

# UofL Sustainability Council FY 2009-2010 Report

## Example Sustainability-Related Accomplishments at the University of Louisville

(prepared July 2010 by Justin Mog, Assistant to the Provost for Sustainability Initiatives, and Joy Hart, Sustainability Council Chair)

The momentum for integrating sustainability into everything we do at UofL continued to increase significantly from July 2009 through June 2010. Across the university, existing sustainability initiatives were expanded and new ones were launched. This highly collaborative process has involved administrators, staff, faculty, and students, as well as included some members of the broader Louisville community. As such, neither the Sustainability Council nor its associated committees can claim sole or direct credit for the accomplishments below; rather, credit belongs to the many people across campus working on these varied initiatives. However, we extend thanks to individuals serving on the Council and its associated committees as they played significant roles in these accomplishments as well as additional sustainability projects.

The Council and its committees continue to play a vital role in coordinating, guiding, and recommending policies to support sustainability initiatives. The following list of accomplishments is by no means comprehensive; rather, it is a summary of highlights from FY 2009-2010 (*and preview of FY 2010-2011*), designed to provide an overview of sustainability initiatives. Further details, photos, videos, contextualization, and documentation can be found by clicking the [links](#) underlined in blue throughout.

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## OPERATIONS

### ENERGY

#### Energy Efficiency

- UofL and Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. began work in October 2009 on a \$21.7 million, 13 ½-year [performance contract](#) to make Belknap Campus much more energy and water efficient through extensive retrofits. Up to 50% reductions in energy usage have already been observed in certain buildings.
- Siemens conducted extensive energy audits on HSC and Shelby campuses to develop a second performance contract proposal.
- In June, UofL and the Jefferson County Air Pollution Control District (JCAPCD) agreed on a plan that will [phase out coal](#) use by the Belknap Campus steam plant and make cleaner-burning natural gas the primary fuel in more efficient boilers.

#### FY 2010-2011 Preview

- UofL is negotiating terms for a second performance contract with Siemens on the order of \$18 million to do efficiency retrofits on HSC and Shelby campuses.

#### Renewable Energy

- In Summer 2009, a new [solar water-heating system](#) was installed on Burhans Hall (Shelby Campus) to reduce natural gas usage by up to 50%.
- In Fall 2009, UofL began fueling its shuttle bus with [biodiesel generated from the campus' waste cooking oil](#) by students in Eric Berson's chemical engineering lab. News of the event aired on several local radio and TV stations.
- UofL contracted in 2009 with [Cannon Design](#) and Staggs and Fisher Consulting Engineers to prepare a report on renewable energy options for the University. The report presented August 11, 2009 explored options in hydropower, solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and landfill gas.
- UofL initiated discussions and grant proposals with various local energy developers for supplying UofL with low-impact hydropower, wind, [landfill gas](#), biomass, and solar power.
- In April, Keith Sharp held a public demonstration of [solar cookers](#) in front of the Sackett Building with baked beans, hot dogs and cookies.

#### FY 2010-2011 Preview

- The [Conn Center](#) is exploring a proposal to install a solar-powered electric vehicle charging station at a UofL parking garage to charge UofL's golf cart fleet and any electric vehicles driven to campus.

## LEED Buildings

- In November, UofL officials dedicated the [Duthie Center for Engineering](#) which was renovated to meet LEED Silver certification or higher from the U.S. Green Building Council.
- In February, UofL's new [Clinical and Translational Research](#) building received [LEED Gold](#) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Only 33 other U.S. research buildings have earned LEED Gold, and UofL's eight-level, 288,000-square-foot building is the largest. [Video](#).
- The associated 620 Garage was also designed to LEED standards, though parking garages are not eligible for certification.
- UofL is also pursuing LEED certification the renovation of its Dental School and construction of its Level 3 biosafety lab at Shelby campus.

## Behavior Change

- During Energy Awareness Month (October), UofL again collaborated with the [Partnership for a Green City](#) to encourage people to sign a [pledge to reduce energy use](#) and to become eligible for energy-efficient prizes.

