Meeting Summary
April 7, 2026

Council Members Present (via Zoom):
Mary Dorman — Executive Director, Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk
Scott Lupin — Assoc Director, Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk; Director, Office of Sustainability
Colleen Wright-Riva — Assistant Vice President, Division of Student Affairs
Meredith Gore — Professor, Department of of Geographical Sciences
Tim Knight — Program Director, College Park Scholars Program, Environment, Technology & Economy
Susan Corry — Director, Engineering and Energy, Facilities Management
Thomas McMullen — Special Assistant to the Provost, Facilities Management
Bryan Quinn — Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
Shannon Files — Director of Enterprise Data Services, Division of Information Technology
Courtnee Connon — Graduate Student Representative
Zie Goodman — Undergraduate Student Representative

Guests Present:
Javiera King — Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer

Meeting start time: 1:00 pm

Meeting Highlights

Sustainability Fund Grant Recommendations, April 2026 — *Z. Goodman*

Undergraduate representative and Sustainability Fund Review Committee (SFRC) Chair, Zie Goodman, presented the committee's grant recommendations for April (*Appendix A*). The SFRC recommended funding four projects totaling $72,583, including $59,647 from FY26 funds and $12,935 from FY27. If the April projects are approved by the Council, $684,043 would roll over for FY27.

The first proposal, "AI-Enabled Decision Framework to Maximize Climate ROI in Building-Envelope Retrofits", requested $37,402.00 over two years, $33,339.00 of which was recommended by the SFRC. The project aims to develop a system using drones and deep learning to identify inefficiencies in building envelopes and predict the energy, carbon, and cost impacts of retrofit strategies. Project success would

be measured through the reductions in energy use intensity and carbon emissions, the final climate ROI, and skill proficiency of student interns. Some Council members raised questions about the use of drones on campus, particularly given the university's proximity to regulated airspace. The UMD UAS Research and Operations Center (UROC) ensured via email that drone flights will operate under 14 CFR Part 107, which is the FAA's standard regulatory framework for small drones. They also noted that this team has successfully completed these approvals and flown safely on campus for years, which helps address concerns about safety and compliance. Other concerns were raised about the use of AI for a sustainability-focused project. Goodman communicated that the prospers had clarified that AI-driven deep learning models (e.g., ANNs) significantly enhance detection accuracy and analytical reliability of results. By enhancing diagnostic precision, the integration of AI can reduce overall environmental impacts through avoiding over-retrofitting, making the emissions from the AI itself negligible. **The proposal was approved.**

The next project, "CEDAR Gallery" requested $34,500 over three years, $9,975 of which was recommended by the SFRC for one year. The proposal would support programming focused on tools and community to navigate climate anxiety, learn about environmental storytelling, and participate in art-focused engagement. The proposal includes funding for visiting speakers, field trips, and student research opportunities. Council members emphasized the importance of creating student-led spaces and ongoing demand for programming that supports climate-related mental health and community-building. **The modified proposal as recommended by the SFRC for one-year of funding was approved.**

Next, the Council reviewed the proposal, "Bird-friendly windows at The Clarice" which requested $16,000, the full sum of which was recommended by the SFRC, to install bird-friendly window markers at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. This project aims to reduce bird collisions and fatalities by increasing the visibility of high-risk windows. An additional $25,000 was endowed by the Clarice to support this project. Metrics of success include data on bird casualties, collected by Lights Out UMD and UMD's Audubon Society chapter. Members discussed the benefit of reducing bird collisions by up to 95 percent, saving costs on window damage, and noted that the initiative could serve as a model for similar interventions across campus. Questions were raised by the Council about the longevity of the vinyl markers, maintenance considerations, and building aesthetics. It was clarified that the Clairce committed to covering future costs for maintenance and replacement of the markers. It was determined that the project may have to go to the Architectural Review Board for approval, which would be communicated to the requesters. **The proposal was approved.**

The final project, "Campus Micromobility Parking Expansion" requested $13,269, the full sum of which was recommended by the SFRC, to install additional U-racks in order to increase parking capacity for bikes and scooters. The Council acknowledged the growing demand for micromobility infrastructure on

campus and the role of this project in improving accessibility and reducing improper parking. There were questions raised about if the installation of U-racks should be covered by DOTS as part of their day-to-day functions and whether the Sustainability Fund is the most appropriate source to draw from this project, compared to DOTS own operating budget or the Student Facilities Fund. Several Council members expressed that if the SFRC thinks the project is worthwhile, they are glad to follow the lead of the students and vote in favor of the proposal. **The proposal was approved.**

