

UMKC Sustainability Committee

Mission statement

The Sustainability Committee will actively facilitate the University of Missouri-Kansas City's role in shaping a resilient and regenerative society. We are deeply concerned by the rapid rate of climate change as the source of significant disruption and harmful impacts to the citizens of Missouri and the world. Through an engaged community the university can explore innovative solutions to climate adaptations and champion an equitable and diverse civil society. UMKC leadership in sustainability will provide research-based knowledge, practice, and skilled graduates to our community. The Committee supports leadership across the university to achieve climate neutrality, and in integrating resilience into curriculum, research, and campus operations.

Background

The committee was originally formed after UM system President Forsee signed *The American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment* in 2012, to develop the university's Phase II plan for carbon emissions reduction. Sustainability was active on the UMKC campus and achieved significant results: the hiring of a full-time sustainability coordinator, five LEED certified buildings including the new student union and library addition, a campus wide green cleaning strategy, composting in the dining services, a green purchasing plan, free KC-ATA bus passes for UMKC students with ID, EV charging stations, an EV truck, and a significant recycling program. UMKC's recycling program won the national collegiate *Recycle Mania Competition* Grand Champion in 2013 and placed second in 2014, 2015 and 2016. UMKC was also the recipient of the Mid-America Regional Council's *Sustainable Successes Award* 2012 and 2014.

Due to budget cuts, the coordinator position was eliminated and the committee stopped meeting after the carbon commitment planning. In the fall of 2019, under the leadership of the UMKC Faculty Senate, the committee has been reinstated and endorsed by the Student Government Association and Staff Council. The committee meets monthly.

Co-Chairs

Molly Davies, PhD, Assistant Professor of Geoscience, and Grant Verhulst, UMKC student

Members (individuals who have attended meetings or expressed interest in participating in the committee)

Students

Grant Peterson

Grant Verhulst

Justice Horn

Kyle McAllister

Carrie Bailey
Riddhi Sharma
Max Eiberger
Heather Cochran
Troy Frazier
Katelin Nott
Sofia Contreras

Staff

Ronald Hemming
Steve Jenks
Jody Jeffries
Velda Robins

Faculty

Molly Davies
Johanna Nilsson
Irma Russell
Toni Luppino
Laurel Watson
Carol Schmer
Jacob Wagner
Sue Lasiter