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council is exploring options for "building dashboards" to allow users to monitor (through lobby displays and/or websites) real-time and comparative building energy and water usage. This would raise awareness and facilitate campus competitions to reduce energy and water usage.*

## SOLID WASTE

### Recycling

- In February, UofL launched a new [single-stream recycling system](#) to enhance landfill diversion on all three campuses.
- From mid-January through the end of March, UofL Housing participated in the benchmark division of [Recyclemania 2010](#).
- By June it was discovered that the new recycling system had helped UofL divert an [additional 50+ tons of recyclables](#) from the landfill in the first four months of operation.
- In June UofL released a ["Trash Talk" video](#) to explain the new recycling system and raise awareness on campus.
- In 2009, UofL recycled 3,910 pounds of batteries, including alkaline (A, AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt), nickel-cadmium, lithium-ion and sealed lead-acid batteries. DEHS continued to promote the [battery recycling](#) program in 2010.
- In 2009, UofL signed a new contract for [electronics recycling](#) through GES of Georgetown, KY which is a zero-export, zero-landfill facility.
- From April to July, Sociology student volunteers collected 9,000 plastic bottles on campus for a massive recycling sculpture to raise awareness at the 2010 Forecastle Festival.
- DEHS organized a [mercury thermometer exchange](#) booth in May (Belknap) and June (HSC) to collect toxic mercury lab thermometers for recycling in exchange for safer, mercury-free thermometers.

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council has worked to get all necessary approvals and operating systems in place for a Belknap Food Waste Composting operation started collecting pre-consumer food waste from campus kitchens at the Hughes Lot July 1, 2010. The program will expand to include post-consumer food waste and educational displays at a satellite composting site at the Cultural Center's Garden Commons.*

### Waste Reduction

- At the conclusion of the Fall and Spring semesters, the Dean of Students' Office in collaboration with Housing and Residence Life and Student Activities coordinated efforts to gather unwanted, reusable items for exchange or donation to community charities. The Spring Clean-Up & Green-Up campaign culminated in a campus-wide [Swap Shop](#) at the SAC.
- The [Surplus Warehouse](#) facilitated the exchange of surplus campus furniture and office supplies between departments through May, with a public surplus auction on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Purchasing conducted an analysis to calculate the environmental benefits of eliminating office supply orders under \$50 and prepared an [Environmental Purchasing Report](#) to summarize 2010 initiatives.

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

### Sustainability in New Student Orientation

- Welcome Week 2009 included a SOUL volunteer service project in Louisville parks and a dumpster dive led by the student group, GRASS, during the Discovery Walk to raise awareness about the need for improved recycling and landfill diversion practices at UofL. Nearly one-third of the garbage they sorted through could have been recycled.

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council is collaborating with Admissions, Campus Health Services and the Office of First-Year Initiatives to expand new student exposure to sustainability issues and practical means to contribute to campus sustainability.*
- *Welcome Week 2010 will include an alternative transportation trip to the Gray Street Farmers' Market.*
- *The Council has invited the following groups to share sustainability-related information during the 2010 [Discovery Walk](#): Grasshoppers Distribution (Student CSA), Garden Commons at Cultural Center, GRASS, QRS Recycling, SGA, UofL's Solar Decathlon Team, UofL Commute Green campaign, Sodexo (refillable mugs & bottles), Basic Pantry (Campus Health), GreenList Louisville, Office of Community Engagement, and the Housing Green Committee.*
- *Monthly green tips will be published in the 2010-11 Mortar Board planners.*
- *The Council is considering hosting a series of workshops on campus sustainability for early Fall 2010.*
- *The Council has been collaborating with many offices to integrate the 2010 Breaking Bread tour of campus diversity and social justice organizations into UofL Sustainability Week (Oct. 18-24).*