Sustainability Council Goals 2.0— *S. DeLeon*

Sally DeLeon provided an update on the Sustainability Council Goals 2.0 consultation process, noting that a draft (*Appendix B*) had been circulated to over 80 stakeholders and that feedback is currently being collected. Input has already been received from several campus units, including Building and Landscape Services, Dining Services, the Clarice, the Office of Innovation, and the School of Public Health, and outreach is ongoing to additional stakeholders such as Student Affairs, the Center for Community Engagement, sustainability directors across operational units, and Piscataway community representatives. Feedback solicited thus far has been largely positive and supportive of the overall direction, with some concerns around the feasibility of funding for facilities-related goals given current budget uncertainties. Additional feedback solicitation efforts will be focused on refining language in areas such as research operations and community engagement.

Next steps — *S. Lupin*

Scott Lupin conveyed that the goal review process is on track to have finalized goals ready 2 weeks prior to the last Council meeting of the semester on May 8. The goal is to have Council members vote on endorsing the goals to finalize the process. He also shared that the final meeting will include presentations from several previously funded Sustainability Fund projects to highlight their impact, offering a reflective way to conclude the year.

Adjourn 3:11 pm

Appendices

Appendix A: Sustainability Fund Grant Recommendations April 2026
Appendix B: Consultation Draft: Sustainability Council Goals Update 2026 Update

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

sustainability fund

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS April 2026

Sustainability Fund Budget for FY26-FY28

Summary of Total Requests		Recommendations for 4/7/26	
FY26 Requested	$1,453,951.33	FY26 Recommendations	$59,647.44
FY27 Requested	$614,582.76	FY27 Recommendations	$12,935.44
FY28 Requested	$547,279.37	FY28 Recommendations	$0.00
Total Requested	$2,615,813.46	**Total Grant Recommendations**	$72,582.88
FY26 Total Available	$1,114,108.15	Amount to roll over if recommendations are approved	$684,043.49
FY26 Additional Available from MEIP	$25,000.00		

Projects Recommended for Funding

1. AI-Enabled Decision Framework to Maximize Climate ROI in Building-Envelope Retrofits
2. CEDAR Gallery
3. Bird-friendly windows at The Clarice
4. Campus Micromobility Parking Expansion

AI-Enabled Decision Framework to Maximize Climate ROI in Building-Envelope Retrofits

Total Requested	**$37,402.00**	**SFRC Recommended**	**$33,338.88**
FY26 Requested	$22,435.00	SFRC Recommended	$20,403.44
FY27 Requested	$14,967.00	SFRC Recommended	$12,935.44

Summary: This proposal requests $37,402.00 to develop an AI-driven framework that will assess building-envelope risk and predict the cost, operational impacts, and energy and carbon reductions from envelope retrofit strategies. The project will occur at the Benjamin Building, which received funding to undergo expansion. Requested funding includes the cost of materials, salaries of undergraduate students, and cost of student conference participation.

Submitted by: Deok-Oh Woo, Faculty, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Architecture Program

AI-Enabled Decision Framework to Maximize Climate ROI in Building-Envelope Retrofits

- **Primary Goal:** Reduce energy and carbon consumption by using drones with thermal cameras and the application of deep learning methods to identify areas of elevated heat and moisture leakage within building-envelopes.
- **Expected Impact:**
  - Develop a low-cost, AI-driven framework to assess building-envelope risk.
  - Creation of a predictive estimation tool that quantifies the cost, environmental, and operational impacts of retrofit strategies.
  - Provide students with professional development opportunities and experience in drone-based sensing, deep learning, hygrothermal modeling, and life-cycle assessment.
- **Need:** One of the most cost-effective and impactful retrofit strategies is improving the building-envelope. Current pre-retrofit building-envelope diagnostics are fragmented, labor-intensive, and fail to adequately link the envelope condition to energy, carbon, and economic outcomes.
- **Metrics for Success:**
  - Project success will be assessed by reductions in energy use intensity, reductions in carbon-emissions, and Climate ROI.
  - Student training will be assessed by student skill proficiency, student conference participation, and number of students co-authoring peer-reviewed publications.

