

**UofL Sustainability Council  
February 24, 2026 Minutes**

**Attendees:** Brent Fryrear (Chair), Justin Mog, Asma Addarrat-Edwards, Sherri Brown (CEHD rep), Mary Brydon-Miller, Mo Early, Alarah Gillum, Sammie Holmes, Terri Holtze (Libraries rep), Andrew Hovekamp, Jen Jones, Katina Kulow (Business rep), Andrew McClung, Sajid Mian, Eli Mudd, James Orlick, Debra Anderson (Faculty Senate rep), Lauren Anderson, Glenn Gittings, Cassidy Polack, Guests: Victor Fani & Albert (RideAmigos), Gary Becker (Director of Parking)

**RideAmigos Presentation: New CommuteHub platform functionality for [Cardinal Directions](#)**

- They got their start in 2012 as a rideshare company and they built and maintain our [Cardinal Directions](#) platform. Recently, they transferred all legacy customers like us over to the new CommuteHub platform to offer enterprise customers like UofL new functionality.
- Customers are all using the new platform in unique ways. A great example is Princeton, which wanted one platform that does parking permitting as well as carpool-matching. This has centralized the commute experience no matter what your mode.
- The goals are to make it easier from both a user experience and for the administrators since all your commuter programs can work on the same platform. It offers:
  - You can set up a points and rewards program and challenges
  - System integrations
  - Branded mobility app with GPS trip recording
  - Parking management & permitting
  - Pre & post-tax benefits
- If UofL wants a branded mobile app, we could add that to our contract. That would offer GPS verification of trips, carpool & vanpool validation, GPS trip tracking data.
- Justin: Can you integrate Escort Service requests? Anything that you currently do with a spreadsheet can be integrated (e.g. access to secure bike storage) and anything done with an existing app can have a button integrated onto CommuteHub.
- Parking Management: CommuteHub offers digital permitting (daily, weekly, monthly, annual) that can handle designated parking, HR & payroll integration, parking availability maps, seamless access and enforcement, and automated reporting. Efficient parking management costs time and money while avoiding user frustration with multiple systems. They've worked with a complex university hospital system to prove the efficiency and flexibility of CommuteHub.
- CommuteHub is highly personalizable, flexible and adaptable and can grow with us over time. They don't require us to get rid of what we already have, but CommuteHub can be the overlay entry point with other systems working on the back end.
- Transit Passes: Fulfillment happens on our side, but it is digitized and requested and managed/tracked through CommuteHub.
- Parking is one of the most important levers in changing commuter behaviors.
- Gary would like to have more conversations with RideAmigos once CommuteHub has more fully integrated with the T2 platform that UofL Parking already uses and is invested in. That should be happening soon – conversations are going well.

**New Director of the [Mayor's Office of Sustainability](#): Jake Medley <jacob.medley@louisvilleky.gov>**

- Jake took over as interim and now permanent Sustainability Director for the city after Sumedha Rao left for India. We invited him to this meeting, but it looks like he wasn't able to make it.

## Committee Updates:

### Operations (Sajid Mian)

- Operations meets on first Tuesdays of every month at 2pm in person, alternating between SAC W107 and on-site for tours. Our next meeting is on 3/3 in SAC W107, when we'll hear from Logan Sowell about the work of [Human I-T](#) to repurpose (or recycle) surplus devices.
- The committee last met on 2/3 for a tour of the energy efficiency upgrades at the Chemistry building: [see photos](#).
- Physical Plant is recovering a bit now that the snow is gone.
- Huge upgrade of the Belknap Central Steam & Chilled Water Plant is well under way.
- Sajid would like to have Trane present to the Council on some of the impressive work they've been doing to help us keep an eye on our utility consumption, with new submeters and dashboard systems to help us keep a handle on the Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of our buildings. Already dropped our EUI over 10% campus-wide, with individual buildings like Chemistry increasing efficiency as much as 25% by switching to automated and variable volume systems (especially the lab hoods).