## Student Groups

- [Group Recycling and Sustainable Solutions \(GRASS\)](#): An active student environmental group with dozens of members who met regularly throughout the 2009-10 academic year and sponsored an environmental film and lecture series, several community service projects each semester, dumpster dives, fundraisers for the Olmstead Parks Conservancy, and other awareness-raising campaigns such as the [Tap Water Challenge](#).
- The [Housing Green Committee](#) continued its excellent work of raising awareness amongst students throughout the year. In December the committee released a short video documentary on student views of sustainability.
- In Spring 2010, two student groups formed around bicycling issues: the [Student Cycling Coalition](#) and [Big Cat Riders](#).
- [Student Government Association \(SGA\)](#): The SGA Services VP served on the Sustainability Council throughout the year and worked to institutionalize sustainability within student government. In March, 89% of students voted to approve the Student 2020 Plan which included several sustainability goals including improving campus bike facilities, starting a Belknap farmers' market, improving recycling, and increasing student involvement in campus sustainability. SGA also amended its by-laws to establish a standing Sustainability Committee of the Student Senate and passed a resolution expressing SGA & SAB's commitment to sustainability through ten distinct initiatives to conserve resources and reduce the negative impacts of SGA and SAB activities.
- In 2010, Speed School students began organizing a team to compete in the 2013 [Solar Decathlon](#), an international competition run by the US Department of Energy, in which teams of college students build a complete, carbon neutral house that produces its own energy. They began meeting weekly and recruiting a diverse team of people including students in engineering, business, communication, interior design, and architecture.

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *GRASS intends to continue with previous events and plans a blue jeans/t-shirt drive to benefit Habitat for Humanity; provide more opportunities for direct student engagement at events; organizing local field trips and guided tours to educate students on sustainability issues, e.g. the ethanol plant; working with the University administration to be designated a Tree Campus USA; and organizing an environmentally-conscious concert event ("GRASStock").*
- *Members of the Student Senate's new Sustainability Committee will participate in each of the sub-committees of the university Sustainability Council.*

## Model Green Dorm Room

- In Fall 2009, UofL's Louisville Hall opened with a new [model green dorm room](#), designed by 10 students in Jamie Horwitz's Sustainable Architecture course in Art History. The project was an idea generated by the A&S Green Team and was made possible with a \$5,000 grant from Dean Blaine Hudson.
- The room was occupied throughout the year by Anna Roeder, president of the [Housing Green Committee](#), who used the room as a means to raise awareness about sustainable living on campus.

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *Over Summer 2010, the A&S Green Team plans to do a similar renovation on a campus office to create a model green office to further raise awareness.*

## TRANSPORTATION

### Commute Green Campaign

- In August 2009, the Council coordinated with the University Parking office to launch a campaign to promote alternatives to driving to campus: walking, bicycling, riding TARC buses, and carpooling. A new [Commute Green webpage](#) was created with links to more information (e.g., public transportation options & trip planners; bicycle parking, safety & safe routes; multi-modal options – bike & bus; a carpool matching service; and a personal carbon footprint calculator). Flyers were also posted around campus and students and employees informed via weekly e-mail and web news.
- The Council organized a [Transportation Alternatives Fair](#) May 10<sup>th</sup> to help people 'think outside the car.' Visitors got to speak directly with people from UofL and the community who have experience with carpooling, biking, walking, or taking the bus to campus. Free bus maps and schedules, city bike maps and bike tune-ups were provided. Representatives were on hand from TARC, Bicycling for Louisville, Bardstown Road Bicycles, the Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation, and Ticket to Ride. [Video](#).

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The University Parking office will be distributing the Commute Green flyer and a UofL-specific TARC map with all new parking permits.*
- *UofL is working with TARC to develop shuttle service between Belknap campus and the new downtown Arena. SGA is organizing the inclusion of information about the new shuttle when basketball tickets are distributed to students.*
- *Plans are in the works for a second Transportation Alternatives Fair in early Fall 2010.*

### Transportation Alternatives Survey

- In March, the Council collaborated with Institutional Research and a graduate seminar in Urban & Public Affairs to launch a comprehensive, university-wide transportation survey. A random sample of 9,632 employees and students received the survey about current commuting habits, willingness to consider alternatives, and ideas for improving participation in existing and proposed incentive programs. The overall response rate was 21% (31% of faculty/staff and 11% of students surveyed).

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *A Summer 2010 transportation intern is continuing analysis of survey data, which will help develop policies to reduce car-miles traveled by the university community.*

### **Promoting Bicycling**

- Collaborated with Metro government and [Bicycling For Louisville](#) to offer free [Share The Road and Confident Cycling classes](#) at UofL in Fall 2009 and Spring 2010.
- In February, the Council generated a interest amongst students, staff and faculty by hosting [bike model test rides](#) for a potential program to provide a free bicycle to anyone willing to forgo obtaining a campus parking permit for at least two years.
- In May, UofL participated in the city's [Bike To Work Month](#) and competed in [Louisville's Commuter Challenge](#). The UofL Sustainability Council Crankers finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the three-week competition amongst 21 teams, making 204 bike trips covering 462 miles. The Speed School Jeep Dodgers finished 10<sup>th</sup> with 68 bike trips, and the University Hospital Muscleteers finished 18<sup>th</sup>, with 14 trips. UofL also hosted a bike education class and Transportation Alternatives Fair.
- On May 21<sup>st</sup>, President Ramsey, Dean Mardis, VPHR Connally and others [rode to campus together](#) for [Bike To Work Day](#).

