



University Sustainability Coalition Meeting
February 15, 2022
10am - 11am
Virtual Meeting

The University Sustainability Coalition was formed with one goal: To increase higher education sustainability efforts in Louisiana.

The idea of forming the university sustainability coalition was born from a steering committee of university representatives developing the university affiliate program as part of an EPA Trash Free Waters Grant with UL Lafayette and Keep Louisiana Beautiful. There are no fees associated with being a part of the coalition, just a seat at the table with your peers to communicate and is open to anyone in higher ed sustainability. Current sustainability coalition members represent universities from Dillard University, Grambling State University, Louisiana State University, Loyola University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Tulane University, River Parishes Community College, Xavier University, UL Monroe, UL Lafayette, University of New Orleans.

Attending: 17 Individuals, 8 Universities

Keep Louisiana Beautiful: Cabell Mouton, Melissa Kenyon, Patty Ferrell

Dillard University: LaDrienna Howze

Nicholls State: Mary Jackson, Rhonda Gros

UL Lafayette: David Yarbrough, Gretchen Vanicor, Blair Begnaud

Grambling State University: Ellen Smiley, Rory Bedford

Tulane University: Jordan Stewart, Liz Davey

UNO: Carol Lunn

Xavier University: Helena Robinson, Sara Good

LSU: Tammy Millican

Meeting Opened: 10:00 am

Introductions were made.

Report:

The university affiliate certification program will conclude in May at which time the seven universities currently participating will become certified affiliates. Applications for the next group of affiliate universities may be submitted in June. Louisiana is one of only two states that offers a university affiliate program. The other state being California.

Melissa Kenyon, Marketing and Communications Director for KLB provided an overview of Love the Boot week which will take place the week of April 18-24. This is an annual campaign to promote community cleanup and beautification projects across the state. You can choose to organize your own event or to volunteer for an existing event. The first one hundred groups to register will receive twenty-five t-shirts and clean up supplies. Details of the campaign can be found at lovetheboot.org and any questions should be addressed to Melissa.

Gretchen Vanicor, Director of Sustainability at UL Lafayette gave a presentation on the AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System) program. Gretchen shared the ways in which she and her staff have utilized the tools and resources provided by AASHE to develop and grow their sustainability initiatives. If you are a member of AASHE, you will have full access to the resources on the website. For non-members, access is restricted so if you need something specific, let Gretchen know and she will save it and send it to you. Each university should evaluate if becoming a member of AASHE is of value in accomplishing sustainability goals. AASHE also has an affiliates program that is a regional group of universities so this may also be a consideration for your university. Gretchen agreed to share her presentation and information is also available on the AASHE website. Liz Davey suggested signing up to stay connected with AASHE through the newsletter and other resources: <https://bit.ly/stayconnectedwithAASHE>.

Dates/Topics for upcoming meetings:

March 15 – Jordan Stewart/Tulane University/Move Out Challenges

April 26 – Aimee Thomas/Loyola University Sustainability Efforts

May 17 – LSU/UL Lafayette/Tulane University Panel Discussion/OZZI Sustainable Solutions

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 15, 10am to 11am

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm

