

# University of Kentucky Student Sustainability Council

## Statement of Principles

### Purpose

To be stewards of the student sustainability fee, representing the University of Kentucky and serving the students as sustainable role models in the state and across the nation.

In realizing this purpose we strive to:

- A) Assist the sustainable realization of the University of Kentucky.
- B) Protect and enhance Kentucky's ecosystems, the health of Kentuckians, and the universities ability to support income from agrarian livelihoods.
- C) Support research into issues related to sustainable development
- D) Provide information to assist well-informed and effective community participation in decision-making on issues related to sustainability.

### Guiding Principles

The council will strive to support projects and efforts that:

#### **Energy**

- Encourage renewable forms of energy.
- Reduce our reliance on non-renewable forms of energy such as coal and natural gas.
- Increase energy efficiency.

#### **Research & Education**

- Act in the advancement of sustainability education for students and communities statewide.
- Encourage research opportunities actively engaged in the discovery of new technologies, beliefs, processes and practices for the growth of sustainability at the University of Kentucky.
- Recognize and work to educate the public on the impacts of anthropogenic global climate change

#### **Infrastructure & Waste Management**

- Act in the advancement of sustainability projects on campus and within the Commonwealth.
- Lead to LEED certification, increased energy efficiency, and climate neutrality
- Reduced dependence on non-renewable resources.
- Increase recycling facilities
- Reduce harmful and excessive resource consumption.

## **Transportation**

- Promote sustainable forms of transportation.
- Advocate healthy lifestyle choices.
- Reduce atmospheric emissions.

## **Purchasing**

- Encourage just trade practices.
- Deploy socially responsible sustainable investments and strategic planning.
- Avoid sweat-shop labor
- Support companies that respect human dignity, and remain union-neutral.

## **Biodiversity**

- Ensure that the genetic variability on earth is not compromised
- Safeguard species diversity and maintain sufficient habitat so as not to impede natural ecosystem function, existence, and evolution.

## **Food**

- Encourage composting and sustainably grown food.
- Participate in food donation.
- Promote local markets.

This statement of principles is non-exhaustive and the council should work in good faith to promote the realization of the theory, practice and reality of sustainability at the University of Kentucky. Sustainability here is defined as the intersection of social, economic and environmental justice.

**'The Council is independent of any political party, company or other organization.'**