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *Dean Mardis and SGA are interested in organizing a Bike To Campus ride especially for students in early Fall.*

## **FOOD**

### **Campus Garden**

- In collaboration with [Louisville Grows](#) and [YouthBuild Louisville](#), UofL [broke ground March 3<sup>rd</sup>](#) on a new organic [Garden Commons](#) at the Cultural Center to teach students how to grow their own food and to engage the campus community in issues of nutrition, food justice, and the importance of urban organic agriculture to sustainability. [Groundbreaking video](#).
- The campus garden project was launched in conjunction with a series of organic gardening and food workshops beginning February 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Farmers Market**

- On May 20<sup>th</sup>, UofL opened its [Gray Street Farmers' Market](#) for the second season with 16 returning vendors and three new ones, as well as a new card reader for debit and EBT (food stamp) purchases. [Video](#).
- A newly formed group of UofL nutritionists and registered dietitians organized a booth at the June 24<sup>th</sup> Gray Street Farmers' Market to answer questions about nutrition, demonstrate several nutrition-related websites, and provide healthy recipes for some foods in season at the market.

### **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)**

- After its first CSA campus delivery program in Summer 2009, UofL conducted a survey of all participants and farmers to identify ways to improve the program in 2010. In December, UofL collaborated with UK Extension to share the results of that survey and other ideas with farmers at a public workshop for 75 people on "Managing a Successful CSA."
- On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Council organized the second annual [Local Food CSA Fair](#) where employees and students could speak directly with eight CSA farmers, as well as representatives from the Gray St. Farmers' Market, the Kentucky Proud program (UofL Bookstore and Kentucky Department of Agriculture) and Sodexo.
- The UofL community was encouraged to learn more about local food and to sign-up for CSAs (including new student-oriented CSA programs) through UofL Today, e-mails, and a dedicated [Facebook group](#).

### **Dining Services**

- UofL Dining Services began selling reusable mugs & bottles that come with a beverage discount in Fall 2009.
- Sodexo has agreed to supply pre-consumer food waste from its kitchens for the Council's new food waste composting initiative.

### **Retail**

- In collaboration with Sodexo, Campus Health Services initiated a popular [Basic Pantry](#) program to provide UofL community members with the resources needed to cook, including a rotating package of basic cooking ingredients available at the Cardinal's Nest convenience store combined with a series of related cooking and nutrition workshops.
- With its relocation in Spring 2010, the [Cardinal's Nest](#) convenience store expanded to provide fresh produce, Kentucky Proud items, and a wide selection of organic foods.
- On April 6<sup>th</sup>, UofL opened its ["Kentucky Proud" Store](#) and the state Agriculture Commissioner proclaimed April 6, 2010 as [UofL Kentucky Proud Partnership Day](#) and made President Ramsey an [honorary Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner](#).

## **ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & OUTREACH**

### **PLANNING**

#### **American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)**

- In accordance with the ACUPCC, UofL conducted its [first-ever accounting of its greenhouse gas emissions](#), submitting a 16-page [Greenhouse Gas Emission Baseline Report](#) to ACUPCC on September 15, 2009.

### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council is currently engaged in a collaborative process to generate a [Climate Action Plan](#) for UofL, to be approved by the President and submitted to ACUPCC on September 15, 2010.*

### **Belknap Master Plan**

- In November 2009, the UofL Board of Trustees approved a revised [master plan](#) for Belknap campus growth, including sustainability considerations such as brownfield redevelopment, storm water infiltration, green spaces, and promoting transportation alternatives through improved planning for pedestrians, cyclists and bus riders.