Proposed Budget

Item	FY26	FY27
4 Undergraduate Research Assistants ($20/hr + fringe)	$10,157.00	$10,157.00
Thermal Camera	$6,300.00	$0.00
Laptop PC for Deep Learning	$2,000.00	$0.00
Other Supplies (heat-flux sensors, temperature and humidity probes, K-type thermocouple wire, etc)	$3,428.00	$0.00
Drone Certification	$300.00	$0.00
Domestic Conference (2 Students)	$0.00	$4,560.00
Food at Project Meetings	$250.00	$250.00
FY26 Request		$22,435.00
FY27 Request		$14,967.00
Total Request		**$37,402.00**

Recommended Budget

Item	FY26	FY27
4 Undergraduate Research Assistants ($16/hr + fringe)	$8,125.44	$8,125.44
Thermal Camera	$6,300.00	$0.00
Laptop PC for Deep Learning	$2,000.00	$0.00
Other Supplies (heat-flux sensors, temperature and humidity probes, K-type thermocouple wire, etc)	$3,428.00	$0.00
Drone Certification	$300.00	$0.00
Domestic Conference (2 Students)	$0.00	$4,560.00
Food at Project Meetings	$250.00	$250.00
FY26 Request		$20,403.44
FY27 Request		$12,935.44
Total Request		**$33,338.88**

CEDAR Gallery

Total Requested	**$34,500.00**	**SFRC Recommended**	**$9,975.00**
FY26 Requested	$11,500.00	SFRC Recommended	$9,975.00
FY27 Requested	$11,500.00	SFRC Recommended	$0.00
FY28 Requested	$11,500.00	SFRC Recommended	$0.00

Summary: This proposal seeks $34,500 ($11,500/year) to support programming and activities at the CEDAR Gallery in the Department of History. Programming will be focused in helping students navigate the climate and eco-anxiety that accompanies learning about climate crises and other environmental injustices. The requested funds would pay for an annual visiting speaker, two annual field trips, artist fees, research opportunities for students, and materials for arts engagement activities.

Submitted by: Jayson Maurice Porter, CEDAR Gallery Co-Curator, Assistant Professor, Department of History

CEDAR Gallery

- **Primary Goal:** To support the function of the CEDAR Gallery as a space for students to combat climate anxiety, celebrate environmental works, and reinforce an interdisciplinary environmental education through field trips, speakers, research, and other workshop opportunities.
- **Expected Impact:**
  - Students will engage in experiential learning opportunities through workshops and field trips to the UMCES oyster hatchery and Dumbarton Oaks.
  - Students will learn about sustainability resources and environmental issues impacting the campus and surrounding community by participating in asset mapping.
  - Students will conduct research focused at the intersection of environmental and social histories and receive training to host environmental arts engagement workshops.
- **Need:** There is a student demand for a space that provides students with tools and opportunities to reckon with climate anxiety and feelings of injustice, while also providing opportunities for research and professional development.
- **Metrics for Success:** Successfully having one visiting speaker annually, two field trips with students, creating asset maps, and connecting students to job, research, and fellowship opportunities. They will also measure success through the number of students participating and student feedback.
- **Broader Impacts**:
  - CEDAR can serve as a model for the creation of safe and critical spaces to have tough environmental conversations that center care and optimism.

Proposed Budget

Historical research opportunities	$1,000.00
Materials for eco-anxiety art activities	$1,000.00
Asset Mapping (materials & student compensation)	$1,000.00
Food for planning meetings	$500.00
Field Trips (Dumbarton Oaks & UMCES)	$3,000.00
Visiting speaker and workshop (materials, honorarium + travel)	$2,500.00
Compensation for artist Jessica Valoris (workshops and curatorial work)	$2,500.00
Annual Request	$11,500.00
Total Request (3 Years)	**$34,500.00**

Recommended Budget

Historical research opportunities	$1,000.00
Materials for eco-anxiety art activities	$1,000.00
Asset Mapping (materials & student compensation)	$1,000.00
Food for planning meetings	$500.00
Field Trips (Dumbarton Oaks & UMCES)	$1,475.00
Visiting speaker and workshop (materials, honorarium + travel)	$2,500.00
Compensation for artist Jessica Valoris (workshops and curatorial work)	$2,500.00
FY26 Request	$9,975.00
Total Request (1 Year)	**$9,975.00**

Bird-friendly windows at The Clarice

Total Requested	**$16,000.00**	**SFRC Recommended**	**$16,000.00**
Note	They received an additional endowment of $25,000.00 from the Clarice.		

