

UofL Sustainability Council
March 25, 2026 Minutes

Attendees: Brent Fryrear (Chair), Justin Mog, Sherri Brown (CEHD rep), Mary Brydon-Miller, Glenn Gittings, Anita Hall, Andrew Hovekamp, Jacek Jasinski, Kelsey Johnson, Scott LaJoie, Andrew Meiners, Eli Mudd, Tony Piedmonte, Cassidy Polack, Asma Addarrat-Edwards, Tyler Wood, Terri Holtze (Libraries rep), Cat Aiton, Sammie Holmes, Brian Barnes, Tyler Mahoney, Pat Smith, Lauren Anderson, Emma Beck, Debra Anderson (Faculty Senate rep), Alarah Gillum, Andrew McClung, Jen Jones

One Green Thing Introductions:

- Brent: Taught his 17 year old son about thrifting!
- Justin: Been giving up his Saturday mornings to help lead volunteers at community tree plantings with TreesLouisville (3/14 Heritage Green Apts.) and Louisville Grows (3/21 Butchertown). This Saturday Louisville Grows hosts a [planting at the Alberta O. Jones Microforest!](#)
- Asma: Hosted a community potluck on all compostable diningware
- Cat: Gave kids seeds to start a garden at the KY Science Center last week.
- Sherri: Been picking up lots of litter as the wind blows this spring
- Mary: Working with Tyler and her school partners on environmental education
- Glenn: Donated lots of things to Goodwill
- Anita: Stepping up to chair the revived Sustainable Transportation Committee
- Sammie: Just got her garden set up and invested in reusable silicone cups to start seeds in.
- Terri: Collected downed branches as the first layer of her raised beds for her garden
- Andrew H.: Sent some dogs toys to a friend by shopping locally from afar
- Jacek: He's a vegan and just made his own kimchi
- Kelsey: Recently expanded production in Louie's Greenhouse to bring fresh herbs and greens to other UofL Dining locations beyond the Ville Grill
- Scott L.: Been intentionally not driving unless he absolutely has to (in light of the war on Iran)
- Tyler M.: Switching his recreation to paddling on the Ohio River and taking bike rides
- Andrew M.: Walking and busing as much as possible (easier with weather change)
- Eli: Has new neighbor interested in setting up a garden, so gifted them some garden things
- Tony: Starting his garden again this year, with seedlings going in the basement
- Cassidy: Collecting recyclables from her apartment which doesn't offer recycling
- Pat: Ended up with lots of decorative gourds last fall, and put them by a tree in yard for the deer and squirrels (hoping for some volunteer gourd plants to transplant)
- Tyler W.: Experimenting with meat-replacement recipes (ground lentils and walnut meat)
- Lauren: Got bulk mulch and compost instead of bagged
- Brian: Repairing tire on our compost collection vans.
- Emma: Went to public meeting about bike lanes on Barret Avenue to advocate for that
- Alarah: Has been recruiting volunteers to come to EarthFest this Saturday at Alberta O. Jones Park

Committee Updates:

Operations ()

- 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 4/7, when we will be doing a Belknap Campus

Grounds tour, including the new Greenhouse and the Community Composting project at the Hughes Lot.