### **Adopted STARS Framework for Monitoring & Strategic Planning**

- In January 2010, [UofL became a Charter Participant](#) in the [Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System \(STARS\)](#) hosted by the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#).
- Committees worked to set ambitious, but realistic STARS point goals for 2011, 2015 and 2020. These targets became the basis for the [University Scorecard](#) and will be used to guide our work and monitor our progress over the next decade.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council is currently engaged in a collaborative process to gather data for UofL's first submission for a STARS rating in January 2011.*

### **Other Sustainability Metrics**

- [UofL received a B+](#) on the [2010 College Sustainability Report Card](#) conducted by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, improving its grade for the fourth straight year. UofL ranked highest in the state, tied with Berea College, resulting in a [front-page story in the Lexington Herald-Leader](#); and highest in the Big East, tied with Univ. of Cincinnati and Villanova.
- UofL made the [Sierra Club's "Cool Schools" list](#) published in Sept/Oct 2009 Sierra Magazine. UofL ranked 92<sup>nd</sup> out of 135, with a grade of C-.
- In October 2009, UofL was named [one of America's Top 25 'Best Neighbors'](#), ranking 12<sup>th</sup> in the "Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships" run by the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities.
- In March, UofL received national recognition for its community service programs and was the only school in Kentucky to earn the "with distinction" designation as part of its membership on the 2009 [President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll](#).

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council is currently engaged in a collaborative process to gather data to submit for the [2011 College Sustainability Report Card](#) to be released in October 2010, with the goal of increasing UofL's grade to an A- or better.*

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Worker Rights / Trademark Licensing**

- During the Spring, UofL's Amnesty International chapter rallied student & community support for UofL's re-affiliation with the [Worker Rights Consortium](#) and the [Designated Suppliers Program](#), two programs that promote anti-sweatshop labor in university apparel. Student representatives helped organize and lead a series of meetings with university administrators about their concerns and these programs.
- On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, UofL officially re-affiliated with the Worker Rights Consortium and issued a letter of support for the Designated Suppliers Program.

### **Socially Responsible Investing**

- The Council has convened a committee to investigate mission-related investment options for the University and to recommend policies on shareholder advocacy and socially- and environmentally-responsible investment to the UofL Foundation. The committee has consulted with Cambridge Associates to assess our options and the best practices adopted by peer institutions.

## **PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION**

### **National & International Collaboration**

- In September 2009, UofL renewed its membership in the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#), allowing for greater collaboration with other campuses and giving everyone at UofL access to valuable resources, discounts to AASHE-sponsored events, and opportunities for professional development & networking.
- AASHE's [2009 Greening of the Campus Conference](#) was attended by Justin Mog (Asst. to the Provost for Sustainability Initiatives), Joy Hart (Chair of Sustainability Council) and Isabella Christensen (Urban & Public Affairs graduate student).
- On the recommendation of the Council, President Ramsey signed the [Talloires Declaration](#) in October 2009, joining UofL with over 400 other similarly committed universities around the world in the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF), which serves as the Secretariat for signatories of the Talloires Declaration.
- Louisville and the Partnership for a Green City hosted to Wolfgang Reichel, [deputy mayor of Mainz, Germany](#), Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, to introduce him to green initiatives in the city. While in town, Reichel toured UofL's CTR building and KPPC.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council is planning to present information on some of its sustainability initiatives (student engagement, brownfield redevelopment, and transportation alternatives) at the [AASHE 2010 Conference](#) in Denver, October 10-12<sup>th</sup> as well as at the [Bluegrass Bioneers meeting](#) on campus in mid-October.*

### **Local & Statewide Collaboration**

- UofL representatives (Larry Owsley, Joy Hart & Justin Mog), participated in the first Kentucky College & University Sustainability Leadership Workshop hosted by UK on April 16, 2009.