Summary: This project seeks $16,000.00 to install vinyl markers on 22 high-risk windows of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center to increase their visibility to birds and reduce the number of bird collisions. Funding would cover the cost of supplies, labor, and lift rental.

Submitted by: Andrew Wagger, Student, College Park Scholars Environment, Technology & Economy Program

Bird-friendly windows at The Clarice

- **Primary Goal:** To reduce bird collisions at the Clarice through the installation of vinyl markers that will increase window visibility.
- **Expected Impact:**
  - Reduced bird-window collisions by 95% on the windows applied.
  - Support of campus biodiversity by reducing a threat to birds.
- **Need:** The Clarice has one of the highest bird collision records of buildings studied on campus. After the initial cost and installment, vinyls have an expected effective lifespan of over 15 years.
- **Metrics for Success:** Bird casualty data will be collected by Lights Out UMD and UMD's Audubon Society, to evaluate effectiveness of vinyl markers.
- **Broader Impacts**:
  - If effective, the project can be scaled to cover more of the Clarice's windows and the windows of other high-risk buildings.

Recommended Budget

Item	Cost
Supplies & Labor Costs (22 windows)	$34,774.20
Lift Rental (1 week)	$6,000.00
Estimated Total	$40,774.20
Clarice Endowment Contribution	$25,000.00
FY26 Sustainability Fund Request	$16,000.00
Total Sustainability Fund Request	**$16,000.00**

Campus Micromobility Parking Expansion

Total Requested	**$13,269.00**	**SFRC Recommended**	**$13,269.00**

Summary: The Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) requests $13,269.00 to purchase and install 47 U-racks in order to add 80 micromobility parking spaces and move 14 spaces by August 2027. Racks will be installed at the Kim Engineering building, IDEA Factory, Geology building, Health Center, and Dorchester / St. Mary's Hall.

Submitted by: Julianna Greenberg, UMD Dept. of Transportation Services

Campus Micromobility Parking Expansion

- **Primary Goal:** To expand micromobility parking on campus by installing 47 new U-racks.
- **Expected Impact:**
  - Ensure adequate parking on campus for bikes and scooters.
  - Reduce accessibility issues caused by riders parking outside of designated areas.
- **Need:** The large increase in Veo use has led to decreased availability of micromobility parking and the addition of convenient bike parking is a frequent request of both the SGA and RHA. Locations of new U-racks were selected based on high demand.
- **Metrics for Success:** Observable improvement in proper parking during peak demand and fewer reports from students, staff, and instructors about accessibility barriers and/or inadequate parking for the demand.
- **Broader Impacts**:
  - It is resource-intensive to manage improper parking - tagging, cutting locks, impounding, providing customer service, and general administration. If this project eliminates one hour of enforcement per day during the semester, DOTS would redirect more than $46,000 over the anticipated lifecycle of this investment.

Recommended Budget

Item	Cost
U-Racks x47 (Kim Engineering, IDEA Factory, Geology, Health Center, Dorchester/St. Mary's Hall	$5,593.00
Shipping	$1,237.00
Labor & Installation	$6,439.00
FY26 Request	$13,269.00
Total Request	**$13,269.00**

Sustainability Council Goals 2.0 (2026-2036)

1) **Culture of Sustainability in Research Operations**: *Manage environmental and social impacts of UMD's technology and innovation ecosystems*
    - Emphasize the development and deployment of innovative technologies to address sustainability challenges
    - Work to understand the environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts of UMD's research operations
    - Devise strategies to build in positive environmental, social, economic and cultural choices in the ways that research is designed and conducted at UMD
    - Strengthen participation from research laboratory faculty, staff and students in the SustainableUMD network
    - Foster faculty and staff education, outreach and discussion of climate change literacy and waste impacts from the use of new technologies
    - Develop resources to support informed decision making about material, energy, water, and generative AI use for research designs and operations

