

## MEETING NOTICE

### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - La Crosse

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Friday, September 25, 2020  
11:00 a.m.

To be held via virtually at

<https://uwlax.webex.com/uwlax/j.php?MTID=md975838a5eb8abfd2f44aba60d5ad146>

#### AGENDA

1. Calling of the roll
  - a. Members: Colin Belby (GEO fac), Katherine Fish (Library Faculty), Adam Driscoll (SOC Fac.), Tesia Marshik (PSY fac), Andrew Ericson (Student, Green Fund Coordinator), Lisa Pitot (DES), Steven Fulton (Geo Staff), Emily Roraff (Budget Office), Olivia Ahnen (Student), Guy Herling (non-instructional academic staff, CSH Dean's Office)
  - b. Guests:
2. Elections
  - a. Chair or co-Chairs (Andrew Ericson, Emily Roraff)
    - i. Adam motion, Steve second: 10-0-0
  - b. Recorder (Adam Driscoll) (Lisa Pitot as alternate)
    - i. Guy motion, Adam second: 10-0-0
3. Other announcements
  - a. Guy has been sitting in on the monthly sustainability coordinators group calls. Others are welcome to join in on that. (First Tuesday of each month, 1-2pm)
4. Adjourn

From by-laws:

Members of the committee shall include the following:

Six students:

- Two members selected by the Students for Sustainability (Andrew & Room-mate)
- Student Association Environmental Sustainability Director
- One member selected by the Student Association (Olivia)
- One member selected by the Residence Hall Advisory Council

- Green Fund Coordinator
- Should one or more student vacancies develop, JCES may solicit new members as needed.

Five faculty or instructional academic staff

Three non-instructional academic staff (selected by the Academic Staff Council)

Two classified staff (selected by the Classified Staff Council)

Environmental Studies Program faculty or academic staff representative

University Centers representative (this position may be filled by a staff member or student at the discretion of the Director of University Centers.)

Manager of UWL Environmental Health, Occupational Safety and Sustainability Program

STARS Assessment Coordinator (if applicable)

Last Year's JCES Folder: [https://uwlax-my.sharepoint.com/:f/r/person/krolfhus\\_uwlax\\_edu/Documents/JCES%202019-20?csf=1&web=1&e=MdSqwI](https://uwlax-my.sharepoint.com/:f/r/person/krolfhus_uwlax_edu/Documents/JCES%202019-20?csf=1&web=1&e=MdSqwI)

**Meeting Minutes**  
UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability  
11:00 AM, October 9, 2020

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from Sept. 25, 2020
  - a. Driscoll motion, Belby second: 16 – 0 – 0
2. Calling of the roll: Guy Herling (non-instructional academic staff, CSH Dean’s Office), Jake Myers, Olivia Ahnen (Student), Katherine Fish (Library Faculty), Adam Driscoll (SOC Fac.), Tesia Marshik (PSY fac), Colin Belby (GEO fac), Andrew Ericson (Student, Green Fund Coordinator), Dan Sweetman, Sophia Bryne, Emily Roraff (Budget Office), Pearl Bearhart, Lisa Pitot (DES), Dan Sweetman, Drea Higgins, Steve Fulton (Geo Staff), Marot Higgins
3. New Business
  - a. Shared File Access

Everyone seemed able to access the file sharing system via Microsoft teams

- b. [Green Fund Approval Process and General Info Presentation](#)

Andrew presented the general background of the Green Fund and how the Green Fund grant system works and the role of JCES in approving Green Fund grant applications.

The presentation should be available in the meeting minutes folder.

Timeframe for the proposals:

Generally we review them as they come in.

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the large grants for the Fall semester.

There’s a plan that Larry Ringgenberg put together that outlines the general time frame.

- c. Discussion: Goals for the Year

Get involved in the UWDC.

The main focus so far has been getting resolutions passed.

It would be great to get one passed by JCES or the UWL Faculty Senate

We could also work on getting a letter sent to the board of regents.

There have been a few Op-Eds written, including one in the Racket

Get involved with the overall campus strategic plan (get sustainability in there)

(Example- Reducing the use of salt on the campus for walkways and softeners)

We could also draw attention to the use of take-out containers on campus

The OZZI System- Using single-use compostable containers, but we didn’t actually compost them. The OZZI System involved buying a coin that you give to the cashiers and they

give you the compostable version of your tray and what not and you take it to the right machine and it gives you a new coin.

The systems costs about \$20,000, would have saved \$100,000 overall with complete buy in.

The University is looking at other options for

The University is looking to go cashless for all internal transactions.

This would be a problem for students buying their coins.