- The Council organized participation in the [Campus Community Partnerships for Sustainability Conference](#) in Lexington (April 2010) with six UofL representatives collaborating on a presentation about increasing local food access and education on campus.
- On June 4<sup>th</sup>, UofL hosted a meeting of Kentucky university sustainability coordinators, including a UofL sustainability tour of the Early Learning Center (rooftop garden), Eagle's Nest, Garden Commons, and food waste composting operation.
- In June, Justin Mog spoke at Transylvania University's faculty workshop on sustainability across the curriculum.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *UofL will host the next Kentucky College & University Sustainability Leadership Workshop on October 22, 2010.*
- *UofL is planning to participate in a new statewide competition – the [Big Green Climb](#) – to encourage campus stairwell usage being organized by NKU.*

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### **Sustainability in New Employee Orientations & Trainings**

- Since July 2009, every Monday's [New Employee Orientation](#) has included a module on sustainability at UofL and the Partnership for a Green City. All new employees are asked to sign the Cards Go Green pledge, committing to at least three actions to reduce their environmental impact as employees.
- The Council collaborated with the Delphi Center to create a sustainability module launched in May for the Unit Business Managers training course [University Business Training](#), including practical tips for reducing environmental impact.
- During Fall 2009, Justin Mog presented UofL's sustainability initiatives and means of getting involved to UofL's Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, the VPF's Professional Development Committee, and the Council of Academic Officers.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *Sustainability information will be distributed during July's New Faculty Orientations, including the Cards Go Green pledge and details about specific projects faculty and students can get involved in to help transform UofL into a living laboratory for sustainability.*

### **Sustainability-focused Staff**

- In August 2009, UofL hired [Dr. Justin Mog](#) as the full-time Assistant to the Provost for Sustainability Initiatives to work with the Council and coordinate activities campus-wide.
- The Council hosted Social Change intern and a work-study student to assist with organizing public events in Fall 2010.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *In Summer 2010, the Council is hosting a Social Change intern to explore opportunities for improving the ethical treatment of UofL's research animals and an Urban & Public Affairs graduate intern to assist in campus bicycle and alternative transportation planning based on our March transportation survey results.*

### **Health & Wellness**

- In November 2009, UofL began phasing-in a [campus-wide smoking ban](#) to prohibit smoking on all campuses and provide incentives for individuals who wish to quit smoking. The ban was enacted in order to enhance public health, employee satisfaction, and environmental performance.
- The Council participated in the Health & Wellness Committee of the Great Places to Work initiative and collaborated on proposals to increase employee access to fresh, healthy foods and to increase walking, bicycling, and stair usage.
- The [School of Public Health and Information Sciences \(SPHIS\)](#) received a two-year, \$800,000 grant to help the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness in its goals to prevent obesity.
- UofL's [Get Healthy Now](#) program received recognition June 1st from the Mayor's Healthy Hometown Movement for its efforts to increase employee health.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council is working with Get Healthy Now and the Mayor's Healthy Hometown Movement to install a signed "Mayor's Mile" route on Belknap campus to promote walking and fitness.*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### **Student Engagement in Sustainability**

- As a part of Welcome Weekend in August 2009, 37 UofL volunteers with [Student Outreach Uniting Louisville \(SOUL\)](#) performed a total of 92.5 hours of community service (valued at \$1850) in Louisville parks.
- The 2010 [Alternative Spring Break Program](#) included a program with the Black Mountain Community Garden in North Carolina to build raised beds at a primary school, work in the garden, and help at The Welcome Table meal.
- Student volunteers from GRASS & SOUL volunteered with the [Xstream Clean-up](#) at the Portland Wharf on March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Sustainability Council helped organize the 2010 [Community Engagement Showcase](#) and a follow-up volunteer opportunity to help plant vegetables at the new campus Garden Commons.

### **Environmental Education for Local Schools**

- UofL hosted the Brightside [Environmental Youth Summit](#) for hundreds of JCPS students (grades 4-12) during both Fall and Spring breaks.

- In Fall 2009, UofL's Center for Environmental Education sponsored the establishment of a school garden with six raised beds maintained by the Environmental Club at DuPont Manual High School. Members of the Council and GRASS helped get the students started.
- In November, UofL sponsored an all-day "Supporting School Gardens" workshop and tour for area students and teachers.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *UofL will be participating in the 2010 [Healthy Foods, Local Farms](#) conference on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Last year's conference was held at UofL. This year's meeting will be at Spalding and several Council members are serving on the conference planning committee. The Council is supporting several learning centers, including one on composting.*

#### **Energy Efficiency for Kentucky**

- In February, Governor Beshear announced that a partnership including UofL's Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center (KPPC) would receive federal stimulus money totaling more than \$9 million to expand the [Kentucky Energy Efficiency Program for Schools \(KEEPS\)](#).
- It was also announced in February that KPPC would receive a \$2.23 million infusion of federal stimulus money to help more Kentucky industries and businesses slash their energy costs through an expansion of the [Kentucky Industrial and Commercial Sustainability Program](#).

