

# UA Sustainability Council || Minutes



April 8, 2025  
Tuesday  
3:00-4:30PM  
MS Teams

1. Co-chair updates
  - a. Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management, Scott Turley
  - b. Director of Sustainability Academic Programs, Ken McCown
  - c. ASG Director of Environmental Affairs, Ben Hollis
    - i. Last month ASG successfully completed their bike drive in which they gave away 24 bikes to students that applied for one citing the need for a bicycle for transportation to and from campus.
    - ii. ASG and OFS are planning a joint Earth Day Farmers Market Celebration on campus at the Union Mall on Earth Day, April 22, from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm.
    - iii. ASG passed a bill of renewed support for the Complete Maple Street renovation, and also a bill allocating funds for new bike racks on the northeast side of Mullins library.
2. Updates from Emma Armendariz, the UA's Active Transportation Coordinator
  - a. Spring Bicycle Drive
    - i. Will be happening April 28 – May 9
    - ii. The intention is to collect unwanted bikes before they are abandoned on racks or discarded
  - b. Lunch and Learn program
    - i. This semester OFS has done a series of lunch and learns, the first one was about active transportation options on campus, then there was how to be a substantiable student on campus led by an OFS student intern, and Trailblazers came down for on and did a confident commuting seminar for their lunch and learn.
    - ii. Coming up is the last lunch and learn of the semester, and it is going to be about housings Leave Green program for students moving out of the dorms.
  - c. Oak Ridge Phase 3
    - i. This is the last section of trail that needs to be funded and built to complete the “campus loop” which would be a contiguous loop of multi-use paved trail that would envelope the campus core and be a direct connection with the Razorback Greenway.
    - ii. The estimated cost of the Oak Ridge Trail Phase 3 is \$1,000,000 but will connect campus to many millions of dollars of existing infrastructure.
3. ASG SR6 in support of completing the Maple Street improvements

- a. The 10-million-dollar project is mostly funded by a 7.5-million-dollar Safer Streets for All grant, and the remaining amount is a cost share between the city and the university.
  - b. This project is an integral part of the campus loop
4. Student Union Zero Waste Floor (Lance Grigsby)
  - a. Based off and inspired by the Fayetteville Town Center which is a zero-waste building.
  - b. The goal of this program is to divert 90% of all waste generated from events and meetings that take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.
5. New Residence Hall Bicycle Parking (Todd Furgason)
  - a. There will be a significant indoor bike, and active transportation (e-scooters, skateboards, one-wheels, etc.) built as part of the new dorm in the Maple Hill district.
  - b. The new residence hall is slated to be finished by 2028.
6. Overview of April Sustainability events (Todd Hansen)
  - a. GORP Fest was unfortunately rained out but was a celebration of outdoor engagement and an opportunity for student, faculty, and staff to learn about what resources exist to support their outdoor interests on campus and throughout Northwest Arkansas.
  - b. Trail Love in the Oak Ridge Hillside is hosted every spring and fall by the OFS and meets every other week during the semester. The last two of this semester are April 15 and April 28 from 2:30-3:30pm.
7. EPA Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (Eric Boles)
  - a. State of Arkansas has received a \$100 million dollar EPA grant that the U of A is a sub recipient of, covering three projects.
  - b. \$2.2 million dollars of the grant is slated for stream restoration, which includes \$600,000 for Oak Ridge paved trail phase 2.2; there is almost \$300,000 for land restoration at the Arkansas Research and Technology Park; and \$1.4 million for land and stream restoration at the Oak Knoll and remnant prairie behind the Cato Springs Research Center.
  - c. Ground has not been broken on any of these projects yet, but they are shovel ready and hope to get started in the next month or so.
8. Good-of-the-Order
9. Next meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup>