



University Sustainability Coalition Meeting
Hilton Capitol Center
October 10, 2023
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The University Sustainability Coalition was formed in 2021 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 education sustainability. By sharing challenges and solutions, members of this coalition can influence others to move toward a more sustainable future.

Current sustainability coalition members represent 17 universities from Centenary College, Dillard University, Fletcher Community College, Grambling State University, LA Tech, Louisiana State University, Loyola University, McNeese University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, River Parishes Community College, Tulane University, Xavier University, UL Monroe, UL Lafayette, and University of New Orleans.

Attending In-person: 26 Individuals, 13 Universities

Keep Louisiana Beautiful: Cabell Mouton (Facilitator)

Dillard: Kem Torres

LSU: Jerrod Penn (Co-Chair)

Nicholls State: Mitzi Jackson

Northwestern: Jennifer Kelly

Loyola University: Aimee Thomas, Mark Tobler, Katie Buc

Northwestern: Steve Gruesbeck

River Parishes Community College: Esperanza Zenon

Tulane University: Jordan Stewart (Co-Chair)

Southern: Michael Thomas

UL Lafayette: Gretchen Vanicor, Jonathan R. Brown (Incoming Chair), Tanja Hall, Jayde Freeman, Caleb Theriot, Justin Haerb, Breyton Bienvenue, Lola Lancaster

UL Monroe: Andrew Hardee

UNO: Carol Lunn, Abigail Bourgeois, Emma Bourgeois

Xavier University: Helena Robinson

Carson Consulting: Dr. Cecile Carson

Meeting Opened: 3:30 p.m.

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. This meeting is the first meeting of the academic year held in conjunction of the KLB State Conference. Cabell Mouton gave an overview of the current purpose of the coalition, a 2021-23 meeting recap with attendance, and announced a new coalition Chair, Jonathan Brown, UL Lafayette, after accepting nominations in September. The coalition is led by a 2-year Co-chair model to provide value and continuity. Jerrod Penn, LSU completed the end of the 2nd year term as Co-Chair at this meeting, welcoming Jonathan Brown, UL Lafayette as the new Co-Chair for 2023-2025. Jordan Stewart, Tulane is beginning her 2nd year as Co-Chair.

The coalition will meet four times this year, one in-person meeting with three subsequent virtual meetings: November 14, January 24, and March 27 from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. A discussion on meeting topic ideas followed. Interested topics by the coalition include Tree Campus, Green Fee Funding, Recycling and Athletics, Power of SGA, Sustainable Dining, Student Engagement and Campus Allies, Grassroots to Institutionalizing Sustainability, Sustainability Career Tracks.

At LSU, it was the students that initiated the Student Sustainability Fund, also known as the “green fee” student referendum from SGA wanting sustainable options in dining, housing, transportation, recycling, etc. The “green fee” goes into a sustainability fund, not the general fund. Every semester the Campus Committee on Sustainability at LSU determines which projects will be funded through an application process. LSU will provide the coalition with a copy of the referendum. This will be a goal of the coalition to assist other universities in possibly initiating a “green fee” for campus sustainability efforts. This topic for a meeting was unanimously agreed upon.

For universities and colleges that have a nonoffice of sustainability, how do campuses evaluate sustainability? It was discussed that the coalition put together a plan to appear in front of the Board of Regents with representation for all the higher education systems, the Department of Education, or an appropriate agency to have sustainability woven throughout campus and tie the mandate to the university's primary and secondary mission statements that the Board of Regents has already approved. Other topics that were discussed and approved for future meetings are the Power of SGA.

Jonathan Brown announced a Sustainability Summit at UL Lafayette on April 18-19, 2024, to save the date.

The 2023-24 virtual meeting dates and topics are as follows:

November 14, 10 – 11:15 a. m.

University Adopt-a-Meeting: LSU

Meeting Topic and Presenter: Sustainability Green Fee, Dr. Tammy Millican, LSU

January 24, 10 - 11:15 a. m.

University Adopt-a-Meeting: Tulane

Meeting Topic and Presenter: Power of SGA

March 27, 10 - 11:15 a. m.

University Adopt-a-Meeting: All

Meeting Topic and Presenter: Grassroots to Institutionalizing Sustainability

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

**University Sustainability Coalition
2021-22 Meeting Attendance Report**

Meeting Date	In-person/Virtual	# Universities Represented	# Individuals	Meeting Topic
October 14	In-person	8	11	Introduction of University Sustainability Coalition
November 9	Virtual	9	12	Structure/format/frequency/content for the coalition – Chair & KLB
January 18	Virtual	12	21	Recycle Mania – Xavier University
February 15	Virtual	8	17	AASHE STARS Program – UL Lafayette Love the Boot Week - KLB
March 15	Virtual	10	16	Move Out Challenges – Tulane University
April 26	Virtual	10	16	Sustainability Initiatives and Bioswales – Loyola University
May 17	Virtual	8	14	OZZI Sustainable Solutions - UL Lafayette, Tulane University, and LSU

2022-23 Meeting Attendance Report

Meeting Date	In-person/Virtual	# Universities Represented	# Individuals	Meeting Topic
October 11	In-person	8	12	Purpose and focus of the Coalition, establish meeting dates/topics for the year
November 30	Virtual	10	17	Bee Campus USA presented by Laura Rost, Xerces Society
January 25	Virtual	10	17	LA Native Plantings Connecting Habitats, One Garden at a Time presented by Phyllis Griffard of the Acadiana Native Plant Project and Tammany Baumgarten of Native Plant Initiative of NOLA
March 29	Virtual	7	14	Increase Engagement: Learn How to Engage Students and Faculty – Best Practices presented by Blair Begnaud and Jonathon Brown of UL Lafayette and Jordan Stewart of Tulane
May 17	Virtual	8	14	Spring Green Activities – Successes and Challenges ALL

