


# sustainability at UVA: a student perspective

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She is helping  
to test water  
quality on  
grounds

He is teaching  
first year  
students about  
conservation

She wants to  
help promote  
public  
transportation

He wants to  
know more  
about green  
economics

## The Present

What are students doing at UVA?

## The Opportunities

What can we do?

## The Precedent

What's happening at other colleges and universities?

## The Future

What is our vision for sustainability at UVA?

## The Discussion

## Academic Programs

Environmental Sciences  
Environmental Thought and Practice  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban  
and Environmental Planning  
Engineering and Applied Sciences  
Environmental Law and Land Use

## Institutes and Research Centers

Institute for Environmental Negotiation  
Batten Institute  
Center for Transportation Studies

## Student Organizations

Student Council Environmental Sustainability  
Committee  
Student Environmental Action  
Green Grounds Group  
Students for Sustainable Communities  
Virginia Environmental Law Forum

## Outreach Programs

UVA Recycling Conservation Advocate Program

# sustainability at UVA: a student perspective

# the present

## UMBRELLA GROUPS

### StudCo Environmental Sustainability Committee

**Affiliations** > Student Council  
**Serves** > All University students

### University Environmental Coalition [ UEC ]

**Affiliations** > UVA Recycling  
**Serves** > Green student organizations

## UVA DEPT

### Conservation Advocate Program

**Affiliations** > UVA Recycling  
**Serves** > Undergraduate students living on grounds  
**Advisor** > Sonny Beale

## STUDENT CIOS

### Student Environmental Action [ SEA ]

**Affiliations** > Environmental Sciences Department  
**Serves** > CLAS undergraduate community  
**Advisor** > Tim Beatley

### Environmental Sciences Organization [ ESO ]

**Affiliations** > Environmental Sciences Department  
**Serves** > Environmental Sciences students  
**Advisor** > Tom Biggs

### Green Grounds Group

**Affiliations** > School of Architecture  
**Serves** > SARC and broader University community  
**Advisor** > John Quale

### Students for Sustainable Communities [ SSC ]

**Affiliations** > School of Architecture  
**Serves** > SARC community  
**Advisor** > Tim Beatley

### Student Planners Association [ SPA ]

**Affiliations** > Urban and Environmental Planning Department  
**Serves** > SARC community  
**Advisor** > Daphne Spain

### Net Impact at Darden

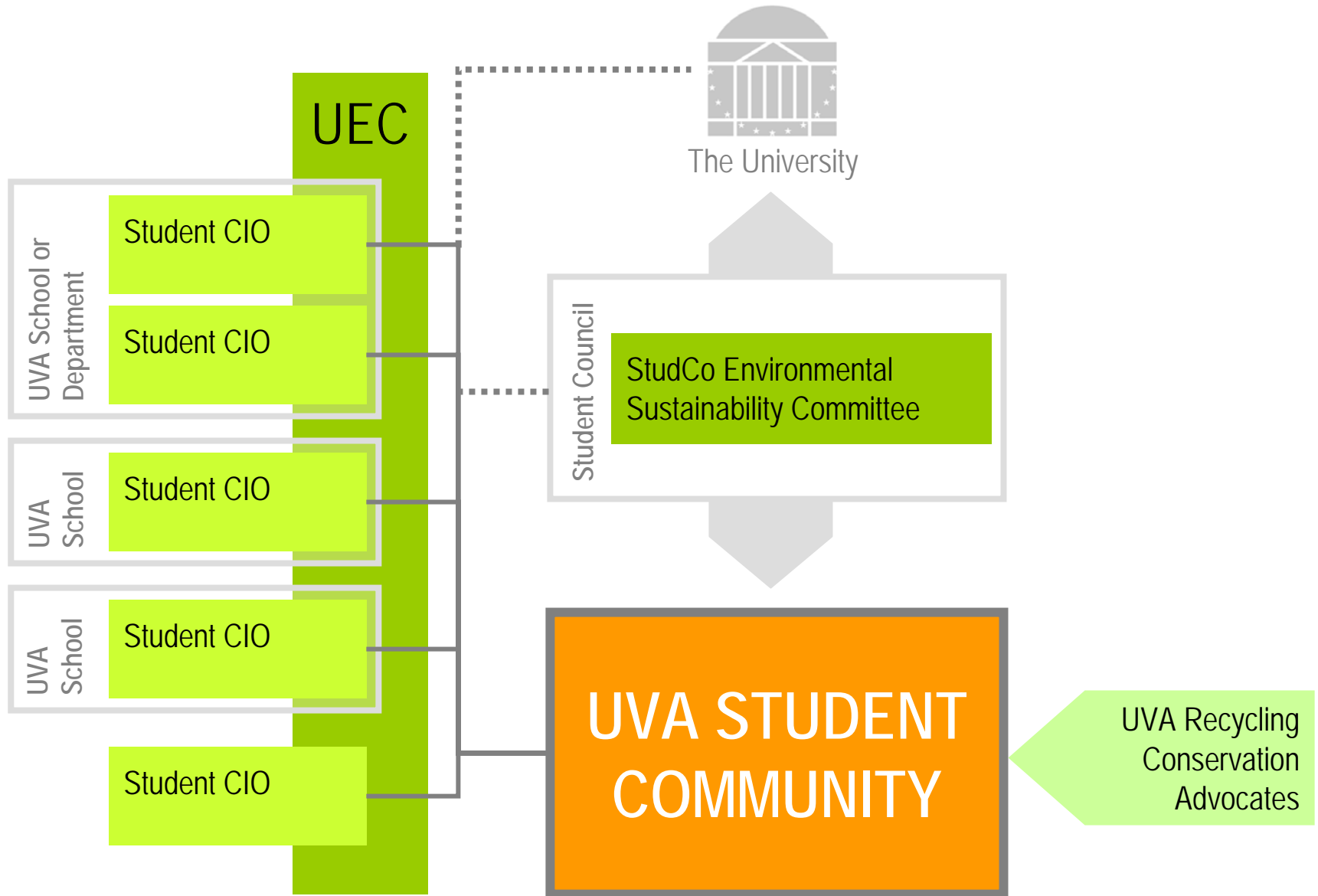
**Affiliations** > Darden Graduate School of Business  
**Serves** > Darden community  
**Advisor** > Darden faculty members

