

Sustainability Committee Meeting

September 19, 2019

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. IREB 350

About the Committee & Committee Business

- Sandy Bauman, Sustainability Coordinator, called the meeting to order. New members introduced themselves, and Kim Williams and Sheila Mote were introduced as Co-chairs of the committee. We are also looking for someone to be the secretary and type up minutes.
 - Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were sent prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Bruce Budowle to approve the minutes, and Celina Esekawu seconded the motion. The vote carried and the minutes were approved.
 - About the Committee: Sandy Bauman gave introductory remarks on the Sustainability Committee, its mission and its goals for the campus. In 2010, the students voted to implement a fee to see environmental/sustainability improvements on campus. This is how we've funded projects. Sustainability is about using our resources effectively with public and environmental health in mind. It encompasses 3 parts including environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic prosperity. It's important to our campus in order to improve our environment, use resources effectively as we grow, ensuring healthy communities, and it can save our campus money.
 - Sustainability in Healthcare: Sustainability in healthcare has gained momentum in the last decade or two. Check out [Healthier Hospitals Initiative](#) and [Practice Greenhealth](#).
 - Committee Accomplishments: This begins the 8th year of the committee. Many of the accomplishments from this committee have been: water stations on campus, sponsorship of the Fort Worth Bike Share, Earth Day Event (with 500-700 attendees), UNTHSC Community Garden, Lab Efficiency Action Program (LEAP), subsidizing the transit passes, etc.
 - Budget: The budget for the 2019-2020 term is \$25,000. It is funded through the Sustainable Campus Fee (formerly the Environmental Service Fee).
 - Bylaws: A copy of the bylaws will be sent to all members.
 - Sustainability Resources: The committee meets every 2 months and communication will be done through email, newsletters, and Facebook. Our website is unthsc.edu/sustainability and the Facebook page is [Facebook.com/sustainableUNTHSC](https://www.facebook.com/sustainableUNTHSC). Follow us on Instagram under [Sustainable_UNTHSC](#).
 - Subcommittees: Please let Sandy know what subcommittee(s) you would like to serve on for this term. Participation on a subcommittee is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The subcommittees for this year include:
 - Community Garden – gives input and helps make decisions regarding the community garden on campus
 - Reduce – Reuse – Recycling –
 - LEAP Subcommittee – Lab Efficiency Action Program is an incentive program for labs that encourages them to operate more sustainably through energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, etc.
 - RRR Subcommittee – This committee will focus on reduce-reuse-recycling on campus. We need a person to co-chair this committee to get it going again. In the past, we've looked at greening campus catering and break rooms.
 - Earth Day Planning – We host an Earth Day Event each year in April with 600-700 attendees. We will begin the planning in November, and this year's event will be on April 18th. We'll be partnering with the Crawfish Boil and perhaps the Primary Care Summit.
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LEAP Awards

- Lab Efficiency Action Program: This is a new incentive program to encourage labs to be more sustainable, safer, and more efficient. Labs can earn rewards (up to \$3000) for their participation. The program was piloted in 2015 with four labs, and launched campus wide in 2016 with the goal of certifying 10 labs in the first year. Five labs were awarded certification at the meeting. They include:

- LEAP Prime Gold (\$1500 award):
 - Emmitte Lab
 - Su Lab
 - Huang Lab
 - LEAP Prime Platinum Recertification (\$1000 award):
 - Biomarker Core (Dr. Sid O'Bryant's lab)
 - Schreihofer Lab
- Congratulations to all!
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Announcements

- Service Expo – Thursday September 26 from 10am-1pm in MET – Come learn about all the services on campus at the Service Expo. We will have a table and will give away t-shirts for taking a recycling quiz. Volunteers needed in one hour shifts. If you can volunteer, let Sandy know ASAP.
- America Recycles Day is November 15th – If you have any ideas for an event, please let Sandy know.
- Keep Fort Worth Beautiful (KFWB) Litter Stomp on October 20th: We always encourage people to participate in litter cleanup events. Litter Stomp is on October 19th. We will not be organizing a campus group, but if you or a group would like to participate, please register by October 7th. <http://fortworthtexas.gov/litterstomp/>
- Transit 101 – This is a lunchtime event where we teach people to ride public transit. We'll be doing it again in October (times TBD).
- Fort Worth Bike Share – Sustainability financially supports the FWBS by contributing \$5,000 annually. Students get a free annual membership and employees get a \$60 annual membership. There is a station on campus at the library and one close to east campus on Van Cliburn Street. Learn more at <https://fortworth.bcycle.com/>
- LED Upgrades – The bridges over Clifton will be getting LED upgrades soon as sponsored by Sustainability. LEDs last longer, can easily be disposed of, and use less energy than CFLs.
- Recycling Changes On Campus - We are changing our co-mingle recycling. Reasons include high contamination rate, excessive plastic bags, China's change in what they accept (historically the US sends about 30% of our recycling there), emphasize a focus on reduction, etc. We are changing signs, the door colors/openings, etc. In addition we will be having multiple communication avenues to educate people on campus. Here is what we currently recycle in the Co-mingle bins:
 - Empty plastic bottles
 - Empty glass bottles
 - Empty tin and aluminum cans
 - Cardboard and paperboard
 - Paper and magazines
 - *(no plastic bags, paper towels/tissues, and food containers should be put in the recycling bin)*

Our biggest tip for recycling is to actually reduce our consumption in the first place. Try to use your own reusable bottle and coffee mug on campus, bring your own fork/spoon instead of using a plastic one, and reduce single-use plastics.

Subcommittee Updates

- Community Garden: The garden is wrapping up its 5th year, and Celina Esekawu, Community Garden Administrative Associate, gave a background to the garden and update for this year. We are doing a 5 year anniversary event on October 17th from 11am-1pm with a food truck, popsicles, recognition, and more. Flyer will be posted around campus soon.
- Lab Efficiency Action Program (LEAP): We awarded 5 labs today and will award more next meeting.
- RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Subcommittee – This subcommittee is focusing on making lunches, break rooms, meetings, etc. more sustainable and eco-friendly. This work will continue next term when we can find a person to co-chair this group.

MINUTES

Proposal to Subsidize Annual Transit Passes

- E-passes are the annual bus and or train passes that Trinity Metro gives us for a discounted price. They are available to all students and employees, and they run from January to December every year. There are 2 types of passes: Local (Fort Worth buses and the TRE (train) from DFW to Fort Worth, and Regional (entire Metroplex). Our students no longer qualify for reduced fare. TexRail (commuter train from the airport to downtown Fort Worth) is now operational and the Dash is also operational (learn more here: <https://ridetrinitymetro.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/The-Dash-Digital-Schedule-092219.pdf>)
 - Typically, Trinity Metro gives us passes at a value of 25% off the monthly price for a year, but once a year we subsidize them to 75% off. The passes will go on sale when we get the information from them.
 - The proposal was for the committee to subsidize the passes for \$10,000. A motion was made by Sheila Mote to approve the minutes, and Tonia Jackson seconded the motion. The vote carried forward by unanimous approval by committee members.
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Comments & Suggestions

- A comment was made to get glove recycling in the Anatomy lab. Sandy explained that we had tried it about 2 years ago, but they stopped since contamination was an issue. We can revisit the idea again perhaps with a student led initiative.
 - Another comment was made to see if labs can go to LED as they go out. Sandy will check with our electricians.
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Housekeeping

Meeting Adjourned at 1:03 pm. The next meeting is November 12th at noon (place TBD).