



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Sustainability Advisory Committee Charter

Definition of Sustainability

The most commonly held definition of sustainability is “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Statement of Purpose

In response to Governor Hunt’s Executive Order 156, UNC appointed its first Sustainability Officer in 1999. A grassroots Sustainability Coalition, consisting of students, staff, faculty, and administrators interested in sustainability formed to evaluate current practices and explore future opportunities.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee, advising the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, is being constituted as a recognized committee to make recommendations on a more holistic approach to the development and implementation of sustainable policies, practices, research, and curricula across the University. The Committee will recommend long-term sustainability goals for the University and identify the means to achieve them. The Committee will develop a better understanding of existing incentives and disincentives, and propose more effective strategies. The Committee members will champion these strategies and communicate them to each member’s respective area so that all stakeholders take ownership.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Devise a comprehensive and common-sense way to foster sustainability across the entire organization.
- Improve the University’s sustainability intelligence – how information is gathered and reported, findings analyzed, lessons learned, and results applied.
- Utilize sustainability for the University’s competitive advantage – in recruitment, fundraising, financial and resource management, and funded research.
- Disseminate sustainability accomplishments, tools, and challenges.
- Establish campus-wide measurement methodologies for quantifying, comparing, benchmarking, and prioritizing progress toward sustainability.
- Foster linkages among and within campus departments, both operational and academic.
- Develop tools and incentives that make the sustainable choice the easy choice.

- Advise the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration on all matters related to Campus Sustainability.

Membership

The Sustainability Advisory Committee members will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration to be broadly representative of all campus constituencies; to provide expertise in planning, operations, academics, research, and student life; and to bring their unique familiarity with various aspects of sustainability.

Membership will consist of:

Director, Carolina Environmental Program, Co-chair
 Director, Facilities Services, Co-chair
 Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Services/UNC Sustainability Officer
 Provost Designee
 Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Designee
 Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Designee
 Faculty, City and Regional Planning
 Director, Center for Sustainable Enterprise
 Director, Energy Services
 Director, Materials and Disbursement Services
 Director, Medical School Planning Office
 Special Assistant for Capital Projects
 Graduate Student Government Representative
 Undergraduate Student Government Representative
 Sustainability Coordinator

Committee Procedures

Assessing the long-term effects of campus decisions, and including sustainability principles in decision-making, is a process of continuous improvement. The Committee's composition is intended to bring together the perspectives of diverse stakeholder groups to insure that sustainable principles and practices are adopted as a part of the University's journey toward becoming the leading public university. The Committee is not a proportionately representative, oversight, policy, or rulemaking body, and thus is expected to arrive at its recommendations by consensus rather than by vote. As an advisory group, the Committee must understand that the University has many competing needs and limited resources, and may not be able to implement every recommendation. The Committee should endeavor to provide advice that is viewed as balanced, objective, practical, and in the best interests of the entire campus community. The Committee will work year-round and may organize its work and meeting schedule as it deems appropriate. The Committee is encouraged to keep a record or minutes of its meetings and post updates to the Sustainability website to insure that the campus receives accurate, complete, and timely information.