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

- E&R meets on third Fridays at 2pm on Teams. Our next meeting is 3/20. E&R last met on 2/20 and discussed:
- Ying Kit wonders if UofL will pursue aligning research around UNSDGs, as other schools have done?
- Masters in Sustainability:
  - With A&S not picking up the ball to redesign and relaunch the program, perhaps our best move is to develop a proposal ourselves and that might get the conversation/process started. Mary thinks we should develop a proposal for a program that has something unique and special based on our faculty's strengths and interests. What can we do to make it unique?
  - Tyler: It could be helpful to survey everyone's research interests. Justin: It can't be just this group that sustains a program, so perhaps the place to start is with our [STARS sustainability research inventory](#).
  - Mary: There does need to be a core group of faculty, though, and we could play a key role.
  - Daniel: He's noticed working with our students that though sustainability is broadly focused, most will concentrate in a specific area based on a skillset or double-major (and, thus, layering certifications makes sense). In his research, he's noticed that it's easier to develop partnerships with non-profits in Louisville than in other similarly-sized cities. We have a lot of local sustainability challenges that could be great for masters research. He also noticed that the program started out requiring masters projects to directly address at least two of the three pillars of sustainability, but that got watered down over time. The original program tried to leverage the strengths of multiple departments, which was an awesome concept, but it threw up so many logistical and motivational barriers because of the way UofL is structured.
  - Sherri: Agrees with what Daniel said and doesn't know how to fix it, but whatever we do, we have to find a way to retain students.
  - How many undergrads are in the Sustainability Major? Daniel: It fluctuates, but runs 30-50 total.
  - Tyler: Echoes value and ease of community partnerships. It might be valuable to name potential partners in our proposal. Mary likes the idea of starting a shared file to document these partnerships. Tyler will start a poll. Daniel would like to see a more formalized, standing partnership(s), rather than uncoordinated. Mary's seen that work elsewhere.
  - These partnerships could also be a pipeline for students in the program. Lauren: Full-time Metro employees do get \$4000/year for UofL tuition!

- Mary: CEHD is putting on a community engagement event with donors on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sherri is on the planning committee.
- Ying Kit: He was dismayed to see shift away from the arts and humanities as the original Masters program evolved. He believes the arts work more on the heart and creativity and isn't as much about developing solutions (those require a scientific background). The original Masters curriculum was set up with requirements that kept it very science-focused. Daniel: Maybe it's a matter of what the core required courses of the program are vs. electives. Maybe different tracks after they get through a smaller core, like an Arts track and an Engineering track?
- Lauren thinks a methods focus would help – what are the methods people need to address sustainability?
- Mary: Maybe we could create Capstone opportunities that require interdisciplinary teams of students working with a community partner?! Daniel loves that idea because it is great training for the real world...but it could be challenging to pull off. Lauren's seen great success working with those kinds of Capstone groups at Envirome.
- Ying Kit: Our core courses cannot be upper-level specialized courses from any one discipline, but perhaps we create our own core courses? It would be great to have such core courses team taught from multiple disciplinary perspectives.
- Justin: What are the resources we need to ask for (the original program only launched because the Provost offered a new faculty line and 2 GTAships)? Not sure what the current Provost would be willing to push for. Mary: It's always wise to dream big and to ask for more than the minimum we need.
- Next Steps? Identifying which courses would be included in the program. Perhaps having an in-person 90-minute visioning session in late March / early April...maybe even with a canoe excursion?
- Goal for the end of the semester: Releasing a vision statement for what this Masters could be.

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

- P&A's next meeting has not yet been scheduled. P&A held its first meeting of the year on 2/3 and discussed:
- Provisional STARS Report update (Robin Frederick):
  - We are getting very close to finalizing our latest STARS report with a goal of submitting by March (hard deadline of March 5<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in reporting to The Princeton Review and AASHE's Sustainable Campus Index), but Robin needs some updates on a few things.
  - PA 2: Commitments & Planning: This credit has some new indicators, including requirement for a Climate Resilience plan, which we've never developed, so we don't get full point (5.33/6)
  - PA 3: Institutional Governance: Pat's wondering why we're getting full points, given the requirement for "ongoing bodies through which local community-based organizations not affiliated with the institution can democratically participate in its governance?" Robin thinks our President's Advisory Council and representation of local orgs on our Board of Trustees counts. Pat's going to follow-up with Robin about this response. Asma: CODRE is also defunct and we now have the Commission on Climate, Culture, and Well-being, but it does not have any non-UofL representation.
  - PA 4 & PA 5 Investments: The Committee on Investor Responsibility did reconvene and got an update from Prime Buchholz. Justin is working with the new chair to try to get an updated snapshot of investments.
  - PA 6 Institutional Climate: Robin's not sure about some of the status of lots of these initiatives today. A lot has changed due to new state anti-DEI laws, so we no longer have the initiatives that used to support marginalized students/employees or LGBTQ+ students/employees. Fortunately, we still have Cardinal Rising and TRIO to support first-gen students. The UofL Women's Network has disbanded. Diane: We still have student organizations that speak to "protected class," and we still

