

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Christopher Tillquist, representative to the Sustainability Council

DATE: Tuesday, May 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Sustainability Council Meeting held April 30th, 2025

The meeting began with “One Green Thing” introductions and included participating in an alternative spring service break in Puerto Rico, using no-mow clover to prevent erosion, switching to a wheat-based cat litter, and planting local wildflowers and trees from TreesLouisville.

Much of the meeting was spent reviewing data to be used in the 2024 Greenhouse Gas Emissions report. I will offer a full summary when the report is published, but UofL continues to make good progress in many areas and small gains in others. Challenges to compiling the report include difficulty obtaining complete data. The impact of COVID on greenhouse gas emissions is becoming clearer with the addition of another year’s data.

Physical Plant has completed the seasonal changeover from heating to cooling. In the face of variable weather this spring, maintaining a comfortable temperature in some buildings was challenging; by the end of 2027, most HVAC upgrades will have been completed and subsequent changeovers should involve fewer challenges.

This month, I’d like to highlight the sustainability efforts in the area of engagement, specifically the [University of Louisville Community Composting Project](#). Established in 2010 by Dr. Brian Barnes (Philosophy, Senior Lecturer), this wholly volunteer-run program uses old dumpsters to compost food waste and coffee grounds and makes the resulting compost available to support campus gardens and local community needs. With many compost drop-off locations and large-scale partnerships with UofL dining facilities, the Project has continued to grow over the years, and now includes vermicomposting, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, and experiments with Johnson-Su bioreactors. Volunteers are needed every Sunday from noon-2 p.m. at the primary site at 240 E. Bloom St.

Finally, the University of Louisville is once again in the lead for large universities competing in the 2025 Campus Race to Zero Waste with a diversion rate of 61.48% and is second only to Seattle University out of the 71 campuses competing this year. Go Cards!