



The **UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA**
Environmental Concerns Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

11:00 AM CDT November 8, 2022

Call To Order

A meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee was held via Zoom on November 8th, 2022. It began at 11:01 AM and was presided by chair Heather McCarthy.

Agenda Items

- I. Presentation: Sarah Ballew Update to the Princeton Review Report
 - a. Academics
 - i. Number of graduates in degree programs which require sustainability learning outcomes = 82
 - ii. Relevant degree programs:
 1. Environmental Sustainability
 2. Environmental Studies
 3. Environmental Engineering
 4. Environmental Science
 - iii. Sustainability related courses: more than 250 courses across 30 different departments
 - b. Research
 - i. Faculty engaged in sustainability research: 106
 - ii. Notable research accomplishments
 1. Dr. Ebert – Artificial intelligence-enabled sustainable agriculture communities and production
 2. Dr. Neeson – Impacts of conservation incentives for farmers who rely on water in the Red River Basin.
 3. Dr. Murray – Negative carbon emissions in an agro-energy producing region
 4. Dr. Xue – Climate change impacts and adaptation strategies for Latin America.
 - c. Student Groups
 - i. Recent activities:
 1. Green Week - Organized a week-long programming event under the theme "Eco Ego" to promote environmental awareness on campus.
 2. OU Beekeepers Association - Hosted multiple bee education events, including "Native Bees 101" and a lecture on bee navigation.

3. ESSA - Assisted the City of Norman with a day of service for a park clean-up at Griffin Community Park.
4. Styro-Home - Partnered with a local church to create a Styrofoam recycling opportunity at the Department of Geography and Sustainability building.

d. Green Building

- i. Our campus utilizes the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard to measure our green building efforts. The Princeton Review uses that same standard to assess green building efforts.
- ii. The intent of green building is to implement practices which balance environmental, social, and economic needs throughout all stages of a built structure – the planning, design, construction and operation.
- iii. OU currently has 9 buildings with LEED recognition: Three Partners Place (Certified), Zarrow Hall (Certified), Four Partners Place (Certified), Radar Innovations Laboratory (Certified), Five Partners Place (Certified), Headington Hall (Certified), the Residential Colleges (Silver), Lin Hall (Silver) and Gallogly Hall (Gold).
- iv. The Princeton Review tracks square footage which was constructed within the previous three years and LEED certified. For our last reporting year, that total was 440,497

e. Transportation

- i. Bike Share: In the beginning of 2020, OU transitioned from the Crimson Cruisers to the Veoride program which offers both bikes and scooters. Students are able to use the bicycles for free.
- ii. Mass Transit: OU offers a free campus shuttle program as well as access to CART's City of Norman public transportation routes for free.
- iii. Prohibitive Idling: CART has an idle reduction policy in place for all fleet vehicles. If a vehicle will be out of service or offline for 15 minutes or more, the engine should be shut down.
- iv. Alternative Transportation: 31.5% of campus community uses a form of sustainable transportation as their primary method of transportation (walk, bike, carpool, vanpool, campus shuttle, public transportation).

f. Miscellaneous

- i. Landscaping Integrated Pest Management – 1,820 acres of campus grounds are maintained in accordance with an IPM Plan.
- ii. Energy – OU purchased 407,000 MMBTU of renewable energy
- iii. Green Cleaning Expenditures – OU purchased \$99,000 worth of cleaning products that were certified as either Green Seal or EcoLogo.
- iv. Recycling Tonnage – OU recycled 520 tons of materials.
- v. Food – 30% of food expenditures were classified as either local (within 250 miles) or classified as USDA Certified Organic, Marine Stewardship Council Blue Ecolabel, Food Alliance, Fair Trade, Certified Humane Raised and Handled.

II. Newly Implemented - Recycling Signage Standard

a. Purpose:

- i. Increase volume of collected recyclable materials.
 - ii. Decrease contamination of materials disposed of improperly.
 - iii. Increase ease of access to recycling infrastructure.
- b. Standards:
 - i. Bin Co-location: Place plastic/metals, paper and landfill bin as a group of three
 - ii. Signage: Color differentiated, mixture of images and words
 - iii. Eye Height
- c. Numbers to Date:
 - i. 3.2 million GSF
 - ii. 40 Buildings
 - iii. Academic Spaces