have the Porter Scholarship, but it is now open to all students. Julia Onnembo julia.onnembo@louisville.edu can help you with the list of SROs.

-6.3 Climate Assessment: Diane: There's an executive summary available, but not sure if it mentions race specifically.

- PA 7 Racial & Ethnic Diversity: This is a new credit. We are at 2.57/3 points based on our Ethnic Diversity Index score.

- PA 8 Gender Parity: Pat was able to provide data for this.

- PA 9-13: Robin thinks she has the data she needs for this, but needs to review. Lee is willing to help gather the latest student success numbers.

- [QS World University Sustainability Rankings](#) have come out, with UofL ranked right in the middle of the pack globally. Our score improved from the previous year because, with the help of Institutional Research, we actually submitted data this time around. Bob Goldstein shared the news with leadership and they were excited and congratulatory and got OCM interested in the QS Ranking. They are working on a UofL News story about it now and followed up with Justin for additional information. He explained that the QS Rankings are not something we have been closely tracking or using for strategic planning, but that our more comprehensive STARS report on which it is based will be finalized and coming out later this spring (hope they cover that!). He encouraged them to also use this opportunity to spread word about our recent recertifications as a Tree Campus Higher Education (for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year) from the Arbor Day Foundation, and as a [silver-level Bicycle Friendly University for 2025-2029](#) by the League of American Bicyclists – one of the top 100 in the country and one of only two in Kentucky!

#### **Engagement (Brian Barnes)**

- The committee meets during the academic year at 11am on last Fridays before EcoReps Workshops. E&R's next meeting will be Friday 2/27 at 11am at the Center for Belonging, Access & Engagement (as well as on Teams), just prior to our noon [EcoReps Lunch & Learn Workshop: Mycology](#).
- E&R last met on 1/30 prior to our [EcoReps Lunch & Learn Workshop: Using AI to Reclaim Our Humanity](#) and discussed:
- [Bombas Socks](#) (Patty): We have spent last 9 months (especially over the holidays) distributing nearly all the socks from our last shipment through organizations like Americana Community Center, More Than A Smile Foundation (serving lots of Somali immigrants), Arthur Street Hotel, and others. Patty has just a handful left that she keeps in her car to distribute directly to those in need and maybe 200 pairs of small socks that she might get to Home of the Innocents.
  - Earlier this week, we were notified that we'll get 10,000 pairs of socks to distribute (won't arrive until late summer / early fall). They may also offer under shirts, but will notify us later.
- [Green Office Certification & Sustainability Staff Ambassadors Program](#) (Patty): This new staff training program gives offices an opportunity to learn about sustainability and show off their green cred. Next Friday at 10:30am, we'll have an Orientation to this pilot program. Patty would like to invite everyone on the Engagement committee to come check it out.
  - The checklist for offices to follow is available in our Teams folder for folks to review.
- Josh Smith Sustainability Award: Nominations are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll be presenting the award on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Community Engagement Symposium (as a part of a ceremony at which other community engagement awards will be given).
- [Ecolympics 2026](#)  
**February 1st - March 28th**  
*Two fun sustainability competitions to get you engaged in saving our one green planet!*  
**Post your sustainable actions and tag @UofLSustainable or submit them through our [online](#)**

[form](#) to win the **Grand Prize**, or one of the fabulous weekly prize baskets!