2) **Community Partnership for Impact:** *Prioritize connection and reciprocity in sustainability work with Maryland Communities*
    - Empower students, faculty and staff to undertake community-engaged research and education in support of local, community-led sustainability transitions outside of UMD
    - Encourage campus units to prioritize cost-effective initiatives that support high-impact progress on local, regional, state and global sustainability goals
    - Recognize faculty and staff for engaged service (through community boards and task forces) that address sustainability-related community needs
    - Continue to seek opportunities for partnership with Prince George's County community groups and local governments to explore mutually beneficial sustainability projects and initiatives

3) **Food Resiliency & Access:** *Strengthen the campus community's understanding of healthy and nutritious foods that are ecologically beneficial*
    - Make nutritious and sustainable food available to the entire UMD community
    - Develop reciprocal relationships with certified Maryland farms, including some who are new to farming, underrepresented in agriculture, and/or utilizing regenerative agriculture practices beyond what is required by law (like rotational grazing, biochar, and application of composted manure)
    - *Sub goal about certified Chesapeake invasive species providers and other creative approaches that help with resilience to climate change AND food security*
    - Maximize food waste reduction and diversion by creating new engagement pathways for food waste education and improving the quality of collected compostable materials
    - *Consolidated research/academic goal (based on NSF grant, Global FEWtures, Coolfood Pledge etc.)*

4) **Experiential Learning:** *Coach faculty, students and staff to deepen their experience with problem solving and innovation to solve sustainability challenges*
    - Create interactive opportunities – including physical and digital – for Terps to gain critical thinking, systems thinking, collaboration, and eco-literacy skills
    - Provide tools to help students, faculty and staff utilize the physical campus landscape, buildings and infrastructure for learning and teaching

- Recognize and reward sustainability mentoring by faculty, staff and students who are developing relationships and communities at UMD to grow participation in sustainability programs
- Expand professional development opportunities offered on campus to support faculty and staff in understanding and communicating about current sustainability concepts and practices
- Develop and communicate student pathways to complete General Education requirements *and* deepen sustainability literacy and skills

5) **Sustainable Infrastructure and Campus Growth:** *Position the university as a living model of sustainable urban systems and model leadership on the State's regulatory targets and sustainability goals*
    - Showcase and encourage sustainable growth by adopting practices related to:
        - Predictive and preventative maintenance
        - High performance, energy-efficient green buildings
        - Energy and water consumption improvements during campus renovations and upgrades
        - Heat recovery from released exhaust, particularly in laboratories
        - Carbon cycle management through accounting for emissions, removals, and offsets
        - Biodiverse landscapes with strategically protected natural areas
        - Watershed protection structures and practices
        - Alternative transportation options that reduce vehicle traffic and emissions
        - Bicycle and pedestrian support infrastructure
        - Progress toward zero waste and circularity through responsible production, consumption and waste management

    - Where possible, incorporate clean energy technologies and other sustainability innovations developed at UMD into campus operations and education
    - Implement and regularly revise UMD's Climate Action Plan to achieve long term targets for net zero Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions
    - Prioritize direct carbon emissions reduction and phase out purchasing of verified carbon reduction credits by 2035, limiting the use of carbon offsetting to residual emissions only with durable, verified carbon removal credits and/or additional sequestration and removals on campus owned or sponsored lands
    - Proactively comply with Maryland’s climate change regulations

6) **Ecoregional Wisdom**: *Cultivate opportunities for people to identify with and relate to the local ecology and ancestral cultures of Maryland*
    - Curate spaces and tools to support exploration of and reflection on the unique aspects of our region's ecology and history of human-environment interactions
    - Recognize and celebrate stories of African-American and Native American led environmental stewardship in Maryland
    - Honor the history and culture of the Piscataway people on UMD's campus by highlighting aspects related to sustainability
    - Engage students, staff and faculty in learning about unique aspects of Indigenous and African American ways of knowing Maryland's ecology
    - Experiment with incorporating indigenous science and technology into campus operations
    - Use art as a tool and experiential opportunity to nurture community building and connect with place-based history, knowledge and narrative