- The committee last met on 3/3, when we heard from Logan Sowell about the work of [Human I-T](#) to repurpose (or recycle) surplus devices. We discussed:
- We may have to adjust our meeting times based on our new co-chairs' conflicts. If you have any topics that would be advantageous to cover, please share them with Kevin and David. Justin: Our next STARS report will come out in April and our next sit-down meeting would be a great opportunity to review and identify our weaknesses and, from that, set up a series of focused discussions about how to improve. We can invite Robin Frederick to co-present with Justin (and thank her for her work).
- Sajid: Grawemeyer Hall will soon mark 100 years old, and we have many other historic buildings. Overall, our Energy Use Intensity (EUI) on campus has been poor and we are making huge improvements (106 to 90 BTU/sf now and heading towards mid-80s by
- Guest presentation: Logan Sowell, [Human-I-T](#)
 - Logan is from Lexington and went to UK and worked for Big Ass Fans. In 2021, moved to Jeffersonville after learning about Human-I-T while living on the West Coast. In December, he was a guest on Justin's radio show and podcast, Sustainability Now! [Listen here](#).
 - There's a huge digital divide that Human-I-T works as a non-profit to shrink. 83% of computers end up in the landfill, while one-third of the global population remain offline and lack access to high-speed internet.
 - They work with mid to large-size businesses and institutions. They take all donated tech, wipe all the data securely (HIPPA, etc. compliant), and then assess the device's value for either sale (they are one of the larger re-sellers), donation to organizations that work with underserved populations, or ethical recycling.
 - When they give a device to someone, they also provide assistance in training (how to use it), tech support, and internet access.
 - They've given out 13,000 devices and diverted 15M pounds of e-waste from the landfill.
 - They are based in L.A. and he's the only local rep.
 - They provide their donor orgs. with annual impact reports.
 - They handle all e-waste for Cal State Long Beach, USC, UCLA, and other higher ed (but don't yet work with any schools in Kentucky). If we can bend the ear of anyone at UofL, he would love for UofL to be the first!
 - Karen: We have lots of UofL students who need computers, but our e-waste is shipped out. How could we get on their list? You can put in a request at their website to get your distribution organization on their list. They also offer better pricing on refurbished devices if you can verify you're low-income.
 - It is free to donate. Sometimes there's a logistics fee to cover shipping, but he's never seen a university have to pay that – they want to work with us!
 - Kevin: How do these devices meet the security requirements of UofL? Human-I-T has their own standards.
 - Basher: What offices don't they take? Batteries not integral to computer systems, smoke detectors, appliances, microwaves. They will destroy anything the client asks for physical destruction.
 - Sajid: When we discard something, there's a reason. So how can it be useful to others? They triage donations to make sure that it's still useful. And they use funds from reselling to buy large quantities of refurbished Chromebooks, which are easy to navigate and don't get many viruses.
 - Justin: Since Human-I-T is a non-profit organization, they are eligible to receive Surplus from UofL. Sally says that UofL's IT is in charge of wiping old devices before sending to Surplus, but the truth is

that many of our IT staff do not have the time for that, and their offices are filled with old devices...so Human-I-T's service might be very helpful to us!

- Departmental Updates:
- School of Music (David Deacon): They are struggling with the recent 10% budget cut and are looking for any way to cut costs. He's been trying to get them to go all digital for concert programs. He's also had success getting rid of single-use coffee cups (though someone's started using their own money to bring them in).
- Physical Plant: In gathering recent STARS data, we've noted that our energy use is fairly stable (though costs have increased). We've upgraded a lot of lighting to higher-efficiency. We are developing a new Energy Dashboard system for campus to monitor and model our energy use. Kevin's been surprised to see how much of an impact the building users have on energy use. We see this when people prop doors and windows open.
 - Sajid also believes we can do more to tackle Urban Heat Island, especially around asphalt.
- Biology: Jeff already has students studying the Trager Microforest (at 5th & Ali) and it's value to wildlife.
- Provost's Office:
 - Finalizing our triennial STARS report this week! In the meantime, we were re-certified as a Tree Campus Higher Education, and the QS World University Sustainability rankings came out: - [Global ranking demonstrates continuous Cardinal commitment to sustainability](#) (UofL News, Feb. 10, 2026)
 - [Ecolympics 2026 making an impact - Bettie Johnson Hall wins Resident Race](#) (UofL Sustainability News, March 3, 2026)

The **Resident Race!** has just concluded. For three weeks (February 9 - March 1), residents in eight halls were encouraged to win with conservation as they competed among each other to see who can reduce electricity use the most, by taking simple steps to reduce energy use such as turning off lights, fans, space heaters, TVs, game consoles, etc.; unplugging anything not actively in use (especially empty refrigerators); skipping the elevator for the stairs; closing windows tightly; waiting until you have a full load to do laundry & wash with cold water; drying clothes on a rack/line; taking shorter showers or showering with solar power at the SRC; etc. Residents could keep up with the Race on [UofL's Building Dashboard](#). Our big winner is **Bettie Johnson Hall**, whose residents were able to reduce electricity use by **28.1%**, and they will be rewarded with a dinner party sponsored by RHA! The competition was stiff this year, with all but one of the halls reducing energy use, and many making significant cuts. All residents should be congratulated! Even with UTA's huge increase, we saw an overall **2.6% reduction** in energy use across all 8 halls throughout the three week competition, **saving 7474 kWh**, or **6 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) equivalent**. That's equivalent to the emissions from **15,205 miles driven** by an average gas-powered car, or **6,632 pounds of coal burned**; or the amount of carbon sequestered by nearly **100 tree seedlings grown for 10 years!**

