

UofL Sustainability Council Report

Kelly Green

The UofL Sustainability Council held their meeting via teams on January 28, 2026. I have provided a summary of the minutes. Links are provided to view the full report if you would like to learn more. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

UofL Sustainability Council

Meeting Date: January 28, 2026

The Council opened with member sustainability goals for 2026, emphasizing waste reduction, composting, using fewer disposables, supporting local businesses, native-plant landscaping, and relying less on driving. [\[1-28-26 Mi...ityCouncil | PDF\]](#)

Operations: Winter weather demanded extensive snow and ice management, with concerns about energy loads and facility issues. Major energy-efficiency upgrades produced significant results: a **40% reduction in Energy Usage Intensity** and nearly **\$1M in cost avoidance**, achieved through HVAC improvements, LED lighting, insulation, and controls upgrades. Additional electrical and lighting projects are underway, and a solar grant proposal is being prepared. [\[1-28-26 Mi...ityCouncil | PDF\]](#)

Education & Research: The committee is working to revive the **Master's in Sustainability**, needing administrative support and funding clarity. A faculty research survey will be developed to pursue sustainability-focused research funding. [\[1-28-26 Mi...ityCouncil | PDF\]](#)

Engagement: The Council is launching the **Green Office Certification & Sustainability Ambassador** pilot program and preparing for **Ecolympics 2026** (including an e-waste drive). Monthly EcoReps workshops continue. [\[1-28-26 Mi...ityCouncil | PDF\]](#)

Athletics & Dining: Athletics reported strong aluminum recycling and announced a **\$2M LED stadium lighting upgrade**. Dining is reviewing OZZI reusable container data and planning a sustainable meal-prep event. [\[1-28-26 Mi...ityCouncil | PDF\]](#)

Bottled Water Phase-Out: New bottle-filling stations have been installed with more planned; a reuse-incentive grant was not awarded. The Council is watching for potential policy impacts under the new Provost. [\[1-28-26 Mi...ityCouncil | PDF\]](#)

Transportation: The **Sustainable Transportation Committee** will be formally reinstated, prioritizing free TARC access and car-free commuting options. [\[1-28-26 Mi...ityCouncil | PDF\]](#)

Other Announcements: Pet Resource Day on Feb. 12, Climate Chaos book event, Sustainability Roundtable sessions, and next meeting on Feb. 25. [\[1-28-26 Mi...ityCouncil | PDF\]](#)