

I. Policy Statement

HISTORY AND CHARGE

At the turn of the 20th century, the first president of the University, Dr. Edwin Lewis Stephens, hand-planted a grove of live oak trees. Now known as the Twentieth-Century Oaks, these majestic trees envelope the edge of campus with strength, stability, and steadfastness. Stephens later founded the Live Oak Society, a preservation association across 14 states with over 7,000 protected live oak trees.

The University has been committed to the stewardship of our natural environment since its founding. This long-standing environmental ethic supports the University's mission to explore solutions to national and world issues through instruction, research, service, and exemplary leadership. It is this responsibility that motivates the University's sustainability initiative.

University President Dr. E. Joseph Savoie created the President's Council on Sustainability in 2011 to guide the University's efforts and to integrate environmental sustainability into campus life. President Savoie later charged the committee in 2013 to develop a sustainability policy that would define a vision for long-term sustainability at the University, and would describe the necessary steps for implementing such a vision. The following policy is the result of this initiative.

II. Purpose of Policy

COMMITMENT

The University will continuously improve its efforts to protect, preserve, and manage the natural resources and built environment within its domain for future generations. Furthermore, principles of sustainability will be intimately incorporated into essential institutional planning, operations management, and course curricula in a participatory manner that includes the varied disciplines and perspectives necessary to create a resilient institutional framework built on a culture of sustainability.

CORE VALUES

Sustainability at the University is rooted in the core value of stewardship. Stewardship demonstrates an appreciation and respect for all of the resources that we can impact and which have been entrusted to us. Furthermore, several imperatives in the University's 2009-2014 Strategic Plan are fundamental touchstones for implementing the sustainability initiative:

- ☐ Strategic Imperative 1: Strengthening student recruitment and enrollment processes
 - Objective 1B: Advance our positioning as an institution of 'choice' by ensuring environmental sustainability, safety, and physical accessibility on campus
- ☐ Strategic Imperative 4: Supporting the research portfolio of our community of scholars
 - Objective 4C: Focus on signature initiatives supporting the future of our earth and society
- ☐ Strategic Imperative 5: Preparing our students to thrive as global citizens
 - Objective 5B: Ensure our students are poised to face major challenges of the 21st Century by emphasizing sustainability and actions for prudently handling environmental resources

SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES

Education

As an institution of higher learning, the University is committed to educating the next generation of students on the conservation and wise-use of natural resources and the core principles of sustainability. Environmental issues such as climate change, soil and water scarcity, sea level rise, coastal land loss, education in developing countries, energy demand, loss of biodiversity, population growth, and food

security will impact all citizens and economies. These issues are no longer recognized as discipline-specific but, rather, trans-disciplinary. In its endeavor to produce informed citizens and expert professionals capable of integrating one's training into a multifaceted workforce, certain core curricula at the University will include this trans-disciplinary model to train students on environmental, social, and economic sustainability. This goal can be accomplished by integrating sustainability principles into current course curricula and related academic departments, creating a trans-disciplinary sustainability minor, and facilitating internships and service learning courses that advance sustainability principles.

Research

Basic and applied research at the university level, and concomitant involvement in multi-institutional initiatives, are essential to the advancement of sustainability practices in Louisiana and similar communities worldwide. University support for innovative trans-disciplinary research programs in the sciences and engineering, architecture and design, sociology and humanities, and business and finance will be necessary to inform campus operations, support the broader community, and advance the body of knowledge.

Outreach

The University is committed to public education, community outreach, and encouraging sustainable development beyond its campus. As an engaged civic partner, the University recognizes the importance of sponsoring outreach activities that promote the environmental, social, and economic sustainability of the local community. Partnering with citizens, businesses, and public entities will be encouraged in an effort to promote a sustainable community in and around the University.

III. Applicability

The Policy is a comprehensive approach to integrating sustainability into the University's planning, operations, research, curriculum, and community outreach. At the institutional level, this will require strategic and operational synergy between departments, units, service providers, and student organizations. At the individual level, this calls for every member of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette community to commit to making daily lifestyle changes that will further secure a strong, resilient, and responsible University, community, and world.

IV. Definitions

Sustainability

The UN-sanctioned Brundtland Report released in 1987 first defined sustainability as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." A sustainable university should further acknowledge the need for thriving social-ecological systems that flourish rather than simply exist. It should support activities that are socially, economically, and environmentally conscientious. It should employ techniques based on long-term results that continuously evolve in order to protect and preserve resources. This includes reducing the University's impact on the natural environment, identifying resources that are valuable to the campus community, and establishing methods to protect those resources.

Implementation

1. *Campus Operations*

The Office of Sustainability, with support from the President's Council on Sustainability and University administrators, shall create a Campus Sustainability Plan to encourage thoughtful solutions that embrace sustainable living and operations. The Plan is intended to further define procedures for sustainable operations and development, to ensure implementation across all University units, to define methods of assessment and measures of success, and, finally, to identify methods of communication with all University and community stakeholders. The Plan is envisioned as a living document that will be reviewed annually by the President's Council on Sustainability to fulfill the University's mission and achieve excellence in environmental stewardship and campus sustainability leadership. The Campus Sustainability Plan will be proposed to the University Council for approval, will align with the University's Master Plan, and will be included in the Master Plan as an appendix to ensure its longevity and appropriate implementation.

