

UA Sustainability Council || Minutes

September 14th, 2021

3:00-4:30PM

MS Teams

Tuesday



1. Introductions
2. Co-chair updates
 - a. Executive Director, University Arkansas Resiliency Center, Marty Matlock
 - i. Marty was appointed as a senior advisor to USDA by Tom Vilsack, US Secretary of Agriculture, starting August 1st. He is now a senior advisor for food systems resiliency with USDA, but still maintains a faculty relationship with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.
 - b. Director of Sustainability Academic Programs, Ken McCown
 - i. The sustainability minor is up to 133 students, so it continues to grow.
 - ii. The Fay Jones School's Masters of Design certificates that we have in resilience, timber and wood construction, and retail and hospitality, we've now brought in 13 students in our first class, and we've launched an online.
 - iii. Upcoming Sustainability Curriculum committee meetings to review and revise the sustainability curriculum and look at how the Capstone projects fit in to the minor.
 - c. Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management, Scott Turley
 - i. Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) #4 – Entegriy did not get started over the summer as they had hoped. They ran into supply chain issues with delivery of LED lighting.
 - ii. SWEPCO has begun the sale of their Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), which the UA has long considered purchasing with financial savings from the Solar Services Agreement (SSA) project.

- iii. Now there are reservations about buying the RECs because it may make the UA look good on paper but is not clearly removing additional CO2 from the atmosphere. The UA is now looking for potential avenues for spending the savings on real greenhouse gas savings or reductions, help further reduce our footprint, and potentially subsidize electric fleet vehicles (buses and other).
 - iv. Scott asked the council for their input on purchasing energy credits vs pursuing other avenues. Eric will schedule this working group meeting.
- d. ASG Sustainability Chair, Olivia Ervin
- i. Plans to work with ASG to get secure covered bike racks installed on campus.
 - ii. Plans to do a security campaign for bikes, some ideas are a bike lock check-out program and/or increasing security cameras.
 - iii. Coordinating ideas about a sustainability fair/mixer for students to get more engaged.
 - iv. The council encouraged secure/covered bicycle parking as a priority over more bike loops.

3. Solar Services Agreement

- a. SSA has been trying to get approved by the board of trustees for the past two years. There has been no clear opposition articulated from the BoT, but the item keeps getting tabled. The initial solar services agreement would be 4 megawatts for various reasons. After hopefully getting that approved at the January board meeting, the UA would then then put out an RFP for another 9-13 megawatts.

4. 2020 UA Waste and Recycling presentation (Eric Boles)

- a. UA's goal is to have a 90% diversion rate by 2040. Waste diversion is the repurposing goods in some shape or form or waste. Waste aversion is the practice of avoiding wasteful goods entirely.
- b. The UA's immediate goals were 50% diversion from landfill by 2021 in 70% diversion from landfill by 2027. However, we kind of went from about 34% in 2018-2019 down to 26% in 2020.

- c. This decrease comes from inconsistent third-party data collection and the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - d. Even though the campus waste diversion rate is down the total number of pounds of waste landfilled per campus user is also down, which a trend in the right direction. This metric is in many ways superior to the campus diversion number because it captures both aversion and diversion numbers for campus users.
5. Update from Ammen Jordan, UA Active Transportation Coordinator
- a. Trying to make the University of Arkansas more accommodating for active transportation modes such as walking or biking, and by accommodating we mean safe and pleasant. And there are several ways we have gone about this...
 - b. Programming to make sure the infrastructure is being used appropriately, and then we're also looking at it from an access perspective.
 - c. One new project is an outdoor classroom/scenic overlook and in establishing public access to this outdoor classroom facility, we've embarked on an 11 acre ecological restoration using fire predominantly as demand management tool.
 - d. Trails built on this site will connect into a 17-20 mile natural surface trail around Fayetteville and that anchors the University of Arkansas as near really the gateway and potentially the primary user base.
 - e. The Office for Sustainability recently hosted the Bike Block Party, in which different cycling advocates on and off campus gather to promote alternative transportation and safety to students.
 - f. One exciting thing that happened this year was we partnered with PEDALITFORWARD, a nonprofit here locally that takes donated bicycles and upcycles then keeps him out of the waste stream by refurbishing them and giving them a new life to folks that need it.
 - g. PEDALITFORWARD gave away 20 bikes to UA International students and got orders for many more.

- h. OFS recently finished up putting down wayfinding breadcrumbs on campus to reinforce our [preferred campus routes](#).
 - i. Lastly, the OFS has been doing a bike valet service at the home Razorback Football games, this programming encourages people to rethink how they travel to Razorback events. We also have paired the bike valet with the e-scooter companies to better manage and help their users.
- 6. Tributary to Mullin's Creek restoration project (Eric Boles)
 - a. Tour on Thursday October 14 at 3PM
 - i. Location: Meet at the intersection of Carlson Dr and Mullin's Creek