

1 **STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FEE PLAN FOR LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

2 REVISION 0.5 – SEPTEMBER 2017

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4 **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

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6 The Student Sustainability Fee at Louisiana State University (LSU) is dedicated to the implementation of
7 specific projects that increase environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and/or eco-friendly technologies
8 on campus.

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11 **DEFINITION:**

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13 The term “sustainability” in this document refers to the concept and practice of reducing humanity’s
14 impact on the environment so as not to deplete or irreparably damage natural resources necessary for
15 long-term ecological balance.

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18 **STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FEE PROGRAM:**

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20 **Strategic Goal 1:**

21 Foster the development of environmentally sustainable projects and initiatives on campus to ensure that
22 future students will have the same or better resources, opportunities and experiences as prior
23 generations.

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25 **Objective 1.1.** Enable collaboration among all departments, organizations, and stakeholders
26 (e.g., current students, prospective students, faculty, staff, alumni, governmental agencies, non-
27 profits, private businesses, and the public) to achieve, educate, support, and promote
28 environmental sustainability at LSU.

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30 **Objective 1.2.** Bolster existing sustainable practices put in place by various campus entities
31 through educating stakeholders on these programs’ existence and their successes.

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33 **Objective 1.3.** Provide opportunities for students to receive real-world experience in issues and
34 initiatives related to environmental sustainability, as well as research and project management
35 skills, to further professional development and leadership proficiency.

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37 **Objective 1.4.** Provide incentives for sustainable practices by students and student organizations
38 on campus.

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40 **Objective 1.5.** Form partnerships with peer institutions to learn and share best practices.

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42 **Strategic Goal 2:**

43 Incorporate environmental sustainability in all facets of LSU, including campus operations, activities, and
44 infrastructure.

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46 **Objective 2.1.** Reduce waste, with a goal of becoming a zero-waste campus, while improving
47 recycling and investing in other “zero waste” practices, such as composting.

49 **Objective 2.2.** Reduce energy use through energy efficiency upgrades to campus buildings and
50 installation of renewable energy systems.

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52 **Objective 2.3.** Reduce water use through water-smart landscaping and the installation of efficient
53 appliances and fixtures.

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55 **Objective 2.4.** Invest in sustainable transportation practices to enable students, faculty and staff
56 to bike, walk, carpool, and use buses in order to lessen the use of private vehicles.

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58 **Objective 2.5.** Promote a more sustainable, healthier food system on campus through
59 sustainable and/or local sourcing, promoting energy-efficient food products, encouraging the use
60 of reusable containers, and reducing food waste via donations or composting.

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62 **Strategic Goal 3:**

63 Ensure that the natural resources on and surrounding campus are protected for future generations.

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65 **Objective 3.1.** Take the necessary actions for LSU to do its part to decrease greenhouse gas
66 emissions and reduce the carbon footprint of the university.

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68 **Objective 3.2.** Install green infrastructure systems to improve water quality and reduce
69 stormwater runoff.

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71 **Objective 3.3.** Partner with local municipalities and state agencies to make the entire region
72 more sustainable.

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75 **PROCEDURES AND POLICIES:**

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77 **Authorization:**

78 The Student Sustainability Fee funds will be supplemental to currently allocated funds for sustainable
79 infrastructure, technology, and initiatives. This fee will enhance, not replace, existing funds. This student
80 recommended fee was approved through a campus-wide student referendum (Spring 2016). Consistent
81 with the Constitution of the Student Government, any proposal to amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate
82 this student self-assessment must be approved by a majority vote by members of the Student Body
83 participating in a Fall or Spring Primary Election. Such proposals must comply with LSU System
84 Permanent Memorandum Twenty-Nine (PM-29) and may be initiated by either a two-thirds (2/3) vote of
85 the Student Senate or a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the Student Body.

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87 **Fee Assessment:**

88 The Student Sustainability Fee shall be assessed only to full-time undergraduate, graduate, and
89 professional students and in the amount of two dollars (\$2) per fall and spring term, and one dollar (\$1)
90 per summer term.

