

## Sustainability Committee Meeting

September 30, 2021

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

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### About the Committee

- Sandy Bauman, Sustainability Coordinator, called the meeting to order. Kim Williams and Dr. Raghu Krishnamoorthy introduced themselves as co-chairs.
- We did a brief breakout session so people could get to know a couple other people in a small group setting.
- About HSC Sustainability: Sandy gave a background about why we have a Sustainability program on campus. In 2010, the students voted to implement a fee to see environmental/sustainability improvements on campus. This is how we fund projects, events, and initiatives.
- Defining Sustainability: Sustainability is defined in many ways. We define it as the “continued protection of human health and the environment while fostering economic prosperity and societal well-being” (Fiskel et al. 2012).

Sustainability has 3 pillars of the environment, society and economy. We are focused primarily on the environmental component of sustainability although the social and economic components are woven throughout our initiatives and all that we do. As stated by the EPA, “everything that we need for our survival and well-being, depends either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment”. We hold true to the desire our students expressed back in 2010 when they voted in a fee to fund more environmental improvements on campus. We do have a regenerative focus meaning that we aim to make things better than the status quo.

We do partner with other departments and organizations on campus to fully work towards sustainability in all its components. HSC Sustainability’s vision is to align with that purpose by transforming our students and employees into people with a sustainability mindset. We desire for every student to be impacted by sustainability while they are here and carry those lessons and passion forward into their careers in health care. Our desire for our employees is to change the culture on campus towards sustainability and that sustainability will play a part in all of our daily operations as well as in our personal lives.

- About the Committee: The Sustainability Committee was established in the fall of 2012 (we’re in our 10<sup>th</sup> term). Students, staff and faculty represent the campus and community. Our goals are to advance sustainable practices on campus through education, events and activities, outreach, and operations; enhance communication; provide suggestions to and review documents from the Office of Sustainability; and vote on campus initiatives with funds from the Sustainable Campus Fee. The fee generates about \$70,000 per year.
- Committee Accomplishments: 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. We are an active committee and truly trying to “create” and “transform” to move us to a more sustainable campus.
- Sustainability Resources: The committee meets every 2 months and communication will be done through email, newsletters, and Facebook. Our website is [unthsc.edu/sustainability](http://unthsc.edu/sustainability) and the links to sign up for our newsletter as well as our social media is on that landing page. Facebook page is Facebook.com/sustainableUNTHSC. Follow us on Instagram under Sustainable\_UNTHSC.

### Announcements

- Energy Savings Awareness: HSC is entering into another energy savings project with Schneider Electric where we invest to conserve energy and save money. This is our third performance contract since 2001. October is also Energy Awareness Month, so we’ll be doing a social media awareness campaign for it all month long.

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- Keep Fort Worth Beautiful (KFWB) Litter Stomp on October 16th: We always encourage people to participate in litter cleanup events, and now more than ever it's important due to litter increasing from people spending more time outdoors ([see this recent article](#)). Litter Stomp is on October 16<sup>th</sup>. We will not be organizing a campus group, but if you or a group would like to participate or get a group together, visit their website. They provide cleanup resources and t-shirts and have COVID safety protocols in place. <http://fortworthtexas.gov/litterstomp/> It is part of the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge ([link](#)).
- Giveaway for Students: TCOM reached out and asked if we had more utensil sets for students. Since we have about 200 left, we are giving them away to all students on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> in the LIB Courtyard (thanks to Bruce Budowle for volunteering to help with the event). Students will need to sign up for our newsletter or like/follow us on social media to get one.
- RSO Fair Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> in MET Field from 5pm-7pm: Student Development is hosting another RSO Fair, and we will have a table there talking about sustainability and giving out goodies. Sandy is not able to make it, so we need at least 2-3 volunteers to help out (can do this in 1-hour shifts). Please email her if you're interested in volunteering.\_
- Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) – Nov 8- 12<sup>th</sup> – GEW is hosted by HSC Next, and they have a sustainability track. We will host a virtual event at noon on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Center for Transforming Lives (CLT) titled "Caring for People and Planet Through Social Enterprises – A Fort Worth Example". More details will be coming soon. We'll also be encouraging people to donate clothing and household goods for CTL's Resale Shop at our recycling event on November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- HSC Community Recycling Event – November 11<sup>th</sup>: We are hosting a recycling event on Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3pm in MET loading dock with COVID safety precautions in place. We need at least 3 volunteers, so if you can help, please let Sandy know (you can volunteer in 1-hour shifts). A full list of what will be accepted is here: <https://unitedelectronicrecycling.com/items-we-accept/>  
A flyer will be made available soon. Clothing and household goods will be donated to the Resale Shop (see above).
- Boxed Water: We have registered HSC to be able to purchase Boxed Water at wholesale prices. Boxed Water is a more sustainable option compared to plastic bottled water. This can be utilized at events, breakrooms, etc. Contact Sandy if you need the information. We'll get it posted in the Daily News and start spreading the word. Several people in the meeting also mentioned the possibility of using canned water.
- Composting in Torched Apron: We are partnering with Torched Apron to sponsor pre-consumer composting. Our goal is to eventually move to post-consumer bins in the café area. We'll start with the kitchen to learn the process then hopefully move to the café later on this fiscal year (this is part of the larger conversation with Torched Apron to move their consumables to all compostable materials which is a work in progress).
- LIB 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Balcony Sustainability Project: After considering a solar project and realizing it's not feasible at this time because of our budget, we have been looking at a sustainability project in the library 2<sup>nd</sup> floor outdoor space. We received positive feedback from the committee this summer and are moving forward with the project with funds that have been carrying over the last several years. It would possibly include solar panels that supply energy for electronic charging and lighting, planters, seating, etc. Input will be gathered during the planning phase, and Sandy will let the committee know when that process starts.

