

UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

9/21/2023, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendance

Members: Nancy Clark, Jeanne Ewert, Kristin Joys, Mariela Pajuelo, Nina Rosenzweig, Jessica Sheffield, Andrew Zimmerman, Leslie Thiele, Matt Williams, Scarlet Seymour, Craig Money Penny, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher

Excused: Angie Brown, Jodi Chase, John Duncan, Flora Iff-Noel

Guests/Non-Members: Liz Storn, Kaylee August, Corey Farmer, John Lawson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 PM by **Matt Williams**

Introductions

Matt facilitated roundtable introductions for committee members and Office of Sustainability staff to introduce themselves.

Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Matt explained the chair and vice chair roles for the committee. **Jessica Sheffield** would like to serve as the vice chair. **Matt** mentioned that other members on the committee are not present and might be interested in the chair position. **Jessica-Jean Stonecipher** mentioned **Jodi Chase** as a possible option. **Matt** opened up for other nominations for vice chair. No nominations from the committee.

Members voted **Jessica Sheffield** as the vice chair

Approval of Minutes

Jessica Sheffield moved to approve the minutes from May 20, 2023. The motion was seconded by **Jeanne Ewert**.

Overview of Sustainability Committee

Matt shared an overview of the UF Sustainability Committee. The presentation is available [here](#). **Matt** shared a number of topics in the presentation including the committee's structure, charge, standing topics, and information on the [Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#).

Matt mentioned the [AASHE Conference & Expo](#) and [Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System \(STARS\) reporting](#). The current (December 2020) report is linked [here](#).

Matt discussed the project termination of the Central Energy plant and **Andrew Zimmerman** asked for more information regarding the project termination. **John Lawson** discussed the Clean Energy Connection with Duke which would increase UF's renewable energy portfolio through regionally-sourced

solar. This will reduce the university's carbon emissions from electricity. **Matt** discussed [COHO](#)'s on-campus solar analysis of UF's main campus.

Kristin Joys asked who COHO was and asked why our office wasn't working with We Are Neutral. COHO is a major renewables provider, while We Are Neutral focuses on carbon offsets. **Matt** explained that our office still collaborates with We Are Neutral for campus offsets.

Matt opened the floor for any sustainability questions or concerns.

Craig Moneypenny gave an EH&S update on the Green Labs program and the awards associated with that. They already have a number of on-campus labs participating in the program. This program could save possibly 40% of campus lab energy usage. If you have any questions about the Green Labs program, please visit [this](#) website.

Jessica-Jean asked a question about increasing the solar cap on campus and who should be included in the discussion. **Matt** explained that the Public Service Commission created that solar cap, but that UF's lobbying group is working with the commission to increase that cap.

Andrew asked about the committee's projects from last year. **Matt** talked about the request to add more ESG reporting. However, at the senate level they decided to not move forward with that on campus. Additional projects included efforts to increase collaboration with Student Government and interested students on campus, and collaboration with the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee.

Liz Storn shared a link to all of the minutes from previous meetings [here](#).

Office of Sustainability Updates

Matt updated the committee on the president's support of climate change and sustainability. Our office is currently waiting to get final approval from the president on the Climate Action Plan. **John Lawson** the office's Climate Action Coordinator and is currently working on moving the Climate Action Plan initiatives forward.

Matt spoke about some of the collaborative planning efforts including the Conservation Area Land Management Plan and the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan. The CALM plan will be finalized this fall. Wetland Solutions Inc. is working with UF to create a watershed management plan for Lake Alice and the plan will be completed Spring 2024. **Kaylee August** spoke about the upcoming CALM Week events celebrating the people involved in the planning process and encouraging students, faculty, and staff to enjoy the conservation areas.

Matt shared information on new EV charging infrastructure on campus.

Liz updated the committee on the new recycling and composting hire in Facilities. Dale Morris retired and will be succeeded by the new person.

Roundtable Discussion

Kristin shared information on the [Impact Scholars program](#) for students that includes Entrepreneurship & Sustainability. She asked for the committee to share the program with students that might be interested. Additionally, **Kristin** shared her course on Certified B Corporations called [UF Business for Good Lab](#).

Scarlet shared information on the Facilities [Sky Spark](#) dashboard which shows data points for utility meters and information on air conditioning systems. Facilities will use the data in Sky Spark to understand building energy performance and identify inefficiencies in the system to reduce energy usage. **Andrew** asked about the types of data in Sky Spark and if it was only energy data. **Scarlet** said that while there is energy data, there is other information that can be gathered (e.g., humidity and temperature).

Mariela Pajuelo shared information on the FLMNH TESI [Environmental Leaders Network](#) program for students to join and be involved in monthly. She had a question about storytelling and data gathering projects for the McCarty Woods Restoration group. Kaylee shared a link for the [Proposals in Conservation Areas](#) as a means to get approval from UF for activities in the conservation areas.

Meeting Adjourned

Jessica motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:32 pm. **Nancy Clark** seconded the motion.