



UM Sustainability Forum

November 7, 2025

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Agenda:

- I. Introductions
 - A. Office of Sustainability
 - 1. John Brugge
 - 2. Hailey Smith
 - B. Rory Ledbetter (RC South Fellow)
 - C. Tim Menzel (biology department)
 - D. Caleb (OOS student)
 - E. Leah (OOS student)
 - F. Nicholas Harvey (Southern Studies student)
- II. Last Meeting Review
 - A. University of Mississippi Sustainability Forum
 - 1. Purpose, Meetings, Goals
 - a) Open forum for campus stakeholders to discuss projects, network, get involved with Green Fund
 - b) Anyone can propose an item on the agenda
 - 2. UMSF Associated Committees
 - a) STAM
 - b) Campus Garden
 - 3. Operating Committee Member Applications
 - a) Awaiting new Green Fund charter approval
 - B. University of Mississippi Green Fund
 - 1. Purpose, Projects, Goals
 - a) Fund Faculty, Staff, Student projects that promote sustainability with broader impacts for the UM and city community
 - 2. Committee Member Applications
 - a) Awaiting new charter approval
- III. Commenced Sustainability Initiatives
 - A. Greenhouse Cleanup Volunteer Events
 - 1. Hosted twice at the old Bio greenhouse
 - 2. Going to become a compost facility using a Black Soldier Fly system
 - B. Sustainability Social
 - 1. Large student turnout

- 2. Announced compost program
- C. Glass Recycling Drive
 - 1. Will get weight from Door2Door Recycling soon
 - 2. Large community turnout
 - 3. Received comments on better avenues for promotion
 - 4. Next drive will be in April
- IV. Prospective Sustainability Initiatives
 - A. Compost Program
 - 1. Funded by Aramark
 - 2. Planning renovations now to accommodate thermal and moisture management
 - 3. Waiting on MDEQ compost permit review and approval
 - 4. Planning a CME student workshop at the facility
 - B. Recycling Bin Audits
 - 1. Offering volunteer hours for bin observations
 - 2. Tracking contamination and user behavioral practices
 - 3. Part of Ole Miss Recycles Month programming
 - 4. Part of our effort to create a new optimized recycling bin standard
 - C. Sustainability Report
 - D. Environmental Management System
 - E. Waste Audit
 - 1. Part of Ole Miss Recycles Month programming
 - 2. Sampling waste from 4-5 buildings during normal operations
 - 3. Targeting the 20th of November for Audit
- V. Sustainability Initiative Proposals
 - A. Open to Faculty, Staff, and Student projects
 - B. Please reach out to OOS team to add to the next agenda
- VI. UM Green Fund Project Proposals
 - A. New Charter is still being reviewed by Admin
 - B. Awaiting confirmation and renewal
 - C. Green Fund Committee approves projects under \$1k, projects over get reviewed at the UMSF
 - D. Ideas in the queue: window UV screens to mitigate bird collisions
- VII. Questions and Comments
 - A. Open Forum
 - B. The Grove has ClearStream bins to collect recycling during gamedays
 - 1. Landscaping sets out bins, City of Oxford sorts through recycling
 - 2. Facing challenges of contamination, inconvenience
 - 3. Should utilize gamification strategies
 - C. The Greek houses produce a lot of aluminum
 - 1. OOS tried to create a competitive event for aluminum recycling

2. Coca Cola agreed to sponsor the event, but ran into contractual issues
3. Currently trying to collaborate with athletics to provide incentives for a spring or next fall event
- D. The Associated Student Body is targeting paper waste
 1. Our office is supporting their efforts
- E. Shrub islands around the Grove and the Circle are roped off
 1. Conserves the foliage to enable ground foraging of birds
 2. How does what we do affect the wildlife that inhabit our campus?
 3. Could we modify fences to allow easier access to birds/squirrels?
Could we implement temporary fences on high traffic days?
- F. Place-based conservation education programming
 1. Building a water feature at the Campus Garden
 2. We recently hosted the Lafayette County Master Gardeners to present on herb gardening
 3. Pollinator gardens and tree walk tours are conducted by Landscaping
- G. Large demand for recycling of materials not currently processed
 1. Using glass drives to demonstrate an economy of scale
- H. Wildlife sustainable infrastructure
 1. Dedicated perches to provide refugia from noise pollution
- I. SocAnth research on Grove Culture
 1. Could behaviors be influenced by popular sentiments and tradition?
 2. Could we integrate surveys into tent registration to gather data before people reach the Grove?

VIII. Next Meeting

- A. December 5, 2025, 1-2:30 PM, Barnard Observatory Room 108
- B. Email sustainability@olemiss.edu to add to next meeting's agenda
- C. Find this meeting and the upcoming meeting notes at olemiss.edu/sustain/