2. *Facilities*

The University will commit to development and improvements that can reduce its ecological footprint. Buildings, grounds, and infrastructure will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to meet resource conservation regulatory requirements and work towards ecological neutrality, i.e., the inputs or resources required are not greater than the outputs or waste. The conservation of energy and materials, and the longevity of University facilities will be the guiding principles.

3. *Food*

University food services will be operated in an environmentally responsible manner that reduces food waste and disposable food serving dishes and utensils. Locally produced or sustainability harvested products will be used whenever feasible.

4. *Transportation*

The University will continue its ongoing commitment to facilitate and encourage safe and efficient travel to/from and within campus by different modes such as bicycles, walking transit, and efficient use of University-owned parking resources. In addition, the University will continue to provide affordable, on-campus housing to reduce the level of single-occupancy vehicular traffic in and around campus. The University shall develop a Comprehensive Transportation Policy to improve transportation infrastructure on campus, partner with the Lafayette Metropolitan Planning Organization and local transit, encourage alternative travel methods, and support alternative fuel consumption within the University community.

5. *Campus Waste*

The University recognizes the environmental and economic impacts created by the disposal of solid materials. The University is committed to reducing the volume of solid waste produced from its operations, activities, and ongoing campus development. The Office of Sustainability shall evaluate the University's current practices and develop short-term and long-term goals to drastically reduce its solid waste production first through reduction, then through reuse, and finally through its Geaux R.E.D. recycling program.

6. *Campus Trees*

The University values the urban forest created by campus trees, appreciates the historic and social significance of its trees, and recognizes the ecological, aesthetic, economic, and

educational benefits that its trees provide for the campus and community. The University shall maintain membership in the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus USA[®] program and develop a Campus Tree Policy to guide developers, architects, engineers, project managers, and contractors through design and construction to maintain a zero net loss of trees through preservation and mitigation practices.

7. *Purchasing*

The University recognizes the key opportunity to exercise environmental responsibility through purchasing decisions and acknowledges that environmentally responsible purchasing, as a large institution, can help to create and sustain markets for environmentally responsible products. The University is committed to the goal of balancing environmentally and fiscally responsible purchasing choices by considering life cycle costs, source material and disposal issues, long-term implications, and the environmental impacts of its purchasing policies. Language will be included in University procurement documents and bidding proposals that encourage environmentally responsible materials and operations from the seller. Whenever feasible, an environmental sustainability factor will be considered when scoring such proposals.

8. *Unit Planning*

Each University college or unit shall demonstrate a commitment to campus sustainability by incorporating policies and procedures that encourage and reward sustainability-related research, teaching, and service.

9. *Curriculum*

The Curriculum Sub-committee of the President's Council on Sustainability, with coordination from the academic deans, shall support the integration of sustainability principles into appropriate course curricula across the University.

10. *Funding*

The Director of Sustainability, with support from the President and Vice President for Administration and Finance, shall identify a continuous revenue stream for funding the operation and maintenance of the Office of Sustainability. Savings generated by successful resource conservation and sustainable design should be re-invested into subsequent sustainability initiatives sponsored by the Office of Sustainability for the good of the University.

VI. Enforcement

It is under the purview of the Director of Sustainability, Chair of the President's Council on Sustainability, and the Chair of Campus Planning Committee to assess and determine any violations of the Sustainability Policy.

The Director of Sustainability, Chair of the President's Council on Sustainability, and the Chair of Campus Planning Committee are responsible for advising the President of the University of any violations to the Policy. The President of the University is to determine the appropriate sanctions for any violations.

VII. Policy Management

The Office of Sustainability, led by the Director of Sustainability, shall report to the President's Office and lead the effort to coordinate cross-campus activities as they relate to campus sustainability. The

President's Council on Sustainability shall support the Office of Sustainability and advise the President and Director of Sustainability on relevant matters.

The Office of Sustainability, with support from the President's Council on Sustainability, shall propose measures of success for the implementation of the principles outlined in this policy and shall report annually to the University President and the University Council on the projects and planning efforts that advance campus sustainability.

VIII. Exclusions

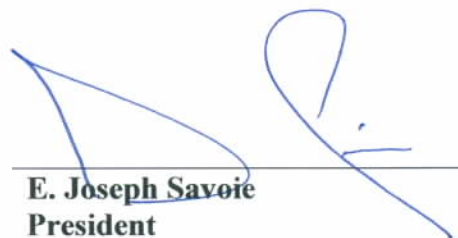
There are no exclusions to this policy.

IX. Effective Date

The University Sustainability Policy is effective October 27, 2014.

X. Adoption Date

This policy is hereby adopted on this 27th day of October, 20 14.


E. Joseph Savoie
President