We also still have interest in getting a sustainability coordinator here on campus.

#### d. UW System Sustainability Conference Call

Guy H: There are minutes available for each call.

There's a meeting coming up (virtual, hosting by River Falls)

They are putting together working groups

Also, updates from around the system.

UWM is working on a large-scale utility solar project. (Working on the PPA)

The Public Service Commission of WI has OEI grants that are available

New energy use standards being reviewed

They are looking for someone to lead some of the future calls

#### 4. Old Business

Cricket

#### 5. Announcements / Updates

Cricket

#### 6. Adjournment

a. Driscoll motion, Belby second: 16 – 0 – 0

**Meeting Minutes**  
UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability  
11:00 AM, October 23, 2020

**Attendance:** Emily Roraff, Andrew Ericson, Adam Driscoll, Lisa Pitot, Guy Herling, Steve Fulton, Dan Sweetman, Jake Myers, Tesia Marshik, Katherine Fish, Olivia Ahnen, Andrea Higgins, Alysa Remsburg

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2020**

Moved- Andrea Higgins, Seconded- Guy Herling, 12-0-0

**2. New Business**

**a. System Sustainability Presentation**

**i. What items do we want to include?**

There's an upcoming sustainability conference among the different Universities in the UW system.

We should talk about what kind of representation we want to have.

We should include the Green Fund grants that we've funded

Dan and Guy would be willing to work together to produce the PowerPoint to submit to the coordinator

We should include the Wittich renovations

The Eagle Recreation Center lighting conversion

The Laux hall lighting conversion

The outdoor lighting conversion

The use of the Ozzi system

New pre-consumer composting system

If anyone has any ideas that they'd like to see incorporated, they should pass those along to Dan or Guy.

The Maroon Apron program would be another good thing to incorporate

It can also include academic programs such as new classes being offered

Would it be possible to share the document/list once it has been compiled?

**b. Postponing Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting to Nov 13<sup>th</sup>**

The sustainability conference is the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and the large Green Fund grant deadline is on the 6<sup>th</sup>, so it makes more sense.

Moved- Adam Driscoll, Seconded- Steve Fulton, 12-0-0

**c. UWL Sustainability Website Coordinator**

This is normally a leadership position that we would like to fill. Typically this position is responsible for the University's sustainability webpage.

Dan S. has done this for years. (Or hired students to do it)

He's currently too pressed for time to be able to continue this.

We really just need someone to keep updating the information that's up there.

Information Communications is the one who connected Dan to the site.

Dan is willing to turn it over.

He's not sure if there's a restriction on having a student do it.

Alysa has done this in the past. Mostly supervising students.

Could we generate a list of what needs updated? To make this task easier for whoever takes it on?

This would help with the consistency since the membership of the committee rotates.

One of the updates we're making for all University webpages is tagging all of the photos for the visually impaired.

We could set it up as an agenda item for each year for the committee to go through the webpage and update it

There is some training/technological knowledge that is required.

Possibly we could have a sub-committee that was responsible for going through the website and picking up/out what needs updated.

This is likely something that would only need to happen once or twice a year.

The software is relatively easy to use.

Drea would be willing to be the point-person of a small committee.

Andrew would also be willing.

So would Guy and Adam.

At a future meeting the small group can stay late.

Tesia, Alysa, and Steve would also all be willing to participate.

### **3. Old Business**

#### **a. Goals: Making Goals More Specific**

The idea was to come up with some clear goals for each of these points.

##### **i. UW Divestment**

UW Divestment- We could draft some form of a letter of support or statement.

The goal would be both the UWL foundation and the UW-System foundation to divest.

There a question of where that money that is taken out of fossil fuels would go.

It would be great to see it go into sustainable companies/businesses.

We had a motion to draft such a statement and a resolution.

Adam and Katherine would be interested in taking the lead with such a statement.

Jake Meyers would help as well. (He's a member of the DC)

## ii. Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan-

Do we know when the next strategic plan is going to be written? It sounds like “soon” but not fixed.

As a joint committee, could we draft separate statements targeting both student and faculty senates.

Requesting that sustainability be featured/incorporated in the next strategic plan.

Last round of strategic planning

Kelly Nowicki (instructional academic staff in management) would be a great resource as someone who tried to do this previously.

Tesia said she can reach out to Kelly.

Emily volunteered to find out when the next strategic plan will be coming along.

## iii. Promotion of Green Fund Projects (OZZI)

Promotion of Green Fund projects

Andrew has made an Instagram account and done some digital signage

J Myers wrote the Ozzi Green Fund grant. Covid has been a big hurdle.

