

UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

12/14/2023, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendance

Members: Angie Brown, John Duncan, Jeanne Ewert, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Mariela Pajuelo, Jodi Chase, Nancy Clark, Nina Rosenzweig, Andrew Zimmerman, Jessica Sheffield, Scarlet Seymour

Excused: Creed Greer, Flora Iff-Noel, Matt Williams, Craig Moneyppenny, Leslie Thiele

Absent: Kristin Joys

Guests/Non-Members: Liz Storn, Kaylee August, John Lawson, Dustin Stephany

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 PM by **Andrew Zimmerman**.

Approval of Minutes

Jessica-Jean Stonecipher moved to approve the minutes from November 16, 2023. The motion was seconded by **Jeanne Ewert**.

Sustainable Buildings Presentation

Dustin Stephany presented on the Student Healthcare Center project which is competing for the centennial certification. This project doubles down on enhancing occupant wellness. It is the first project that is [WELL certified](#) at UF. This will be the first WELL Platinum Certified building in Higher Education. Air and water will be tested in the building to ensure safe environments for building occupants. There is a test kitchen in the building as a service and learning environment for UF students. Indoor and outdoor plants were a part of the design to provide views to the outdoors and build connections to the outdoor environment. Building specific policies are created to help occupants continue to move throughout the day (e.g., desk bikes, sit/stand workstations). The sub categories for this WELL certification is different from LEED. For example, providing students with lower sugar food choices. There will be quiet and lactation rooms, as well. Dustin can provide the WELL scorecard for the building if anyone is interested. The Student Health Care Center website provides additional information about the WELL certification (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/welcome/well-certification-benefits/>).

Andy asked about the building's LEED certification and if that is connected to the WELL certification.

Dustin said that LEED and WELL are different types of Green Building Certification programs. In this case, the Student Health Center wanted to prioritize the well-being of the inhabitants of the building, so this building will only go for WELL. Andy was concerned about the lack of emphasis placed on energy efficiency measures without the LEED certification. Dustin said that the university has strong energy efficiency requirements for all construction.

Nancy Clark mentioned that the DCP Collaboratory will apply for both WELL and LEED certification.

Jessica-Jean asked about additional considerations for the libraries and student dorms. **Dustin** spoke on the Honors Dorm and its pursuit of the WELL Health and Safety Seal to enhance the occupant

experience and make the transition easier to WELL in the future. Depending on the success of that project, Dustin believes this could be expanded across campus. WELL is different from LEED in that regular monitoring is required to keep that certification.

Old Business

Discussion of potential projects for the upcoming year

STARS update assistance

Andy asked for a brief summary of the previous meeting and the potential projects that the Sustainability Committee could help with regarding STARS. **Liz Storn** discussed some of the specific credits that the Office of Sustainability needs help with, focusing on the Academic credits. The first credit discussed was Campus as a Living Lab. Liz created a form that committee members can use to submit projects that they know about that qualify:

<https://forms.office.com/r/1vh7jrkvF1>

Questions about the Campus as a Living Lab credit included what qualifies, and how many submissions were needed to satisfy the credit. Liz said that she would provide more information in a separate email, including examples from other schools, and revise the form to include more information. It was discussed that many Quest classes will qualify for this credit, and Quest 3 is specifically related to living-lab style projects and classes.

Scarlet Seymour asked for information about Quest. **Andy** provided an explanation and described how the courses are intended to be interdisciplinary and engaging. **Nancy** provided a link to the information about Quest: <https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/uf-quest/>

Liz also spoke on the need to gather data for the other academic credits, including collecting syllabi from all (as many as possible) classes over the past 3 years and analyzing them for sustainability-focused and sustainability-related courses. She said that our office will be pulling all of the syllabi together for all of the data, but will welcome assistance from the Committee.

Liz offered to provide monthly updates to the committee on the status of the STARS data collection and anticipated rating and gaps.

Scarlet offered to help coordinate with the Grounds team re: OP-10 Landscape management now that we have an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program.

Climate Action Plan Implementation & review

John Lawson and **Liz** discussed that we'll bring updates on the implementation and action plan starting next month. **Andy** asked if there was a specific way that the Sustainability Committee could help with Implementation. Liz said that our office has struggled with the actions in the Education and Research (e.g. Academics) area. Andy suggested creating a sub committee to review the Academics actions in particular and help with implementation. Liz will include a call for the committee in the next email.

For progress on implementation, John mentioned that UF is part of the Duke Clean Energy Connect, and by the end of 2024, 80% of our purchased electricity will be from solar through this program, reducing our annual greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 45%.

Green Building Performance Post Construction

Scarlet discussed that she and her team are working on tracking energy performance of buildings across campus and developing plans to address issues that are found. She recommended that she and her team provide annual or biannual reports to the Committee for feedback and assistance. **Liz** suggested that an area where the Committee might be able to provide feedback includes the ideas of building occupant guides or suggestions for occupant behavior changes that might help. **Scarlet** said that she would bring the idea of behavior guides to her team to discuss.

Other ideas?

Andy reminded the committee of the suggestion that another project for the year could be to assemble info on sustainability initiatives that we can share across campus. One specific idea includes the Freezer Rebate program that EH&S is piloting to help researchers get more efficient ultra-low temperature freezers. **Angie Brown** said that HR can also help with sharing the information if we provide them with the content. **Liz** will include a call for volunteers for a sub committee with the next email.

Office of Sustainability Updates

Liz mentioned that HR is offering an incentive on CSA spring shares through Frog Song Organics and Siembra Farm <https://worklife.hr.ufl.edu/wellness/community-supported-agriculture-program/>. **Angie** said that the program had 50 shares for each farm, and the spots are all full, but there is a waiting list. The program also includes special classes and information on healthy cooking. It was determined that the farms are still taking individual members separate from the HR incentive. **Jessica-Jean** and **Nina Rosenzweig** mentioned that they'd love to see this expand to students and into the Med School curriculum. **Andy** mentioned the idea of discounts for students who volunteer to work at the different farms. **Angie** said that she'd love to work to continue developing these relationships.

Liz also provided a link to the newsletter article that was published highlighting the achievements and collaborations of the Office of Sustainability for the Fall Term (<https://sustainable.ufl.edu/2023/12/13/staff-collaboration-and-growth-as-key-to-success/>)

Meeting Adjourned

Jessica-Jean motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:24 pm. **Angie** seconded the motion.