



University Sustainability Coalition Meeting
April 26, 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, Louisiana Tech, and Fletcher Technical Community College.

Attending: 16 Individuals, 10 Universities

Keep Louisiana Beautiful: Cabell Mouton, Susan Russell, Patty Ferrell

Nicholls State: Mary Jackson

UL Lafayette: Blair Begnaud, Jonathan Brown

Grambling State University: Dagne Hill

Tulane University: Jordan Stewart, Liz Davey

UNO: Carol Lunn

Xavier University: Helena Robinson

LSU: Tammy Millican

Loyola: Aimee Thomas

River Parish Community College: Esperanza Zenon

Northwestern University: Corbin Cover

Meeting Opened: 10:00 am

Introductions were made.

Report:

The University Sustainability Coalition was formed to provide a platform to discuss sustainability challenges and solutions that are common across higher ed institutions. The next meeting will be held on May 17 and then we will break for the summer. The Sustainability Coalition will resume its meeting schedule in October

with an in-person meeting at which time a new chairperson will be chosen, and goals will be updated. The meeting was then turned over to Aimee Thomas, Director of Environmental Programs at Loyola University for a presentation of Sustainability at Loyola University.

Loyola currently does not have a university wide sustainability program but now that funding has gotten better, we are able to do more to promote sustainability. A successful sustainability program requires commitment and participation from the Administration, Students, Faculty and Staff of the University. The Administration provides the framework for environmental education and sustainability. The students play a key role in identifying environmental issues and pushing sustainability goals forward. Through the Student Government Association, sustainability legislation has been adopted and a Green Fund Campaign was initiated to raise money to fund various programs. One of the more recent efforts to create green infrastructure was to put in a bioswale with native plants in an area that was previously prone to flooding. Faculty serve to engage and explore academic courses, research, and community engagement. Staff members on the University Sustainability Committee focus on sustainability tracking assessment and rating system certification for the advancement of sustainability in higher education. Actions taken at Loyola include solar charging stations, electric car charging stations and bottle filling stations. Environmental education is the key to sustainability so engage others and do your part for the benefit of all.

Following the presentation, questions were addressed, and participants shared ideas on sustainability efforts on their campus. Tammy Millican said that LSU students also proposed and adopted a sustainability fee which is used to fund various programs on campus. When the students have a voice in how the money is spent, they are more dedicated to the success of said project. Nicholls, LSU, and Northwestern also shared how their car charging stations on campus were administered and used.

For your reference, a copy of the presentation is included with the minutes.

As a reminder, 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.

The meeting concluded with a big thank you to all who participated in Love the Boot Week and a reminder to please submit your data collection sheets. Once the cleanup data is compiled, KLB will share those results with you.

Dates/Topics for upcoming meetings:

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

Break for Summer

NEXT MEETING: October 2022 (date and time to be determined)

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm

