a spooky trivia event on 10/17 just looking for a space.
  - Maybe for next year's Sustainability Week?: Allarah's office has been wanting to put together a Fair Trade fair!
- We will organize a <u>Pumpkin Smash for composting</u> again this year! It is on Brian's radar for just after Halloween. He's willing to come to your neighborhood for a pickup, if you collect some pumpkins from your neighbors!

**Pumpkin Smash!** 

## Wednesday, Nov. 5th, noon, SAC Ramp

Don't know what to do with your old pumpkins and Jack-o-Lanterns from Halloween? Don't trash them! Turn them into stress-relief, worm food, and organic fertilizer! UofL is here to help you

compost! Drop off your old pumpkins (and other plant-based fall decorations) in or around the bins at the Garden Commons any time. At noon on November 5th, all are invited to our annual Pumpkin Smash from the SAC Ramp! See video of a past Smash! Join us for composting fun and stress relief! Facebook Event.

### Bottled water proposal next steps (Scott LaJoie)

- The committee continues to meet alternate Fridays at 10:15am on Teams. Our next meeting is 11/7 at 10:15am on Teams.
- We last met 10/24 to decide where to locate the five bottle filling stations that Interim Provost
  Cardarelli has offered to pay for with \$25,000 out of her budget: 3 on Belknap (Ekstrom,
  Grawemeyer, SRB) and 2 at HSC (CTR, Tower). She has said that as an interim leader, she is unwilling
  to take on the Pouring Rights contract with Pepsi.
- Submitted grant proposal to Snowy Owl to purchase Fill It Forward reuse tracking stickers and subscription.
- The group has been drumming up support for the Phase Out Plan from various bodies on campus.
- Unfortunately, it does not look like we'll be able to add language to the Pepsi contract, which means the effort to get bottled water out of vending is not going to move forward.
- Louisville Water Company has agreed to cohost with us a Pure Tap education event in mid-spring.
   They are also offering tours of their drinking water facilities and Scott L will share with the group when details are available.
- Eli: Been asked by the Deans that submitted initial letters of support, if a new letter is needed? We're not sure. Perhaps at the time of a new Provost those expressions of support would be helpful? Perhaps it would be helpful to contact the President's Office directly.
- Scott L: Could we print posters promoting Louisville Tap next to the vending machines?

## **Staff Sustainability Training (Brian Barnes)**

- Brian has drafted a checklist for the UofL Green Office Certification and he and Justin and Patty will
  meet to finalize tomorrow.
- We're imagining rolling the program out in January. We have four departments that have signed up to be pilots.

#### **Athletics** (Andrew McClung)

- Continuing to work with Tri-Arrow Aluminum on new can recycling program, collecting over 20yds of aluminum cans at each of the five games so far. Three games left and will share final totals. There are boxes out that people can donate cans to, but haven't collected much. Haven't been able to tackle tailgating yet, but planning for next year (we trialed separate bags for tailgate recycling in previous years and it was a failure). Andrew thinks if it weren't for NIL, we never would've had this partnership the idea is "Cans for Cards" i.e. using the revenue to support our athletes.
- 150 pallets picked up for reuse by Pepsi alone; and all other vendors are participating.
- Collected 4 open top dumpsters of scrap metal for recycling.
- New timing system at Natatorium and recycled the old system Surplused the working components and recycled the rest.
- Hosted President's Inauguration and collected plastic for recycling.
- In the middle of cross-over season with basketball and football at the same time, plus hosting cross-country finals at Tom Sawyer Park and reusing all the signage from previous years.
- Eli: Why were trees cut down outside volleyball arena? Andrew doesn't know, but will ask.

#### **Dining**

• No rep present.

#### Students

None.

#### **Housing** (Cahterine Wibbels)

No reps present.

#### Sustainability in the media

- OCM covered the Free Store Grand Opening and our sponsor, Canon, was there and pleased.
- OCM also highlighted our increased rating in the 2026 Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges.
- Spectrum News reached out to us to do a story on our campus bees and interviewed our Beekeeping Intern, Gavin Phillips last week. The story will air on Friday at 5pm.
- With website rehaul, they are reposting some old stories, including our work on Appalachia flooding.
- Please pitch any potential sustainability stories to Tony!
- The following UofL Sustainability stories were released since our September meeting:

<u>Draft UofL Strategic Plan includes sustainability in vision and values statements</u> (UofL Sustainability News, Oct. 27, 2025)

<u>Kentucky Composting Council honors UofL's Brian Barnes with the 2025 Jean Bonhotal Award</u> (UofL Sustainability News, Oct. 27, 2025)

UofL Free Store grows to help more students and cut waste (UofL News, Oct. 23, 2025)

<u>UofL scores a higher rating in the 2026 Princeton Review's Guide to Green Schools</u> (UofL Sustainability News, Oct .21, 2025)

<u>Campus Sustainability Day Fair marks 18th anniversary to kick-off UofL Sustainability Week</u> **2025** (UofL Sustainability News, Oct. 15, 2025)

<u>Trane and UofL kick-off modernization project to power a cooler, future-ready campus</u> (Trane / UofL Sustainability News, Oct. 9, 2025)

<u>Cards Commuter Challengers prevent 2.37 tons of carbon pollution over 6,919 miles, saving \$3463, and burning 123,529 calories!</u> (UofL Sustainability News, Oct. 3, 2025)

<u>Team UofL pedals more than ever in Cycle September 2025</u> (UofL Sustainability News, Oct. 1, 2025) <u>UofL's Brent Fryrear wins 2025 Pollution Prevention Educator Award</u> (UofL Sustainability News, Sept. 30, 2025)

New Health Sciences building set to include sustainability features (The Louisville Cardinal, Sept. 28, 2025)

## Report back from the AASHE Conference (Leo Saunders & Justin Mog)

- Last week's conference in Minneapolis (800 attendees) marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AASHE, with some great reflections from the founders. Justin has attended every AASHE conference since 2009.
- This year's UofL attendees/presenters were: Robin Frederick, Leo Saunders, & Justin Mog.
- Leo & Justin traveled there on bus and train to minimize carbon emissions.
- UofL presentations:
- Justin Mog & Sean MacInnes (UNC Greensboro) Natalie Sobrinski (Muhlenberg College) –
   Networking Mtg: Sustainability Offices of One.

- Justin Mog, Dharma Proctor (U of Miami), Jennifer Wilson (Georgia State U) & Sean MacInnes (UNC Greensboro) – Field Report: Scrappy Sustainability.
- Leo Saunders & Robin Frederick Student Field Report: STARS Reporting from a Student's
  Perspective. Packed the smallish room of about 50 people and had lots of students come up to them
  afterward to discuss.
  - Leo attended: Re:wild Your Campus Schools which have committed to stop using pesticides and switch over to more native plants.
- Justin attended:
- Workshop: How to "Speak CFO" Making the Sustainability Business Case
  - SUNY is using the concept of Sustainability as Risk Management: The risks of NOT pursuing sustainable solutions are: Strategic (student success, engagement, retention); Financial (energy and other cost along with missed state/fed incentives, reduced enrollment); Operations (climate resilience); Compliance; Reputational (staying relevant academically, operationally, and in the built env).
- Key Competencies in Sustainability—What They Are, Why They're Important, and How to Assess
  Them (Scott Blair, Sulitest Impact sulitest.org & Krista Hiser, Director, Sustainability Education
  Accreditation Commission sustedu.org)
  - The 8 Key Competencies are: systems thinking, futures thinking, values thinking, strategic thinking, interpersonal competency, intrapersonal competency, implementation competency, integrated problem-solving.
- Workshop: Where Does a Sustainability Officer Belong?
- The Wild West of Buying Green: Taming Decentralized Procurement (Texas A&M & Stanford)
  - One of the most energizing parts of A&M's pilot was a student intern's project to develop a 90-minute Lunch & Learn training that they have started touring around campus. Began presenting to the Procurement team, refined the training and got tips for who to present to next. Found that staff had built a more narrow definition of sustainability than students.
  - Stanford promotes Reuse through a Slack channel (could also use a Teams channel) auto-added 200 staff who have a hand in this and within a few months it grew to 1400 members and over 2000 items posted. It spans from furniture and office supplies to lab supplies. People are interested in reusing, they just need tools to swap!
  - Stanford just launched a Supplier.io Explorer Tool to support inclusive and sustainable sourcing. It highlights businesses that are small/diverse/local and scores sustainability.
  - Amazon business platform does offer some tools: Can filter by Climate pledge friendly labels; During checkout process you can choose sustainable shipping option to minimize packaging and Amazon delivery day to minimize transportation.
  - Sustainable Shipping Guidelines: Student researched what vendors are offering and developed guidelines around ground transportation and sustainable packaging solutions, including reusable packaging.
- Networking Meeting: Sustainability Efforts With Beverage Companies
  - NYU banned using university money to buy any bottled water (but didn't ban the sale of it on campus).
  - UofCA Banned plastic water bottle sales and plastic bags with Pepsi, switched to aluminum and in smaller cans for health initiative. It took two years for Pepsi to actually make the switch and they kept saying no one else is asking for it (which isn't true). They'll also try to convince you that plastic is more sustainable.

