UA Sustainability Council || Agenda

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
Office for Sustainability

September 15, 2026
Tuesday
3:00-4:30PM
MS Teams

1. Co-chair updates
    a. Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management, Mike Oestereicher
        i. Working across campus to identify leaks on campus in the hot and chilled water and working to reduce the leaks.
        ii. Re-piping the combined heat and power system to make it more efficient and will add an additional half megawatt of power.
        iii. Re-piping the heat pump chiller will also improve efficiency on campus and reduce pumping energy.
        iv. Environmental Health and Safety has put out and RFP for Hazardous Waste Disposal Contract that will include e-waste
    b. Director of Sustainability Academic Programs, TBA
        i. The school moved quickly and with terrific support from friends and colleagues across campus to cover classes in SUST and ENRE impacted by the transition. The longer-term question of academic leadership of sustainability and resiliency programs followed. School leadership met with faculty and staff leadership in ENDY, to understand the history and scope of the collaborative online ENRE master's degree, as well as with leadership in GSIE to understand the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability. This week, the school has embarked on two intertwined objectives: further conversations with ENRE and SUST stakeholders—including SUST council members and ENRE teaching staff; and to identify candidates from within the department of landscape architecture to take on the role of Director of Academic Programs (in line with the ENDY/FJAD MoU). Our stakeholder conversations will provide understandings that help us select our new director. We look to make that appointment no later than Friday September 25th. Thereafter, it is the intention of the school to guide the new director to conversations with campus stakeholders, so that they can move into leadership in an informed and collaborative manner. One early opportunity will be for the new director to input on ENRE and SUST programming for the review of graduate programs by GSIE, October 1st. We are reassured by GSIE that those reviews are working documents, and that portfolio

reviews submitted October 1st are considered drafts and best tentative steps forward at this time.

c. ASG Director of Environmental Affairs, Charan Chitturi
    i. Main overarching goat is to strengthen connection between students and sustainability on campus
    ii. Sustainability Fair coming up on October 13 from 11:30-1:30 in the Union Flag Room, it will showcase sustainability RSOs on campus as well as show students how they can get involved with sustainability initiatives

2. Rome Center LEED O+M Project, Francesco Bedeschi
    a. Cohort of 10 students led by Francesco Bedeschi and Harrison Wade, are working on a LEED Operations + Management certification for the Rome Center in Rome, an 800-year-old building.
    b. If successful, this would be the oldest LEED certified building in the world.
    c. The project will span over a Fall, Spring and Summer semesters to gather the necessary data for the O+M application.
3. City of Fayetteville updates on Climate Action Plan, Peter Nierengarten
    a. Current climate action plan was adopted 2 years ago, focusing on emissions reductions strategies as well as nature-based solutions.
    b. New 3.77 MW solar array went online April 28, $7 million dollar estimated savings.
    c. CoF is 93% clean energy supply for all city buildings and expected to be at 100% by 2030.
    d. New recycling program is a great success, seeing almost 20% increase in tonnage from the previous system, and are continuously working on education to help people get used to the new system.
    e. Expanded food waste processing with 8 compost drop-off locations throughout the city, as well as 3x weekly commercial composting pick-ups.
    f. The UofA is the City's largest food waste source with the partnership with our dining services
    g. Expanded transit access in the city, 2 busses per hour on College Ave via Razorback Transit and 38 bus stops around the city have been upgraded this summer.
    h. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant—23.7 of 217 acres have already been restored through this grant
4. Arkansas Union sustainability updates, Lance Grigsby
    a. Very successful Farm Market this year in a partnership with Center for Arkansas Farms and Food. This partnership tripled their market income for the year, and all their proceeds go to scholarships to support local farmers
    b. The market will be coming back next year
    c. The Union is also starting an application for LEED Operations + Management

    d. The new main E-Waste drop-off location is now located in the Union on A1
5. Updates from Emma Armendariz, the UA's Active Transportation Coordinator
    a. Annual Commuter survey is now live, please participate and spread the word!
    b. Bicycle library has been going for a year now and is up to 65 bikes in the inventory to rent out compared to the 15 bikes that started the program.
    c. National Campus Bike Summit is being hosted by the University of Arkansas October 7-9 and will be kicking it off at cruise to campus on Wednesday morning and would love to see you there!
    d. The UofA will also be demoing an electric Fleet Cycles trike for use by departments on campus and if your department would like to try it out please reach out to us at sustain@uark.edu
6. Solar Energy updates, Eric Boles
    a. The UofA is getting very close to completing the Campus Loop, with only Oak Ridge Phase 3 remaining.
    b. Phase 3 will have 100% completed construction documents soon and just needs funding to be completed.
7. Good-of-the-Order
8. Next meeting is 2nd Tuesday of November. Watch for the calendar invitation.