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92 **Administration:**

93 The Student Sustainability Fee Program shall be overseen by the Student Sustainability Fee Oversight
94 Committee, an eleven-member (11) group chaired by the Student Body President or his/her designee and
95 including a member of Campus Sustainability, a member of Facility Maintenance, a member of Planning,
96 Design & Construction, a member of the Faculty Senate, a member of the Staff Senate, and five (5)
97 students, including the Speaker of the Student Senate, the President of the Graduate Student

98 Association, President of the School of Veterinary Medicine Council, and two (2) other students to be
99 appointed by the Student Body President with Student Senate ratification. (The members may designate
100 others to represent them on an ad-hoc or regular basis.) The Vice President for Student Affairs will serve
101 as an ex-officio, non-voting member. The Student Body President may also appoint an ex-officio, non-
102 voting member from his/her executive staff to serve as liaison to the Financial Coordinator for the Student
103 Government. Business will not be considered at any Student Sustainability Fee Oversight Committee
104 meeting without a quorum comprising at least six (6) members of the committee; the quorum must include
105 at least four (4) of the student members of the Committee and two (2) of the non-student members. The
106 Student Sustainability Fee Oversight Committee shall conduct its business in accordance with Robert's
107 Rules of Order and the procedures stipulated herein.

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109 **Proposals:**

110 A call for proposals will be broadcast to the LSU community each fall term. Proposals for funding by the
111 Student Sustainability Fee may be submitted by any student, faculty, or staff member. Proposals written
112 by multiple authors must identify a principal implementer (PI). Students serving as PIs must identify an
113 LSU faculty or staff member to serve as co-PI. This requirement is to facilitate the procurement of goods
114 and/or services throughout project implementation.

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116 Each proposal must specify which of the goals and objectives of the Student Sustainability Fee Plan
117 would be advanced should the proposal be implemented. Each proposal must also identify and quantify
118 the primary and secondary beneficiaries among the student population. Proposals may include Student
119 Sustainability Fee funds as leverage for gaining additional funds (e.g., as matching funds in grant
120 applications) provided that sums substantially in excess of those requested from the Student
121 Sustainability Fee revenues would be invested in conformity with the goals, objectives, policies, and
122 procedures of the Student Sustainability Fee Plan.

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124 The Student Sustainability Fee Oversight Committee may appoint Technical Review Committees as
125 appropriate to assist in the evaluation of proposals. Proposals will be funded at the requested amount or
126 not at all (i.e., partial funding is not available). Project authors may submit subsequent proposals,
127 regardless of the approval or disapproval of the original request. Additional and/or recurring funding for a
128 previously approved project is not guaranteed.

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130 **Expenditures:**

131 No expenditures shall be made from the Student Sustainability Fee Fund except as authorized in the
132 annual Student Sustainability Fee Program budget recommended by a majority vote of the Student
133 Sustainability Fee Oversight Committee. Following project approval, principal implementers will be
134 instructed to coordinate with the Financial Coordinator for Student Government regarding the allocation of
135 awarded funds. Project funds will become available the semester following approval (i.e., the spring term)
136 and must be expended by the end of following fiscal year. As such, principal implementers will have
137 approximately eighteen (18) months to procure requested goods and/or services. Allocated funds that are
138 not utilized by the end of the implementation period shall be returned to the Student Sustainability Fee
139 Fund for reallocation by the Committee. The Student Sustainability Fee Oversight Committee reserves
140 the right to extend this period as needed. PIs will be asked to submit a brief completion report upon
141 realization of the project.

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143 Deviations from the approved project budget, involving a change in price/quantity or the
144 addition/substitution of budget items, must be communicated to the Financial Coordinator for Student
145 Government as soon as possible. Budget change requests will be reviewed by the Student Sustainability
146 Fee Oversight Committee and either approved or denied. Such alterations may not cause the project

147 budget to surpass the total amount included in the original proposal and should be consistent with the
148 project's intended outcomes.

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150 **Auditing and Evaluation:**

151 All funds generated by the Student Sustainability Fee shall be placed in a university account (maintained
152 by the Student Government) strictly restricting expenditures to those in full compliance with the Student
153 Sustainability Fee Plan. The university will provide fiscal and compliance audits of the Student
154 Sustainability Fee Program and will regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The results of
155 these evaluations will be reported to the Student Government and other university governance bodies, as
156 appropriate. Monies generated by the Student Sustainability Fee shall not be used to assess the
157 effectiveness of the Student Sustainability Fee Program.

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159 **Amendment of the Student Sustainability Fee Plan:**

160 The Student Sustainability Fee Plan may be amended only upon a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the
161 members of the Student Sustainability Fee Oversight Committee and approval by a simple majority vote
162 of the Student Senate.

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179 **APPROVED:**

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185 CHAIR, STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FEE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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187 **DATE:** _____

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193 SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

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195 **DATE:** _____