Education & Research (Tyler Mahoney & Mary Brydon-Miller)

- E&R meets on third Fridays at 2pm on Teams. Our next meeting is 4/17. E&R had planned to meet on 3/20, but our chairs had to cancel due to competing responsibilities.
- As a first step in trying to move the Masters in Sustainability planning effort forward, the chairs are asking faculty to complete a survey regarding their teaching, research, and community partners: [E&R Research and Teaching Interest – Fill out form](#). The idea is to put together a proposal built on the interests and strengths of the faculty we already have. So far, the results show that our strengths are in urban environments and climate resilience. We're also asking about community

partners and they are all over the map!

- Hopefully, we'll have one final in-person meeting this spring in late April or May to finalize plans before scattering for the summer.

- Tyler was contacted by David Wicks who is looking for a UofL faculty member to partner with him on a grant proposal for an interactive display about flooding outside the Community Boathouse. Tyler is not eligible, so contact Tyler or David directly if you can assist (short turn-around time).

Planning & Administration (Pat Smith)

- P&A's next meeting has not yet been scheduled. P&A had planned to meet 3/19, but our Chair, Pat Smith, had to cancel due to competing responsibilities.

Engagement (Brian Barnes)

- The committee meets during the academic year at 11am on last Fridays before EcoReps Workshops. Our next meeting will be Friday 3/27 at 11am at the Center for Belonging, Access & Engagement (as well as on Teams), just prior to our noon EcoReps Workshop on [Kentucky Environmental Legislation](#).
- E&R last met on 2/27 prior to our EcoReps Workshop on [Mushroom Cultivation \(video recording\)](#) and discussed:
- Green Office Certification: Our pilot program is underway! We are providing all participants with a checklist for their office (thanks for everyone's feedback on the draft) and three levels of certification. Once certified, they will get a sticker and digital badge. Our new pilots include: Office of Civic Engagement, Student Success Center at BAB (co-lead), A&S Human Resources, The Writing Center at Ekstrom, Law School, Radiation Oncology. We also have two that are considering joining the pilot: Center for Engaged Learning, and Campus Housing.
 - Justin: What gets us STARS points is a staff sustainability network, so keeping the participants connected and engaged with each other (as well as their office mates) is the key. We're planning quarterly meetings and a MS Teams Team. We also need group activity ideas.
 - Alarah: Thinks it'd be fun to get together and make paper with Rachel! Rachel: Always up for that, but reminds that it does take a lot of work.
- Engaged Scholarship Symposium: Plans are coming together for the Symposium at Shelby Campus on March 20th. The Provost will be there in the morning to give our Josh Smith Memorial Sustainability Award along with the other Community Engagement awards. There will be a keynote speaker, Baron White, an expert on engaged civic learning. He'll also lead the afternoon workshop. Registration is open. There's a track on sustainability, including Beargrass Thunder.
 - Henry also reminds everyone about the Community-Based Learning Seminar Series [Community-Based Learning Seminars \(2025-2026\)](#)
- Josh Smith Memorial Sustainability Award: Brian hasn't received any additional nominations. Henry has one, he's been meaning to submit! The deadline is March 1st!
- New HSC Building: Justin and Glenn have been involved in the LEED meetings about this exciting new facility, which will be the first new building at HSC in many, many years and is designed to promote health and bring people from different disciplines together. It will have healthy vending and dining, fitness areas, outdoor spaces and a microforest. Hoping for an expanded Cardinal Cupboard. Learn more at the building's website: <https://louisville.edu/new-hsc-building>
- SMART Summerfest on HSC Quad: Justin got the UofL Sustainability Council registered for this year's event on June 3rd 11:30am-1pm. But he hasn't lined up anyone to help staff our booth, so please mark your calendars and consider helping out. Other offices interested in hosting a booth: [S.M.A.R.T. Staff SummerFest 2026 – Fill out form](#)

- Glenn and others have also been working to start seasonal all-HSC events, including HSC Connect in the Fall; and Dog-os and Donuts in the Spring.