**Campus Race To Zero Waste!** – Feb. 1 - March 28

**E-Waste Recycling Drive** Feb. 18 - March 13: BAB Lobby, SAC W310, Duthie Center, Kornhauser Library Lobby; and **Drive-up Drop-off Collection** on Thursday Feb. 26th, 8-11am at CTR Loading Dock (618 E Muhammad Ali Blvd)

**Resident Race! - February 9 - March 1, 2026**

UofL residence halls will compete among each other to see who can reduce electricity use the most over three weeks. The winning hall will earn a dinner party, sponsored by RHA! Keep up with the Race on [UofL's Building Dashboard](#), where you can see how much electricity your hall is using and learn how you can conserve! Halls in the competition include:

- **Bettie Johnson Hall**
- **Community Park** (real-time data!)
- **Kurz Hall** (real-time data!)
- **Louisville Hall** (real-time data!)
- **Unitas Hall** (real-time data!)
- **University Tower Apartments (UTA)**
- **Belknap Village North**
- **Belknap Village South**

**Ecolympics Events:**

**[Upcycled Valentine Workshop](#)**

**Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 12:30-2pm, SAC W118A**

**[T-shirt Bag Workshop](#)**

**Tuesday, March 3rd, 1-2:30pm, UofL Free Store (Honors House 108)**

- Mo is planning to make regular social media posts throughout Ecolympics to encourage particular green actions....and she'll shout out some of our partners who have given prizes and Falls City Community Bikeworks.
- Brian: He's been helping setup events for the Climate Chaos book and the associated film "Climate of Hope" that is being made on the themes, including today at noon and Monday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm at Highlands-Shelby Park Library in Mid-City Mall.
- **[Fix-A-Bike, Get-A-Bike Workshop](#)**  
**Tuesdays, Jan. 20th, [1/27 workshop RESCHEDULED for Thursday, Jan. 29th 4-6pm], and Feb. 3rd, noon-2pm**  
**UofL Bike Shop (basement of the Urban & Public Affairs. 426 W Bloom St.)**  
You are invited to UofL's inaugural Fix-a-bike event! Participants will learn how to choose a bike, parts of a bike, and introductory bike maintenance as well as bike etiquette and rules-of-the-road. At the end of the series, participants will keep the bikes they have been working on and we will go on a short bike ride to celebrate! You must be available and present for each session. This is intended as an introductory bike workshop. [Registration required.](#)
- **Spring 2026 Garden Workshops:**  
**Thursday, Jan. 15th, 12:30pm - [Maple Tapping Workshop](#)** (meetup in Garden Commons)  
**Monday, Feb. 9th, 4-6pm - [Winter Orchard Care Workshop](#)** (Urban & Public Affairs Food Forest, 426 W Bloom St.)  
**Monday, Feb. 16th, 4-6pm - Garden Commons Expansion Workshop, Part 1**  
**Monday, Feb. 23rd, 4-6pm - Garden Commons Expansion Workshop, Part 2**  
**Monday, Mar. 2nd, 4pm - [Seed Starting Workshop](#)** (Urban & Public Affairs Greenhouse, 426 W Bloom St.)  
**Thursday, Apr. 16th, 12:30pm - Gardening as Resistance** (Garden Commons)  
**Thursday, May 21st, 12:30pm - [Serviceberry Foraging Workshop](#)** (meetup in Garden Commons)

- **Spring 2026 Eco-Reps Workshop Series**

All are welcome to join us monthly at **noon on last Fridays**, in-person in the Center for Belonging, Access & Engagement (Belknap Village North room 176) or virtually via [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

**Jan. 30** - [Using AI to Reclaim Our Humanity](#)

**Feb. 27** – [Mycology](#)

**Mar. 27** – [TBA](#)

**Apr. 17** - [UofL Maple Syrup & Honey Pancake Party](#) (Location TBA)

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

- Tri-Arrows Aluminum finally sent us the total weight of aluminum collected from the 8 home football games during the 2025 season:  
Total Collected for 2025 Football Season (assuming 35 cans/lb):
  - 9,542 lbs total weight: 334K cans
  - 8,522 lbs after processing: 298K cans
  - 6,548 lbs after evaporation: 229K cans
- All of this was collected via the 3 satellite collection points on the property and the 20 yard open top we put inside the building at our trash sorting location inside of Gate 9.

