

UofL Sustainability Council Report

Kelly Green

The UofL Sustainability Council held their meeting via teams on Wednesday, February 24, 2026. I have provided a summary of the minutes below. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Key Highlights

- RideAmigos presented new **CommuteHub** features (parking integration, rewards, transit pass management, optional branded app, and GPS trip tracking).
 - City's new **Sustainability Director**: *Jake Medley*.
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Committee Reports

Operations

- Chemistry Building efficiency upgrades completed; campus **Energy Use Intensity down >10%**, up to 25% in some buildings.
- Major upgrades ongoing at Central Steam & Chilled Water Plant.

Education & Research

- Focus on redesigning **Master's in Sustainability**: exploring interdisciplinary core, themed tracks, community-partner capstones, and faculty resource needs.
- Goal: draft program **vision statement by semester end**.

Planning & Administration

- **STARS Report** nearing submission; gaps include lack of Climate Resilience Plan and DEI-related impacts from state laws.
- UofL improved in **QS Sustainability Rankings**; comms coverage underway.

Engagement

- **Ecolympics 2026** underway (Zero Waste, E-waste Drive, Resident Energy Race + workshops).
- Green Office Certification & Staff Ambassadors pilot launched; Josh Smith Award nominations due March 1.

Athletics

- 2025 football season aluminum recovery: **~9,542 lbs** (~334k cans).

Students

- Sustainability booths planned for April events (TreeFest, LWC, Bernheim RESTORE, Zoo Party for the Planet).
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Additional Items

- Bottled Water Phase-Out: more refill stations installed; further expansion likely FY27.
 - Concerns raised about **Early Learning Center closure** and threats to **Pan-African Studies**.
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Announcements

- Last call for Josh Smith Award nominations (due March 1).
- AASHE 2026 proposals due April 10.
- Next meeting: **March 25, 2026 (10am, Teams)**.