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## Subcommittees

- Subcommittees are separate from the larger Sustainability Committee where the projects get planned and accomplished. Participation on a subcommittee is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. We have three subcommittees that are on-going, and we did a breakout brainstorming session to determine a 4<sup>th</sup> subcommittee. The feedback from the groups is included at the end of the minutes. Sandy will send a signup form in October after the co-chairs have met to discuss the feedback. Here are descriptions of the current subcommittees:
  - HSC Community Garden – gives input and helps make decisions regarding the community garden on campus
  - 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.

# MINUTES

- Earth Day Planning – We host an Earth Day Event each year in April.
  - Subcommittee Updates:
    - LEAP: LEAP or Lab Efficiency Action Program has been redesigned to increase involvement yet still have high impact. The new documents have just been finalized, so the program will re-launch in October.
    - HSC Community Garden: The garden is wrapping up its 8th year (anniversary in February), and Katelyn Reeves, Community Garden Administrative Associate, gave a background to the garden and update for this year (learn more at [unthsc.edu/communitygarden](http://unthsc.edu/communitygarden)). To date, we have donated over 1716 lbs. and diverted over 879 lbs. of coffee grounds and 10,686 lbs. of food waste from the landfill. If you're interested in gardening or getting more involved, contact Katelyn.
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## **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 at 25% off. They are available to all students and employees, and they run monthly or annually 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). TexRail (commuter train from the airport to downtown Fort Worth) is now operational and the Dash is also operational.
  - Since 2013, once a year, the Sustainability Committee has voted to subsidize annual passes to between 50-80% off regular prices.
  - The proposal was for the committee to subsidize the passes for about \$10,000. Based on last year's numbers, we'll raise the prices slightly to get back to the \$10,000 mark (this year we spend \$15,680). Offering the passes year-round proved to be very helpful to people especially students, so we'll continue to do this as well.
  - The committee voted to approve this expenditure and the changes.
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## **Comments & Suggestions**

- Unfortunately, we ran out of time for comments, but email Sandy if you have suggestions/comments.
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## **Housekeeping**

Meeting Adjourned at 1:04 pm. The next meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup> at noon (via Zoom).

## **Subcommittee Breakout Feedback:**

### Group 1:

- Sustainability w/ kids (similar to the project that was done with FWISD, but with families)
- Partner with a Back to School Event to have a booth of some sort
- Plan something for Science Week
- Art classes that draw attention to environmental issues
- Art in the Garden (Like Painting with a Twist)

### Group 2:

Something on the subject of clothing: We have seen greening the closet video last Earth day and about reusing the clothes. Also our Students office has some event about the donation of formal wears for students to dress professionally. Since many students on campus cannot spend much on clothing, we can may be help our students on campus through the sustainability event. We can ask the students to Add to the 'Student (dress up?)Wish list' what they need and ask our campus to donate to match the needs. It can be a month long or just a ongoing event.

Our group came up with the following ideas :

- Committee Name: Wardrobe Impact Inventory Committee
  - Name of Event: Create a Conscious Closet
- Committee Name: Conscious Closet Committee
  - Name of Event: Wardrobe Impact Inventory

Survey the students to ask for needs or what would be helpful to them.

### Group 3&4&5:

- Face mask recycling (disposable and cloth)

### Group 6

- Module on sustainability as a 'required' learning/training, similar to modules on HSC Learn
- Single plastic use - make a stance at the university level
- Address correct use of recycling - still having too much contamination happening
- More recycling bins in labs

### Group 7

In the breakout session we thought about where can we improve in existing services? Where can we beef up existing services? Anywhere we can expand that is going well. One topic was 'growing' the garden- if we can't expand out can we expand upwards?