Committee Overview
The first meeting of the President’s Committee on Sustainability was held on December 4, 2008. The committee membership totals 18 voting members, along with an ex-officio secretary. At the first meeting, the committee reviewed the charge and set out a framework of four subcommittees to focus on related aspects of the charge. These four subcommittees are: Environmental Impact, Policies and Procedures, Community Outreach and Communications, and School and Department Initiatives. Committee members self-identified their subcommittee assignments and invited additional stakeholders to join the subcommittees to broaden representation and bring additional subject experts to each focus area.

The full committee meetings occur every 6 weeks, with the subcommittees meeting roughly monthly. Each subcommittee has further defined their goals and objectives for the calendar year.

Committee and Subcommittee Membership
Full Committee: David Neuman (Chair), Tim Rose, Rebecca White, Ben Chrisinger, Mark White, Bill Keene, Laura Sprung, Tom Harkins, Ida Lee Wootten, Cheryl Gomez, Wynne Stuart, Ralph Allen, Christina Morell, James Smith, Don Sundgren, Jon Cannon, Glenn Heimgartner, Tim Beatley, Andrew Greene (ex-officio)

Committee on Sustainability Work to Date
The Committee on Sustainability has met four times prior to issuing this report. At the first meeting the members focused on the committee particulars: establishing the function and role of each subcommittee, agreeing on a regular meeting schedule, and reviewing the Collab tool in which to share materials.

The second meeting of the full committee (held on January 15) included updates from the subcommittees, a detailed presentation on the LEED certification process for U.Va. projects from Connie Warnock, and a briefing on joint regional sustainability and carbon reduction planning efforts with the City and County from David Neuman. In general discussion, the members gravitated to the topic of responsibility and awareness of energy use by departments and building occupants, a theme that reoccurs frequently.

The third meeting (February 26) introduced the full committee to events organized and/or supported by subcommittees. The first, brought forward by the Community Outreach and Communications subcommittee, was Earth Hour, a global event to raise awareness of energy waste and the environmental impacts of energy use. The second event was the Student Sustainability Symposium, this was an event conceived by the School and Department Initiatives Subcommittee to highlight ongoing student-led projects that focus on advancing sustainability. The committee also reviewed changes to the www.
Virginia.edu/sustainability webpage and heard a presentation from the committee’s undergraduate representative, Ben Chrisinger, on student efforts and the Student Council’s Environmental Sustainability Committee.

The fourth and most recent meeting (April 9) featured a case study of the Earth Hour event, including the timeline of decision making and event publicity, participation, and post-event feedback. The Earth Hour event is viewed as both an opportunity to raise awareness about energy waste and an opportunity to test our ability to distribute a large-scale, sustainability focused message to the U.Va. and outside community. Other agenda items included an overview by Andrew Greene of the University’s greenhouse gas inventory and current planning efforts to reduce GHG emissions, which is the primary focus of the Environmental Impact subcommittee. Finally, Mark White provided additional information about the upcoming Student Sustainability Symposium along with other planned events for Earth Week.

**Subcommittees Work to Date**

**Policies and Procedures Subcommittee**
Membership: Christina Morell, Wynne Stuart, Ralph Allen, Ben Chrisinger, Richard Brownlee, Bill Ashby, Connie Warnock, Andrew Greene

This subcommittee is tasked with reviewing and updating U.Va.’s SPEAR self-assessment (Sustainable Project Assessment Routine), reviewing University policies and procedures from the perspective of sustainability, and recommending new policies and procedures that would enhance the sustainability of University activities. The subcommittee has identified three areas of focus for this calendar year: reviewing purchasing and procurement policies, reviewing procedures surrounding large University events, and examining if a new feedback policy on energy use could be implemented. At the last meeting Brent Beringer, director of U.Va. Dining, and Bryan Kelly, executive chef, shared their experience with purchasing sustainable food products and setting metrics to measure and expand that activity.

**Community Outreach and Communications Subcommittee**
Membership: Ida Lee Wootten (Chair), Julia Monteith, Laura Sprung, Virginia Carter, Armando de Leon, John Quale, Brian Smith, Lori Ponton, Trish Romer, Kevin Fox, Andy Platt, Jason Pedone, Jess Wenger, Andrew Greene

The Community Outreach and Communications Subcommittee has two goals:

A. To develop a University-wide communications plan with a goal of increasing sustainable behavior among employees, students, patrons and guests, including patients and their family members, prospective students and their family members, alumni, donors, attendees at athletics competitions and arena events, and area residents who take advantage of U.Va.’s services and programs daily.

B. To recommend new opportunities to educate the University community and area residents about sustainable thinking and practice.