The machine was purchased over the spring and installed in the summer

We could possibly get more students into the Ozzi program if we bought them their first token.

We have another Ozzi grant coming along.

Whitney should be the main target as that’s where students dine the most

The closing and quarantine shut down or dramatically reduced its use

Possibly we can do some tabling

We could write another Greenfund grant to install a power jack and data connection to move the Ozzi machine.

It’s currently tucked away in a corner

Could we put up some other posters and what not to raise awareness

Could we do any additional social media outreach

Thinking about how to promote the Green Fund in general

Alysa had the idea of trying to get a section on grants included in the First Year Seminar

She’ll reach out to Tim Dale about that.

We can also think about trying to feature the Green Fund in classes.

How can we get more faculty to feature sustainability (and the Green Fund) in their classes

It would be interesting to try to organize some kind of day that focuses on sustainability

Sustainability day is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in October

Could we try to work some element of sustainability into student orientation?

#### **iv. Sustainability Coordinator**

#### **4. Announcements / Updates**

##### **a. Likely Green Fund Proposals**

Andrew provided a quick overview of some of the grants we're likely to see.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Moved- Steve Fulton, Seconded- Guy Herling, 12-0-0



## Agenda

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, November 13, 2020

<https://uwlax-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

1. Approval of [Meeting Minutes](#) from October 23, 2020

Motion- Lisa P., Second- Dan S., Unanimous Approval

2. Calling of the Roll: Adam Driscoll (SOC Fac.), Emily Roraff (Budget Office), Andrew Ericson (Student, Green Fund Coordinator), Sophia Bryne, Lisa Pitot (DES), Ben Zess, Kelly Flynn (student), Tesia Marshik (PSY fac), Jake Myers (student), Katherine Fish (Library Faculty), Dan Sweetman, Marot Higgins, Pearl Bearhart, Olivia Ahnen (Student), Pearl B, Colin Belby (Geo Fac.)

3. New Business

- a. Review [Green Fund Proposals](#)

Our role is to rate these as approved/eligible or not and then rank them in terms of priority.

Stadium Walkway LED Lights- A huge benefit in energy usage and they last way longer.

The costs would be partially shared between the Green Fund and Facilities.

(See attached grant proposal)

Do we know why this upgrade is being funded by the Green Fund rather than other lighting upgrades.

In many cases there are other revenue-generating groups (Resident Halls and the Rec) that are responsible for their own lighting upgrades.

Is there any plan for promotion to let people know that the Green Fund paid for those lights?

Possibly even just putting up a small plaque or the like?

Since this is intended to show to the community how dedicated UWL is to sustainability, we should make sure that message is coming across clearly.

There's a list of Green Fund projects up on the webpage.

There are ways we can promote this, but we don't want to just place stickers on pieces of equipment, which will likely not get approved.

We could be including this in our sustainability brochure. Using it as a selling point for the University. (Which is always a good thing.)

Whitney Ozzi Machine #2- This would be the second half of the grant from last year.

One change from last year is that students will be given their first Ozzi coin free.

(See attached grant proposal)

University Centers have agreed to pick up the maintenance costs.

In terms of promotion, University Centers put together a video to help educate students about the program and how it works.

Right now, the student body is relatively ignorant to the system's existence.

Can we add some kind of signage that lets students know that the Ozzi machine is partially funded by the Green Fund?

There is a sign by the original and there will be another one for the second.

Are there competitors out there that have been vetted or compared?

We believe this is the only company providing this service, and it is being widely used by a number of other intuitions, including other UW-Campuses, private businesses, and military bases.

How much capacity does the Ozzi machine have, and will we end up having lines/back-ups/etc.

Move to approve the Stadium LED Lighting as acceptable Green Fund grant.

Colin B., Second- Adam D., Unanimous Approval

Priority

High- 6, Medium 8

Move to approve the Whitney Ozzi Machine #2 as an acceptable Green Fund grant.

Katherine F, Dan S., Unanimous Approval

Priority

High- 14

b. Collaboration with D&I on environmental racism/social justice

Talking about sustainability as a social justice issue.

The plan is to have Dena come to join us to talk about what that collaboration would look like?

Should we get someone from D&I to join the committee.

That would involve a modification of our bylaws.

Almost all of our emphasis has been placed on environmental issues, and none on social issues.

We'll get Dena on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

c. Upcoming meeting schedule

Should we have a meeting next week? Since we're coming up on the end of the term.

We should have the conversation with Dena before we try to make a change to our bylaws.