#### **Dining** (Kelsey Johnson)

- No reps present.

#### **Students** (Mo Morgan)

- Mo has signed up to host booths for UofL Sustainability at four community events coming up around Earth Day: April 11<sup>th</sup> TreeFest, April 12<sup>th</sup> LWC Event, April 18<sup>th</sup> Bernheim RESTORE, and April 25<sup>th</sup> Zoo Party for the Planet.

#### **Sustainability in the media**

- The following UofL Sustainability stories were released since our last meeting:  
[Global ranking demonstrates continuous Cardinal commitment to sustainability](#) (UofL News, Feb. 10, 2026)  
[UofL launches free professional clothing resource for students](#) (UofL News, Feb. 9, 2026)  
[UofL public health student committed to global citizenry](#) (UofL News, Feb. 3, 2026)  
[Let the Games Begin! Take Action to Win in Ecolympics 2026](#) (UofL Sustainability News, Feb. 4, 2026)  
[Trustees approve strategic plan with sustainability as a core Cardinal Principle; and reaffirm commitment to shared governance](#) (UofL Sustainability News, Feb. 2, 2026)

#### **Housing**

- No reps present.
- Justin shared that our Ecology & Sustainability Themed Community for 2026-27 is now filled!
- Justin met 1/30 with Catherine Wibbels and Terry Schwartz to confirm plans for Ecolympics Resident Race (including meter readings that Terry is providing, RHA prize for winning hall, and promotion to residents). We also had initial conversations about plans for Trash-to-Treasure move-out collections. Mo will be leaving us, so we need help sorting items – Alarah is happy to help

#### **Bottled water phase out committee** (Brent Fryrear and Justin Mog)

- Brent has set up monthly meetings through June for first Fridays at 10:15am on Teams.
- Bottle fillers continue to be installed using the Provost's funding at Shumaker - floor 1 and Ekstrom floor 1 west side. We are saving money using in-house plumbers and carpenters, so we should have funds left over this FY for additional fillers and we have prioritized: Red Barn, SAC 2nd floor east, Chemistry 2nd floor, Founder's Union 2nd floor, Lion's Eye, and HSC Gym.
- On 2/16, we asked the Provost's Office about the appetite to take on additional elements of the Phase Out plan this year and we were told there are too many other pressing priorities and we should wait until next year...but additional funding in FY27 for filling stations is not out of the question, so Justin is preparing a budget request.

#### [Green Office Certification & Staff Sustainability Ambassadors Pilot](#) (Brian Barnes & Justin Mog)

- A successful Orientation was held on 2/6. Participants were asked to follow-up with Brian directly to confirm their participation and make plans for an in-person visit and consultation.
- The first training session has been scheduled for Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon in the Center for Engaged Learning.

#### **Closure of Early Learning Center & Threats to Pan-African Studies**

- A petition to save the ELC is being circulated: <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-early-learning-campus>. CEHD faculty member was the director and they didn't find out until the morning of the announcement!
- Like the Planetarium, the ELC had been running in the red for many years...but, as Mary points out, you only run in the red when you don't get funding.
- It's a vital resource to the entire UofL community. Each year, it served about 150 enrolled children for full day programs.
- We're very concerned about the potential closure of PAS, as well, but not certain what can be done or how we can weigh in.

#### **Announcements**

- **Last call for nominations for the 2026 [Josh Smith Sustainability Award](#)!** Send name of the community member/organization and brief explanation of their collaboration/support for UofL Sustainability initiatives to [brian.barnes@louisville.edu](mailto:brian.barnes@louisville.edu) by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Sustainability Roundtable continues this spring:  
**[Sustainability Roundtable: Environment and Public Health – Envirome Projects](#)**  
*Friday, March 20th, noon-1pm, Microsoft Teams*
- AASHE's **[2026 Call for Proposals](#)** is now open for the **[AASHE 2026 Conference](#)** in Baltimore Oct. 4-6. Proposals are due by **Friday, April 10, 2026**.
- Next meeting is March 25, 2026 at 10am on Teams.