The 14 subcommittee members contributed a wide range of suggestions on elements needed to meet these goals. By comparing and analyzing suggestions and reviewing web sites of peer institutions, the subcommittee proposes four recommendations:

1. Develop a full-scale sustainability-awareness campaign that makes it clear what steps the University and individuals are taking to help the environment. Key elements of this campaign would be:
   - Encourage students and employees to take a Sustainability Pledge to make daily decisions that help reduce ecological footprints (similar to Yale’s and Duke’s pledge).
   - Redesign the current Sustainability web site into a broad resource center giving consumer-friendly informa-
tion that shows the breadth of efforts across Grounds. The site would include easy-to-view information about recycling, Energy ABCs, departmental initiatives, such as those in P&T, Procurement, Housing; planning and building use; efforts in operations to conserve energy and water usage; and descriptions of academic and research pursuits. The site would also include sustainability metrics, giving data on a year-by-year basis on use of natural resources; systems and processes, such as waste management, land use, food systems, transportation, and building design and construction; and culture, such as curriculum, interdisciplinary research projects and educational events. (Yale has comprehensive sustainability metrics site.)

- Develop University-wide sustainability slogan with one representative logo or an integrated set of logos to reflect breadth of U.Va.’s sustainability efforts as well as components of effort, such as recycling, transportation, and individual actions at home and at work.
- Create e-newsletter to promote green events, highlight success of efforts, describe initiatives and academic/research pursuits.
- Create sustainability blog.

2. Create Sustainability Communications Opportunities. Key elements of this effort would include:

- Establish network of Sustainability Coordinators within VP units, schools and buildings to distribute sustainability information on a regular basis – similar approach as Conservation Advocates. The network would include University-affiliated foundations. Information could include “Green Tip of the Week.”
- Create a Green Speakers Series. Promote availability of sustainability and environmental health and safety experts who can speak at departmental meetings and meetings of such diverse organizations as Employee Councils, Faculty Senate and General Faculty Council.
- Develop a Brown Bag lunch series on environmental topics.

3. Develop and implement reminder and interpretive signage around Grounds. Example would include:

- Reminder graphics for use in work areas and at home to encourage employees, students and off-Grounds residents to turn off office equipment, electronics and lights.
- Posters for use in buildings and work areas to remind individuals to be energy conscious and to refer them to online resource site.
- Signs describing efforts such as stormwater restoration sites, LEED buildings, bustops with TDM measures.
- “Building dashboards” that show energy use in buildings.
- Bus, carpooling information in garages, display cases around Grounds and in “stall journals.”

4. Create events to promote awareness. Such efforts would include:

- An annual awards ceremony in which outstanding academic and research projects would be recognized as well as student and employee initiatives that promote positive changes in behavior. Ceremony could also include “most improved” sustainable awards for departments.
- A celebration event recognizing milestones, such as when the University reduces energy consumption by X percent.
- Using large-scale events such as athletic competitions, arena events, Fall convocation and Finals Weekend to promote sustainability efforts. For example, run public service announcements at Scott Stadium, the John Paul Jones Arena and on the Lawn during Finals Weekend to promote recycling and put information in programs and on message boards.
- Actively promote green events, such as Earth Hour, Earth Week and student initiatives.
- Hold green reunions, promoting local food, recycling and green lectures.
- Create emphasis on sustainability during Summer Orientation.
- Hold special events for first-year students to promote interest in recycling, sustainability.

Environmental Impact Subcommittee
Membership: David Neuman, Don Sundgren, Cheryl Gomez, Fred Missel, Tom Harkins, Bill Keene, Jeff Sitler, Jess Wenger, Paxton Marshall, Rebecca White, Keith Crawford, Armando de Leon, Andrew Greene

The Environmental Impact subcommittee is charged with developing a plan to reduce the University’s environmental footprints, including: carbon, nitrogen, waste/recycling, and water use.
This subcommittee has met six times and has focused its initial efforts on developing a 10-year plan to reduce the University’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The subcommittee has researched and identified 59 strategies to reduce GHG emissions, some already implemented at other higher education institutions, and is now investigating each strategy to determine carbon reductions, savings/costs, and feasibility of implementation.

The subcommittee’s work product will be a draft 10-year plan to reduce U.Va. Greenhouse Gas Emissions to be completed this summer.

**School and Department Initiatives Subcommittee**

Membership: Mark White (Chair), Christina Morell, James Smith, Tim Rose, Tim Beatley, Ralph Allen, Erika Herz, Phil Parrish, Andrew Greene

This subcommittee will work to expand and connect sustainability efforts in academic schools and departments and look to create synergies between these efforts and those in the operations and administrative areas of the University.

The members of the subcommittee have identified four tasks for this calendar year.

1. A sustainability curriculum report to the President, including benchmarks with other institutions
2. Look for opportunities to connect research efforts with University operations, identify practices at other institutions.
3. Connect sustainability with Harrison grants; perhaps a percentage of grants that would have to have a sustainability component, or identify that as a selection item. Forward recommendation in the nearer term to get into the next grant applications cycle.
4. Student Sustainability Symposium

The immediate task of the subcommittee was the Student Sustainability Symposium, a poster competition showcasing student-led sustainability projects. The competition was held on April 24 in the Dome Room of the Rotunda and featured 24 project submissions from undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Three winners were selected and were each awarded $750 to help implement their projects. Funds were contributed by committee members from the Office of the Vice President for Research, Office of the Architect, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, and Facilities Management. The subcommittee would like to make the Student Sustainability Symposium an annual event to encourage cross-disciplinary cooperation, help implement these projects, and offer these projects an opportunity to present their work to a larger audience.