#### 4. Old Business

##### a. 20-21 Goals

##### i. Update on past efforts to support a Coordinator position (Tesia)

Tesia spoke to Kelly about her experiences and she was at the table with the last strategic plan and although her and others tried to explain sustainability as something more than just the environmental side, but it seems like they were unsuccessful.

Kelly was very supportive.

It seems like other committees have regular attendance from higher level administrators. Possibly we should have someone joining us, or otherwise our efforts are marginalized and minimized.

We should prioritize some more efforts toward continuity in membership or making efforts to re-brief everyone (esp. new members) on the purpose and workings of the committee.

We should try to have conversations about the next year's leadership at the end of this year, rather than the beginning of next.

##### ii. Update on strategic plan (Emily)

The current plan was designed in 2016 and was intended to last for four years.

There's a report out there.

The new one should be coming up, so we should direct our efforts toward getting into the next one, rather than modifying the existing one.

It is one of our values on the University mission statement.

Some of the colleges are developing independent strategic plans, which could also be made to feature sustainability more strongly.

#### 5. Announcements / Updates

#### 6. Adjournment

Motion- Adam D., Second- Dan S., Unanimous Approval

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, December 4, 2020

<https://uwlax-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

Meeting started at 11:03.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2020

Motion to approve (Drea Higgins), Second (Colin Belby): 15-0-0

Calling of the Roll:

Adam Driscoll (SOC Fac.)  
Emily Roraff (Budget Office)  
Andrew Ericson (Student, Green Fund Coordinator)  
Colin Belby (Geo Fac.)  
Ben Zess  
Katherine Fish (Library Faculty)  
Lisa Pitot (DES)  
Jake Myers (student)  
Tesia Marshik (PSY fac)  
Steve Fulton  
Guy Herling  
Pearl Bearhart  
Drea Higgins  
Dan Sweetman  
Olivia Ahnen

2. New Business
  - a. Strategic Plan for Sustainability

Andrew briefly reviewed the document (attached)

With the references to other schools, we should make sure to specify which are our peer and aspirant schools. (<https://www.uwlax.edu/institutional-research/peer-performance-aspirant-institutions/>)

We can also think about a sustainability coordinator as something broader than just environmental sustainability. TC's sustainability coordinator has done some equity work and put efforts into outreach.

The city of La Crosse is doing a lot of sustainability work. It would be nice to reach out to them and coordinate with them which would fit nicely under our Increasing Community Engagement pillar.

What is the goal of this document? (To begin organizing arguments as to why sustainability should be in the next strategic plan)

A bit of a multi-purpose goal.

Anything with a dollar sign is likely to register more strongly with administrators.

The U.N. has a list of 17 sustainability goals. Much broader than just environmental.

We might want to make sure to specify why we as a committee are limited in our ability to do these things. We need to be prepared to explain why we can't do what a coordinator would.

The point about increasing enrollment would likely get a lot more traction.

Adam wasn't sure about how widespread the appeal of the unique ecosystems would be.

Could we invite some other campus members/leaders to talk to us and see how our efforts cross over with their own (like Lisa Kline (community engagement))

Andrew's goal was to consolidate this list down to about five or so points and then get a committee going for each one. The committees would work on their section over winter break.

The idea of a sustainability coordinator was also supported by faculty senate. That should be mentioned as well.

Could we also organize this document like the strategic plan? The more clear and simple that the document is, the stronger of an argument it provides.

Andrew is hoping to continue refining the document, both in its organization and content.

University communications will work with faculty and staff (and us) free of charge to help polish up this document.

Possible larger categories may be:

Increased Enrollment and Retention/Student Satisfaction (Student support and Increased Enrollment)

We can mention all the high school environmental studies clubs and classes.

Admissions does pretty robust campus visits (when there isn't any Covid). We could be trying to highlight the sustainability aspects of the University during those. (Class and clubs, etc.)

Should social justice be its own category?

We could also have one category that was something along the lines of Local Relevance that would include the (Important Ecosystems and Connects to Every Subject/Field)

Education could also be the broader category.

What about just having a Local Relevance category

It would include the Important Ecosystems, what our professors are doing, the community engagement efforts.

We could also include some of the points about the environmental standards in our K-12 system.

The art department recently came out with a climate-change-related exhibit. We need to make sure that we're not limiting our sustainability work (and marketing) to just the hard science courses/professors.

We could possibly have an acronym for our different points. (L.I.F.E.) (Just an idea)

Legacy, Interconnectedness, Focus, Environmental Justice

We would have to work to get our existing categories under these.

The General Education curriculum is being revised and Environment is a potential category.

We should be pushing for that and possibly seeing how to frame our arguments around this or include this in our arguments.