### Virginia Environmental Law Forum [ VELF ]

**Affiliations** > UVA School of Law  
**Serves** > Law School community  
**Advisor** > John Cannon

### Virginia Environmental Law Journal [ VELJ ]

**Affiliations** > UVA School of Law  
**Serves** > Law School community  
**Advisor** > John Cannon



## A common forum for communication

Educational opportunities and student organizations abound ... but there is no **forum** in which they are organized and communicated to current and prospective students

### What might this look like?

- Develop the UVA Sustainability Website to support this purpose

- Develop a "Green" Course Offering Directory

- Coordinate student and University activities

## A message for incoming students

Undergraduate student **orientation** provides an opportunity to deliver a consistent message to new students on sustainability ... but currently this message is not formally incorporated into the program

## A partnering of students and the University

The University has the opportunity to harness the abundant student energy and interest in sustainability by working closely with students to effect positive change

## Administration

- 66% - advisory committee on sustainability
- 33% - full time Sustainability Staff
- 20% - Sustainability Office

## Energy

- 45% - carbon reduction commitments
- 34% - produce renewable energy on campus
- 37% - purchase renewable energy

## Food and Recycling

- 70% - purchase local food
- 64% - purchase fair-trade coffee
- 29% - electronics recycling
- 42% - food compost program (43% have landscape materials compost programs)

## Green Building

- 61% - green building projects
- 59% - green building policies

## Transportation

- 42% - hybrid vehicles in fleets
- 38% - collaboration with local public transit
- 31% - use biodiesel
- 23% - bike-sharing program
- 17% - car-sharing program

\*From a comprehensive survey of American colleges and universities

green text = in progress at UVA

## Cornell University

“Over 57 percent of the waste generated at Cornell’s Ithaca campus is diverted from the landfill and over 350 tons of pre- and postconsumer food waste from dining halls is composted annually. **The university’s dining services director, head chef, and others have worked with the Farms-to-College Task Force, a student group, to promote sustainable food practices in the dining halls.**”

## Columbia University

“Columbia has created the department of environmental stewardship, hired four full-time staff members, and is setting up a **sustainability committee of students, faculty, and staff. Eco-Reps, who serve as undergraduate “green” RAs, organized the Green Living Challenge for dorm residents last year.**”

## University of North Carolina

“Dining services spends just under 10 percent of its annual budget on locally grown food from five local producers and a local dairy. However, **students are advocating that dining services use more organic foods in their menus.** Food scraps and yard waste are composted and used as mulch on campus. Used cooking oil is recycled into biodiesel and from 2006 and 2007, 43 percent of all waste was recycled.”