- Gray Street Farmers Market: Will open the day after Summerfest, on June 4th in a new location because of the construction, just a block away at the new LOUMED Commons. Glenn's excited about that because it's a little closer to the heart of the entire LOUMED and will likely draw from more institutions. And people will be attracted to the space by the food trucks for which LOUMED Commons has been designed.
- Bombas Socks distributions (Patty): Bombas has created a new portal for giving partners like us where we can keep up on the status of our requests and shipments. Our next shipment is not scheduled until 3rd quarter this year (we may get underwear and t-shirts as well). We only have about 300-400 pairs of small socks remaining from our last shipment.
- Community Outreach: Mo has registered to staff a UofL Sustainability booth at four big community events in April: TreeFest 4/11, LWC Water Tower 4/12, Bernheim RESTORE 4/18, and Zoo's Party for the Planet 4/26. She'd love help at any of those.
- "Compostable" Diningware: Beatriz attended the Beyond Plastics Louisville group's meeting recently with reps from Smith Creek and World Centric about "compostable" diningware and Smith Creek doesn't want those items, so she wonders if those items can be composted on campus? Brian: Some of these items take particularly long or require something like UV to degrade, so they might not break down in our system and if it doesn't, Brian's likely to pull the item and landfill it.
- Campus Climbing Initiative: David Johnson reached out to Jeremiah at Campus Rec about this. Since then, Louisville's only indoor rope climbing facility closed! It creates an opportunity for UofL – if we had a facility, we could potentially generate some good revenue from it...we could also possibly acquire some used climbing holds from the closed facility! So, David just reached back out. [Emma notes that Rocksport was recently reopened under new management: <https://www.climbrocksport.org/>]
- Ecolympics 2026: Our biggest annual engagement effort continues through the end of March! Congrats to two of our members who have been actively participating and already won weekly prize baskets: Rachel Singel & Alarah Gillum! The Residence Race energy conservation competition across eight residence halls has been going extremely well, with all but one of the halls seeing sizable reductions in energy use – it concludes March 1st and the winning hall will receive a dinner party. We've yet to get any data from Republic Services to report to the Campus Race To Zero Waste, so our standing is unknown, but our E-waste Recycling Drive continues through March 13th.

Athletics (Andrew McClung)

- Getting stadium ready for big concert April 11th – and planning to sort aluminum from the waste stream for recycling at that event.
- Having conversations about trying to engage tailgaters with recycling next fall.
- Pallet reuse and cardboard recycling is going well. Brent points out that if you have wooden pallets that cannot be reused, Smith Creek is accepting them for composting.

Dining (Kelsey Johnson)

- Planning April events: Earth Day event to plant own herbs to take home in collaboration with the Dietician.

Sustainability in the media

- We did have two UofL News stories about the QS Global Rankings that also mentioned Tree Campus and Bike Friendly University; and Hire Attire

- The following UofL Sustainability stories were released since our last meeting:
 - [UofL's Bike Friendly University initiatives get national profile on Bike Talk](#) (Bike Talk, March 20, 2026)
 - [Environmental Educator and Waterways Champion, Dr. David Wicks, receives UofL's Josh Smith Memorial Sustainability Award](#) (UofL Sustainability News, March 17, 2026)
 - [Ecolympics 2026 making an impact - Bettie Johnson Hall wins Resident Race](#) (UofL Sustainability News, March 3, 2026)

Housing

- No reps present.

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. Next meeting is 4/3.
- Bottle fillers continue to be installed using the Provost's FY26 funding. However, we will still have a total of 29 priority locations remaining in need of fillers across all three campuses, for an estimated total cost of **\$95,584.50**. Justin submitted a budget request for that additional funding in FY27.

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

- Brian has been following-up directly with about six participants in the 2/3 Orientation.
- The first training session has been scheduled for Friday, April 3rd at noon in the Center for Engaged Learning. We will be offering four training sessions per year for staff – all are welcome any time.