## **EDUCATION & RESEARCH**

### **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Green Threads Workshops – Sustainability Across the Curriculum**

- The Green Threads program was launched in 2009 to bring faculty together from a wide variety of disciplines around the topic of creative means of incorporating sustainability into their courses. 16 faculty members participated in Green Threads I events beginning April 2009. This group worked on course development and met for presentations and workshops in August 2009 and April 2010.
- A new group of nine faculty members in [Green Threads II](#) gathered in April 2010 to meet participants from the first group and begin their own series of workshops. Participants received an honorarium of \$500, local food meals, and training and resource materials on sustainability.

#### **New Sustainability Courses Offered**

- New Art Course offered in Fall 2009: "[Media, Issues and Sustainability](#)" by Ying Kit Chan, Professor of Art
- With the help of the Council, UofL Lifelong Learning is offering several new courses in [Environmental Sustainability](#) including: Composting Workshop, Backyard Soil Management, Beginning Vermiculture, Home Efficiency and Solar Energy Workshop, and Edible Abundance at Home.

#### **Developing Academic Programs in Sustainability**

- In 2009, the A&S Green Team began exploring the development of an interdisciplinary minor in sustainability or environmental studies.
- In 2010, the department of Urban & Public Affairs began exploring the development of an interdisciplinary graduate degree program in environmental studies, housed in the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *The Council is working with Institutional Research and the Registrar's Office to revise the Course Inventory File to include course attribute codes indicating whether new or revised courses are sustainability-focused, sustainability-related, or involve student research in sustainability. This process will allow for better accounting of what courses UofL already offers in sustainability, planning for areas in which sustainability curriculum development is desirable, easier advising and course selection for students interested in sustainability, and the development of interdisciplinary academic programs in sustainability.*

## **RESEARCH**

#### **Sustainability-Related Research**

- In January, Mahendra Sunkara, professor of chemical engineering in the J.B. Speed School of Engineering, was appointed as interim director of the [Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship](#) at UofL.
- In Spring 2010, UofL biologists grew plants in a [research greenhouse](#) on the Life Sciences Building to help tackle such issues as preservation of the Great Lakes sand dunes, cancer treatment, pest control and petroleum substitutes.

#### *FY 2010-2011 Preview*

- *In preparation for our first reporting for a STARS rating, the Council is working to identify sustainability-related research conducted at UofL through a review of published literature.*

## AWARENESS-RAISING

### Public Sustainability Events

- [Bluegrass Bioneers 2009](#): UofL hosted this conference on innovations for sustainability October 16-18, 2009. The Sustainability Council organized a panel discussion on UofL campus sustainability initiatives.
- [Campus Sustainability Day 2009](#): The Council organized this second annual outdoor event in October with 25 informational booths, give-aways and activities organized by campus and community groups. 500 students and employees committed to taking at least three environmental actions by signing the "Cards Go Green" pledge.
- [Healthy Foods, Local Farms Conference](#): On November 7, 2009, UofL hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference organized by the Sierra Club for farmers, teachers, students, and citizens with the theme: Growing Community through Food.
- In December and January, UofL helped State Finance Secretary Miller launch the [Clean Energy Corps Green Ambassadors Program](#) with public information sessions held on campus.
- The Urban Design Studio organized its twelfth and thirteenth public programs in its popular [Sustainable City Series](#), with a fall program on urban parks & greenways, and a spring program on sustainable universities, featuring speakers from the UofL Sustainability Council, followed by an April 2<sup>nd</sup> public exhibit of the Belknap Master Plan at UDS.
- UofL's Amnesty International chapter organized an [Economic Justice Week](#) at UofL, January 11-15. A series of daily events was organized to illustrate the interconnectedness of issues such as sustainability, workers' rights and fair trade, to promote discussion and action, and to rally support for UofL's re-affiliation with the Worker Rights Consortium.
- In February, the Council sponsored the Signs of Change: [National Teach-In on Climate Change](#), in which UofL joined nearly 2,000 other colleges, universities, schools and civic groups for a day of focus on climate change. The event drew over 225 people to panels, workshops, keynote speeches and debates.
- The Muhammad Ali Institute hosted a series of [brown bag discussions on environmental justice](#), including a February Social Change lecture by UofL biologist Tommy Parker on "Environmental Justice and Ecological Disasters throughout Louisville" (co-sponsored by Social Change and the Anne Braden Institute) and an April talk by Ede Warner on the impact of multi-national corporations on the environment and the individual and collective struggle to improve our planet.
- On March 27<sup>th</sup>, UofL again participated in international Earth Hour by turning off lights on its iconic clock tower.
- The Council collaborated with student groups to host the March 30<sup>th</sup> [Mayoral Candidate Forum on Sustainability & Economic Development](#), moderated by Mark Hebert, with 11 candidates and a full audience at the Chao Auditorium.
- UofL hosted a week of events in April to [celebrate the legacy of Cesar Chavez](#), co-founder of the United Farm Workers union. The Spanish Club and Classical and Modern Languages Department sponsored the panel discussion, student march and several documentary showings.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup>, UofL hosted a talk in conjunction with the Kentucky Author Forum by [Richard Ellis](#), author of "On Thin Ice: The Changing World of the Polar Bear."
- On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Sigma Xi presented a talk by Kimberly Gray, director of the Institute of Sustainable Practices at Northwestern University, on the technological and political challenges to achieving sustainability.