Create and support a **culture of sustainability** at the University

Elevate sustainability as a core value at the level of **honor** and **student self-governance**

### How do we do it?

- Create a central forum for communicating opportunities in sustainability to current and prospective students

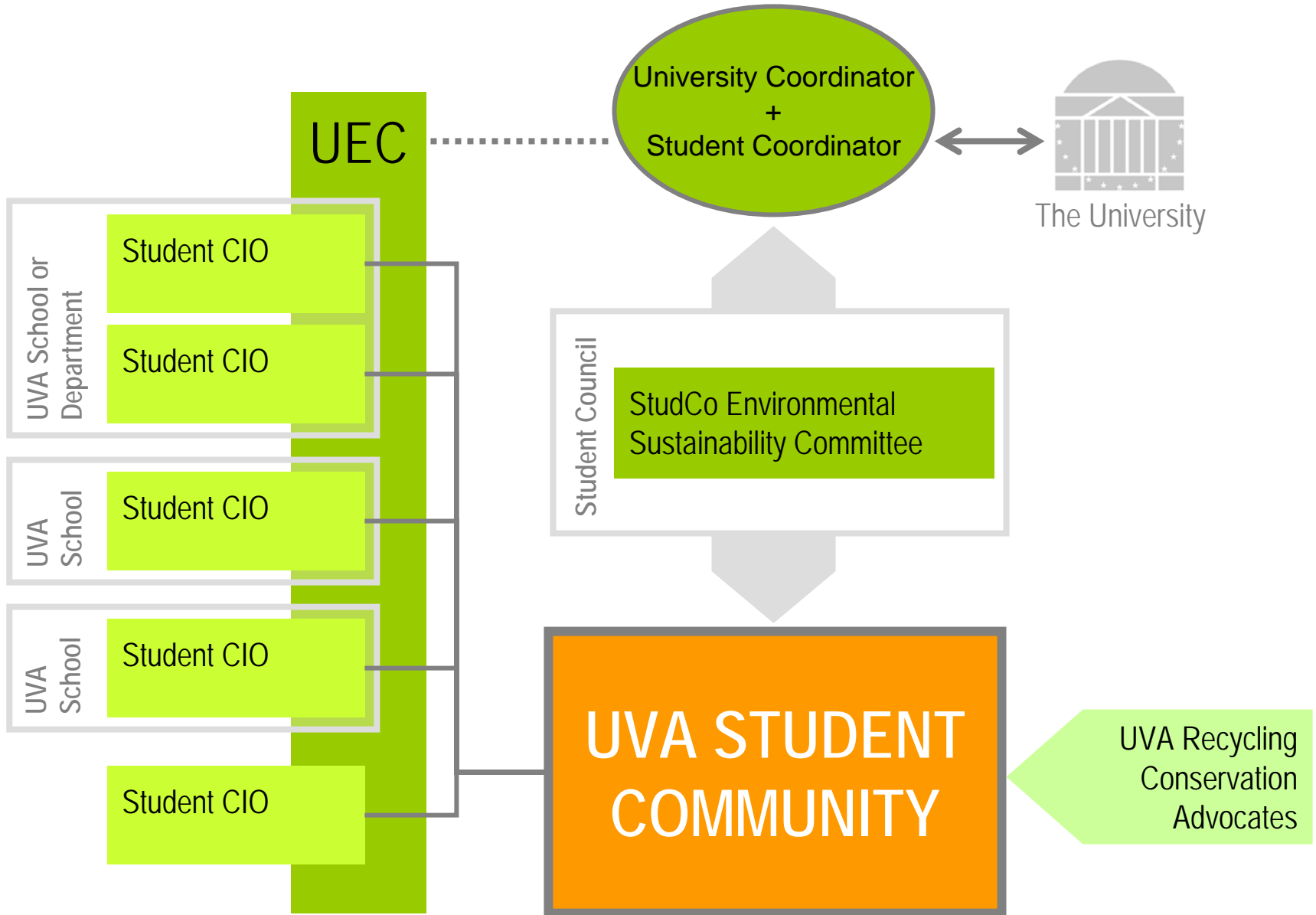
- Formally incorporate the sustainability message to students

- Harness the grassroots energy of students and institutionalize the message

- Support collaboration between students and University staff, faculty and administration

- This cannot be a purely grassroots effort, nor can it be a purely top-down approach: a University coordinator is vital

- Students receive work study or academic credit for working on University Sustainability efforts – institutionalization is critical for continuity



## A common forum for communication

Develop the UVA Sustainability Website to support this purpose

Develop a "Green" Course Offering Directory

## A message for incoming students

Formally incorporate sustainability message into undergraduate student orientation

Develop a 4-year plan for implementation

## A partnering of students and the University

Institutionalization of the sustainability message

Work study or academic credit for students working with a University Coordinator