



**University Sustainability Coalition  
Virtual Meeting  
January 24, 2024  
10 a.m. – 11:15 a.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:** 28 Individuals, 10 Universities

Keep Louisiana Beautiful: Cabell Mouton

Dillard: Kem Opperman-Torres, Madisyn Hicks, Destiny Hooker

Fletcher Community College: Esperanza Zenon

LSU: Jerrod Penn, Lisa Mahoney

Loyola University: Mark Tobler, Katie Buc, Rowan Sawyer

River Parishes Community College: Esperanza Zenon

Tulane University: Jordan Stewart (Co-Chair), Greg Feiling, Kaitlyn Poe, Zoe Friese, Allison Moskowitz, Rayna Carner

UL Lafayette: Gretchen Vanicor, Greg Zerangue, Jonathan R. Brown (Co-Chair), Blair Begnaud, Frank Clavelle III, Tiff Segura

UL Monroe: Andrew Hardee, Chris Williams, Jayden Maloney

University of New Orleans: Carol Lunn

Xavier University: Helena Robinson, Aliyah Bell

**Meeting Opened:** 10:00 a.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 education institutions.

This is the third meeting of the academic year. The coalition will meet four times this year, one in-person meeting in October followed by three subsequent virtual meetings: November 14, January 24, and March 27. Cabell Mouton gave an overview of the current purpose of the coalition and Love the Boot Week, April 20-28. The first 300 groups to register will receive a supply box of t-shirts, gloves, and trash bags for up to 25 volunteers.

Jordan Stewart, Sustainability Director for Tulane University, along with Greg Feiling, Associate Director of Programming, Kaitlyn Poe, Zoe Friese, Allison Moskowitz, and Rayna Carner from Tulane gave a presentation on The Power of SGA: Understanding Sustainability and Student Government. Introductions were made. In 2015, SGA started a sustainability committee with 4 students and 3 staff members. Tulane's sustainability department houses the climate action plan, EV shuttles, recycling, and green infrastructure. The students are why the university exists, it is about the student's voice, and offering a fresh and creative approach. In 2022, a referendum was approved for the Tulane Undergraduate Assembly (TUA), no elections for president, 34 students were elected to represent then chairs are elected internally. The registered student organization impacts the campus and community to create change. [Crawfest](#), is a student run music, food, and arts festival in April, with TUA voting yes to aid in the cleanup efforts and initiating a student led composting initiative. TUA hosts open assemblies and meetings, serve as students-at-large, sponsor and authorize legislation, and seek out student organization partnerships. The administrators role is to delegate roles in external university committees, leading outreach and event collaborations, and invitations to opening and closing ceremonies. The Sustainability and Divestment committee of TUA delegates projects such as bike safety on campus, divestment education and awareness campaigns, Earth Day events, and Tulane Environmental Alliance. Tulane students pay a sustainability fee every semester.

Co-Chair's Jordan and Jonathan with support of Cabell put forward for discussion the creation of a case study repository for the coalition. The goal of the repository would be to collect short descriptions of projects of interest undertaken on our campuses with reflection on the successes, failures, and lessons of those efforts for others to access freely. An agreement was made to create a small working group to explore the logistics and considerations to operationalize a case study repository.

The Coalition discussed in October proposing the institutionalization of sustainability approved by the Board of Regents tying it to primary and secondary university mission statements. A small steering committee will need to be formed to define direction, goals, and objectives. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee, please reach out to Cabell, [cmouton@keplouisianabeautiful.org](mailto:cmouton@keplouisianabeautiful.org), (KLB), Jonathan, [jonathan.brown@louisiana.edu](mailto:jonathan.brown@louisiana.edu) (UL Lafayette), or Jordan, [jstewar6@tulane.edu](mailto:jstewar6@tulane.edu) (Tulane.)

March 27, 10 - 11:15 a. m. – last meeting of the semester

University Adopt-a-Meeting: All

Meeting Topic and Presenter: Grassroots to Institutionalizing Sustainability

It was noted a webpage has been created for the University Sustainability Coalition to find all meeting dates, agendas, presentations, and contact information for coalition members:

<https://keplouisianabeautiful.org/universitysustainabilitycoalition/>.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.**

