

## Sustainability Task Force – Spring 2016 Meeting I

January 29, 2015

Stadium Parking Garage, Room 123

10 a.m. to Noon

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### 1. Introductions

Belkis Hidalgo, Nikhil Schneider, Sarah Kelly, Alex Robinson, Gabriel Durham, Kristina Michel, Leighanne Dean, Kokila Jayasekera, Kayshewa Chamupathi, Elsie Myers, Eve Esch, Sujata Gautam, Jeanne LaMontagne, Kristin Wintersteen, Mackenzie Wysong, Stephanie Coates

### 2. Proposal for meeting time and purpose

#### a. Side projects: <http://bit.ly/STFprojects>

- i. Eve, Belkis, Alex, and Kokila will look into the recycling processes for the Student Center.
- ii. Sarah will be flying to Arizona State with some Aramark employees to see what sustainable practices they have implemented there.
- iii. The office has put together a list of projects that students can work on and reached out to faculty for potential partnerships.

#### b. Future meetings will be from 1-3, and will no longer take place on the last Friday of each month.

#### c. There are four meetings scheduled for Spring, two will include the whole group, and two will be spent working on side projects in smaller groups.

- i. 1-3 on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> was proposed as a side project meeting.
- ii. 1-3 on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> (the Friday before spring break) was proposed for the March meeting.
- iii. 1-3 on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> was proposed as a date to work on side projects.

### 3. Updates

#### a. RecycleMania calendar: [uh.edu/recyclemania](http://uh.edu/recyclemania)

##### i. Kickoff: Feb. 11

1. The fountain in Butler Plaza will be filled with bottles for an impact demonstration, and there will be a bottled water taste test.

##### ii. Sustainability meetup: Feb. 17

1. The first meetup will include a video to encourage people to think about their impact and reduce their waste.

##### iii. Sustainability meetup: March 8

1. The second meetup will feature a panel of waste experts.

##### iv. Electronics Recycling Drive: April 1

1. This event in particular will be promoted in advance to give people time to collect their electronics.

##### v. Potential food waste demo in March

1. The Office is working with Aramark to have them demonstrate how much food waste is generated in dining halls each day.

- b. Pocket prairie fundraiser: [crowdrise.com/grassrootsforchange](https://crowdrise.com/grassrootsforchange)
  - i. The “Grassroots for Change Challenge” is a fundraising challenge between Rice, UH, and St. Thomas to bring a pocket prairie to their campuses. UH’s pocket prairie will be installed on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - ii. The goal is to raise \$12,000 for UH’s prairie project, which will be installed next to SR2.
  - iii. The UH Coastal Center maintains 300 acres of coastal prairie, which can be tied into promotion for the pocket prairie. Photos of the M.D. Anderson pocket prairie and of the original UH historical site could be used in the promotion for the prairie.
- c. Other Spring Events: Keep UH Beautiful Day, Earth Week, Bike to UH Day, (calendar at: [www.uh.edu/sustainability](http://www.uh.edu/sustainability))
  - i. Earth Week will feature movie screenings, garden events, and possibly a bike workshop.
- d. HAUFC Tree Planting Competition: <http://bit.ly/HAUFCtreeplanting>
  - i. The event will take place on 10am on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> close to 290 and the Beltway. Sujata and Kokila are interested, Kristin is a maybe.
- e. Sarah Out: TRACS Feb. 1-4; March 14-22
4. Big belly design review: <http://bit.ly/bigbellydesign>
  - a. The decals themselves need to be UV resistant.
  - b. The fronts of the bins show what goes in each bin. The sides will have messages about recycling, and can also be used as ad space by on-campus partners.
  - c. The design could also include a QR code that would provide people with information about UH recycling.
5. Sustainability policy edits: <http://bit.ly/UHsustainpolicy>
  - a. The policy will prioritize the different categories within the STARS report, and will include health and well-being.
  - b. The policy should be concise and lasting, and shouldn’t need constant updating. It should also include a mission statement that encompasses the roles and goals of the Office of Sustainability and Sustainability Task Force. Suggestions and questions sent to the office can then be vetted though the task force.
  - c. The goal of the office is to guide the campus in the sustainability process.
  - d. Suggested definitions of sustainability:
    - i. Sustainability is the ability to address the needs of the present while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems, and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
    - ii. Sustainability is a transition from short-term thinking to long term seeing. It’s a shift in perspective where environmental, social and economic challenges are no longer viewed as separate and competing but rather interconnected and complementary. Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

- iii. Sustainable development is positive change that does not undermine the environmental or social systems on which we depend. It requires a coordinated approach to planning and policy making that involves public participation. Its success depends on widespread understanding of the critical relationship between people and their environment and the will to make necessary changes.
  - iv. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony that permit fulfilling the environmental, social and economic requirements of present and future generations.
  - v. List of other definitions: <http://bit.ly/definesustainability>
- e. **Sustainability definition:** Sustainability is the capacity to meet the interconnected social, environmental, and economic challenges of the present and enable future generations to thrive.