- NY has a new Executive Order to no longer use SUPs, so SUNY has been monitoring their use and developing plan. Contract with Pepsi was signed just before the EO, but Pepsi has said they will help with implementation. It helps to work regionally because you share same suppliers.
- UofCA has also weighted sustainability at 20% for evaluations of all RFP bids.
- NYU tried to leverage their "Campus Cash" program to convince the local vendors within the program to offer reuse discounts, but it was labor intensive and not a very sticky idea due to turnover.
- NYU wrote ZW and no SUPs into Dining Contract and after many years, they are getting close to living up to it.
- Pre-conference Tour: Donation, Reuse and Recycling at the University of MN-Twin Cities
  - They manage nearly all waste on their two campuses (this facility is located between them) in a closed-loop system, managing internally the collection, processing, and reuse on campus = direct control over quality, contamination, and data.
  - Recycle 31%, Compost 17%, Reuse 4%, Unrecoverable 48%.
  - Operate a fleet of trucks that service every building: dining, athletics, housing, academics, etc. Dedicated routes for compost, dual-stream recycling, trash, special items.
  - Sort recyclables by hand at their Como Recycling Facility, with two main lines: paper vs. everything else. The same facility also handles bulky items, scrap metal, construction debris, and biowaste. Staffed by 4 university employees and student workers.
  - The only thing they lose money on is the hauling the value of commodities pay for everything else.
  - Use a standardized quad system for bins, 22,000 across campus: Paper, mixed recycling, compost, trash. Trash bin is smallest. Gets 75% diversion rate.
  - ReUse Warehouse: collects surplus from 86 designated collection points. They collect anything people aren't certain which of the 4 bins it should go in. Sell things back discounted to staff, students, and public.
  - Diverts 1 million lbs/yr. In last year, returned 40 tons of materials back to campus with sticker price of \$82k (retail value of \$500k) & sold to the public 426 tons (\$715k sticker price). All that revenue stays within Waste Recovery Services.
  - "Pack and Give Back" is for move-out with collection points throughout dorms (or they can bring it in, if live off-campus). They hold all clothing over summer for free yard sales at move-in (whatever's left comes back to warehouse and sold \$5/lb...or less over time); everything else is sold at warehouse (including mattress foam, which actually sells really well at 25 cents/lb.)
  - Student Storage: Over summer, students can rent a big gaylord cardboard box for \$40 (and can get it delivered \$35 each way). Most use 1-2, some up to 4. International students love it!
  - All of this \$4M budget is funded by: small % of the facility fees that each unit pays for space on campus, plus about \$1M in revenues from recycling commodities and reuse sales. They are not often asked to justify their operations with an ROI.
  - If item is over \$1k in value, they do profit share with the department on the auction, if arranged in advance.
  - They accept items from students at the warehouse any time of year, but not from public or employees (though they sometimes sneak things in).

## Feedback from Sustainability Week, Campus Sustainability Day Fair, Free Store Grand Opening (all)

• Brent: It seemed to go well and he and Scott L really enjoyed the Fair, with about 30 tables representing on- and off-campus groups, with lots of student engagement.

#### Ideas for an Arbor Day 2025 celebration (all)

- Justin thinks the easiest option would be for us to do a fruit tree planting at the Garden Commons.
- If anyone has ideas about the timing or groups to involve, let Justin know.

# Announcements

• Next meeting is on an unusual date due to the holidays – December 3rd at 10am on Teams.