### FY 2010-2011 Preview

- *UofL's Center for Sustainable Neighborhoods is co-sponsoring the Fourth [Ideal City Conference](#) July 22-25 at UofL. The conference will address the issue of what works best and what has not worked for cities.*
- *The Council is organizing a full Sustainability Week at UofL Oct. 18-24, 2010 with a Campus Clean-up and campus tree tour on Monday, a [Slow Food on Campus](#) lunch on Tuesday, [Campus Sustainability Day](#) on Wednesday, the [Breaking Bread](#) campus diversity and social justice tour on Thursday, and the [Bluegrass Bioneers 2010](#) conference Friday to Sunday with a panel on UofL's Climate Action Plan.*
- *UofL will host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual [Kentucky Engagement Conference](#) on November 19th. Faculty and students are invited to submit presentation proposals that address research conducted, lessons learned, achievements or challenges regarding community engagement.*

### On-campus Outreach

- In November 2009, the Council launched the "[Green Scene](#)" on UofL Today – a monthly column on sustainability activities at UofL written by the faculty, staff and students responsible for them.
- In December 2009, the Council launched a weekly [Green Tip](#) on UofL Today featuring practical tips for reducing the campus community's environmental impact.
- The Winter 2010, UofL Magazine featured an in-depth article about UofL's sustainability initiatives: "[We are the Village Green.](#)"
- The Council organized a variety of educational and awareness-raising booths for the Student Activities Board's April 15<sup>th</sup> [Earth Fest](#), including the distribution of 200 free native tree seedlings and representatives from Rainbow Blossom, Campus Health Services' Basic Pantry program, Breaking New Grounds, QRS Recycling, Speed School's biodiesel project, GRASS and the Tap Water Challenge, Kentucky Renewable Energy Consortium, Grasshoppers' Student CSA program, and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.
- The Council organized a service event to follow Earth Fest: a [Campus Clean-up](#) was held simultaneously on all three campuses from 3-4 pm April 15<sup>th</sup>, with the help of President Ramsey and the women's basketball team. [Video](#). [Photos](#).
- The [June 2010 President's Report](#) highlighted accomplishments in LEED construction, recycling, and Bike to Work Day.

### FY 2010-2011 Preview

- *In Fall 2010, the Council will launch a comprehensive [UofL Sustainability website](#) at [louisville.edu/sustainability](http://louisville.edu/sustainability). The site will feature original content and links to videos, photos, and text describing our initiatives for both internal and external audiences. The site will also house a calendar of sustainability-related events on campus and community service opportunities, links to related websites in the broader community, and practical steps individuals can take to improve campus sustainability and reduce personal environmental impact. The site is currently under construction.*
- *Following the success of the April 15<sup>th</sup> event, a [Campus Cleanup volunteer group](#) is being formed to hold regular litter clean-up events throughout the year, with collaboration from the Physical Plant.*