Fix-A-bike/Earn-a bike (Tyler Wood)

- Tyler is a new Zero Waste Intern this year and started as a UPA Masters student in the fall. He saw all the bikes in our basement bike shop and got very excited about the potential. So he worked with Justin and our Bike Mechanic, Sam Shaw, to develop a series of bike repair workshops for students, faculty, and staff with the idea that if you come to all the workshops, you get to keep the bike you're working on.
- The program was a huge success and proved its value – we distributed a total of nine bikes to very enthusiastic participants, and the demand for these workshops was obvious, so decided to continue offering biweekly workshops and open shop hours.
- Tyler's also trying to build more of a bike culture on campus, including offering regular group bike rides, and cultivating more bike mechanics.
- The next event Tyler is working on is a UofL Repair Fair on April 4th 12-4pm, SAC W116, in partnership with the Theatre Dept.'s Costume Shop, our Sit & Stitch Club, and Speed School's MakerSpace and robotics shop. We are actively looking for both repairers and people needed repair

Hire Attire (Josie Raymond)

- Josie is a Manager of Student Success in the Student Success Center and she's been managing the Hire Attire program. It's a new free professional clothing closet in the MITC building.
- The Student Success Center had been hearing from students that lack of professional clothing was a barrier for students in terms of networking, interviews, public speaking events, etc. So they started with some one-time pop-up events and they were very popular.
- They've been very successful in getting donations from the community and have like 5000 items from XS to 6XL!

- The space they have repurposed in MITC is a defunct elevator lobby and coatroom!
- Biggest customers so far are: Speed students preparing for co-ops, ASL interpreters, and CEHD students preparing for classroom observations.
- Partners include the Career Center and the Free Store (which sends them business attire and they send Free Store more casual items).
- Open Tu-Wed-Th from 12-3pm. Average maybe 12 shoppers a day and they take about 5 items a week.
- Donation Drives are happening right now at School of Nursing and College of Business. Staff have done neighborhood drives. Retirees and alumni estates have brought in huge donations.
- Glenn would love to see a pop-up shop or some kind of promotional event at HSC!
- Data gathering? Collecting data on paper so far on quantities of items and planning to convert that to dollar value...but haven't developed any strategy around weight of items reused.
- Learn more at: <https://student.louisville.edu/student-success-center/hire-attire>

Announcements

- We are collaborating with Campus Recreation this Saturday for UofL's first ever: [Mountain Biking Ride](#)
Saturday, March 28th, 9am-3pm, Cherokee Park.
- ELSB is organizing volunteers to help with a [Tree Planting with TreesLouisville](#)
Saturday, March 28th, 10am-12:30pm, Hawthorne Elementary School (2301 Clarendon Ave)
- The Horner Management Group is holding its first public event to get people out on the property: [Horner Wildflower Walk](#)
Saturday, April 4th, noon-2pm, UofL's Horner Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary (Crestwood, Oldham Co.)
- Our own Dr. Kalpana Venkatasubramanian, UofL professor of Geographic and Environmental Sciences, will be presenting on [Nature-Based Solutions in Cities - Promise, Politics, and the Challenge of Scale and Equity](#)
Wednesday, April 8th, 2:30pm, BAB 218
- We are organizing a STARS thank-you and rating reveal party as a part our annual [UofL Maple Syrup & Honey Pancake Party!](#)
Friday, April 17th, Noon-1pm, University Club
- We are collaborating with the Student Activities Board (who is actively looking for groups who want to host a booth!) for an [Earth Day 2026](#) event
Wednesday, April 22nd, 11am-1pm, Red Barn Plaza
- Don't miss our final event of the semester:
[Sustainability Roundtable: Opportunities and Challenges in Urban Farming](#)
Friday, April 24th, 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.**
- We need some volunteers (students, faculty, and staff) willing to co-facilitate our 20-minute Sustainability break-out sessions during Summer Orientation (May 28 – Aug. 3), 3:50-4:10pm in Davidson 104, particularly on the dates Justin will be traveling (June 8, 11, 15; and Aug. 3). **Sign-up for Sustainability Breakouts:**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WuYdFpmvLNseU049uWsLLrgBEYkKqzxA8PqOkWwMGag/edit#gid=0>
- Next meeting is April 29, 2026 at 10am on Teams.