Andrew and Emily will work on a more consolidated list and then we can sign up for which categories we want to work on.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. Green Fund Advertising Role

Andrew did some work on this and sent out an e-mail pertaining to it.

We would need to make a bylaws change which faculty senate would need to vote on.

Is it possible that rather than creating a new position, we could just have Andrew "farm out" these responsibilities to a co-coordinator?

A simpler solution? Bylaw changes are tricky and slow.

Andrew's thoughts were that this would be a different position with distinct responsibilities.

So we could accomplish the same thing but without having to go through all of the red tape.

Motion for Andrew to hire a second coordinator (Jake Myers seconded)

However, the motion was withdrawn because the advertising duties do not currently fall under the coordinator position.

Using Greenfunds to pay students is not allowed, so the Faculty Senate would have to approve of that.

4. Announcements / Updates

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Drea Higgins), Second (Jake Myers): 15-0-0

## Meeting Minutes

UW-L Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

11:00 AM, February 5, 2021

<https://uwlax-edu.zoom.us/j/82893148474>

Meeting started at 11:03.

Calling of the Roll:

Adam Driscoll (SOC Fac.)  
Emily Roraff (Budget Office)  
Andrew Ericson (Student, Green Fund Coordinator)  
Alysa Remsburg  
Sophie Byrne  
Katherine Fish (Library Faculty)  
Tesia Marshik (PSY fac)  
Jake Myers (student)  
Steve Fulton  
Lisa Pitot (DES)  
Olivia Ahnen  
Colin Belby (Geo Fac.)  
Ben Zess  
Margot Higgins

### 1. New Business

#### a. Strategic Plan for Sustainability

There has been a new push for an adaption of the old strategic plan.

There is some support for working environmental sustainability into the new version of the strategic plan.

So there's a window for us to make a pitch, but we need to scramble a bit.

Andrew is looking to make a mock pillar for Environmental Sustainability and have that ready to go.

We would also want to be working on getting some goals under the existing four pillars.

### Timeline

The four governing bodies will be attending JPB meeting next Wednesday

And our understanding is that JPB will be the ones who approve the new plan.



But there will be other organizations/bodies that need to approve.

So our goals for today would be to throw together ideas for what a sustainability pillar would be as well as have some pitches for ways we could be incorporating sustainability language into the existing pillars.

## Increasing Community Engagement

Goals

Actions- Hire a sustainability coordinator

This might be a bit ambitious and too directly worded.

## Advancing Transformational Education

Stevens Point might have some good ideas that we can borrow and incorporate into our own.

Breakout rooms (I was in Room Two)

**(The following is a compiling of various ideas and suggestions. A document was prepared in which we could condense the ideas. It provide a better reflection of the substance of the discussion than what follows.)**

## **Community Pillar**

Highlight natural resources as a key draw. And UWL professors have a lot to offer as far as understanding and appreciate the outside.

Celebrates the active/outdoor culture of La Crosse

Natural amenities

The main goal of the sus. Director is to centralize communication.

Large environmental awareness/concern in both the student body

Act as a resource

The University serve as acting as a nexus point for all of the increasing energy/focus on environmental issues/sustainability training and action.

A focal point in the region for all things environmental/sustainability

Incubate ideas of environmental stewardship

The Wisconsin Idea

UWL should be a regional leader

Encompassing some manner of environmental ethics.

**Serve as a regional leader in environmental and sustainable education, activism, and responsibility.**

**Improving collaboration with other members of the environmental community.**

Foster a University-wide culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Reduce the environmental impact of student, faculty, staff, and visitors.

### **Investing in our People**

We attract better people based on our outdoor amenities.

Training and Environmental awareness

Professional development opportunities to meet the changing world (where climate change will play a major role)

### **Equity**

Do our part for marginalized communities by addressing our role in the climate crisis as these communities will be disproportionately impacted by the changing world.

Help marginalized communities by addressing our culpability in the climate crisis due to the fact that these communities will be disproportionality impacted by this event

We also talked about national and international scale calls for sustainability as an important component for equity

### **Transformational Education**

The University

We need to be educating students about a changing world.

Students care a great deal about the environment.

Incubate ideas of environmental stewardship

Preparing students to meet the demands of a world that is rapidly changing.

Understanding

Intersectionality of pressing issues/key topics modern challenges.

Environmental intersectionality it'll be too much.

Support hands-on experiential learning at Northwestern that enables students to engage with the physical environment, address global environmental issues, and grow as leaders in sustainability.

2. Old Business

a. Green Fund Social Media and Advertising Specialist Mini Grant passed

i. Yes-11, no-1, abstain-1

3. Announcements / Updates

a.

4. Adjournment