

October 2, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

In many respects, the University of Kentucky (UK) and the University of Louisville (UofL) are rival institutions, but there are also many ways in which we can learn from and be inspired by each other. One shining example of that for UofL is UK's innovative Sustainability Challenge Grant program.

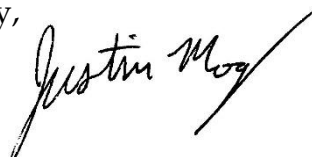
I had no role in the development of the program, nor any prior knowledge of it, but as soon as the program was announced, we on the UofL Sustainability Council immediately took notice and began inquiring about how UK was able to make it happen.

While many institutions have more limited student green funds, sustainability office budgets, or green revolving loan funds, what is truly innovative about UK's Sustainability Challenge Grant program is the way it pools funds from a variety of campus units to engage multidisciplinary teams. This strategy not only ensures buy-in from the funding units, but taps into the potential and resources of interdisciplinary teams from across the University community gathered together for the creation and implementation of initiatives to advance sustainability by simultaneously addressing ecological, economic and social justice.

As an example of the pooled resources, the funding for this year's Challenge Grant program came from UK's Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration (\$100,000), Provost (\$33,333), Vice President for Research (\$33,333) and the Student Sustainability Council (\$33,333).

Securing financial commitment and buy-in from such a wide array of campus units for the purposes of joint, uncertain sustainability projects is truly innovative and exciting. We at the University of Louisville hope to one day replicate such a cutting-edge, successful model of funding campus sustainability initiatives that bring multidisciplinary teams together.

Sincerely,



Dr. Justin Mog
Assistant to the Provost for Sustainability Initiatives
University of Louisville