

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Christopher Tillquist, representative to the Sustainability Council

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Sustainability Council meeting held February 28, 2024

The meeting began with the usual “One Green Dream” introductions. Efforts included starting seeds for the garden, getting new chicks, and building a flower bed for a shade garden. If any faculty senators would like to share with me their efforts, I’ll be happy to pass them on to the Sustainability Council!

In the area of Outreach, the Council was notified of two anti-DEI bills currently before the KY General Assembly (KY [SB6](#) and [HB9](#)). Passage of these bills would impact UofL. SB6 has passed the Senate and now moved to the House.

In the area of Education and Research, UofL has been invited by Fulbright to bring a Scholar-in-Residence for Sustainability for the purpose of teaching. The Regional Energy Business, Education, and Commercialization Convergence Accelerator consortium (Speed, TARC, Louisville Metro, Clariant, and GE Appliances) has won a [\\$500,000 Phase 1 planning grant](#) from the U.S. Tech Hubs Program to develop a renewable energy tech hub in Kentucky.

In the area of Planning and Administration, UofL is considering the possibility of offering an additional opportunity for retirement investments (beyond TIAA and Fidelity) for those interested in more intentionally ethical investment options. Specifically, UofL is in conversations with representatives from [Just Futures](#). In case you missed it, UofL recently broke ground on a new engineering building that will be the most “sustainable” building on campus. Features include a geothermal system to assist with heating and cooling, while the design can incorporate both solar cells and hydrogen fuel cells if sufficient funding can be raised. With the addition of these alternative energy sources, this building could be UofL’s first net-zero energy and [LEED Platinum](#) certified building. On February 1st, President Schatzel signed the Carbon Commitment to continue efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Finally, the Planetarium has new LED lights and is unfortunately \$130,000 behind in fundraising (the facility is unable to host school programs because they lack an educator and is down to one staff member).

In the area of Engagement, the [Cardinal Cupboard](#) and Free Store is in need of donations; see the link for opportunities to donate items/money or host a donation drive. The Ecolympics continue on through March 23, and in the competition [Campus Race to Zero](#) Waste UofL is currently fourth in the nation! The annual [E-Waste Recycling Drive](#) continues through March 13.