



**TO:** James B. Milliken, Chancellor, U. T. System Administration

**FROM:** The U. T. System Student Advisory Council Sustainability Committee

**DATE:** May 18, 2021

**RE:** Compliance with UTS 169

The 2020-2021 U. T. System Advisory Council continues to recommend prioritizing sustainability measures by increasing accountability and transparency through a collaborative effort between the U. T. System, institutions, and students. It is evident that the U. T. System recognizes the importance of sustainability through the creation of the [UTS 169 Sustainability Practices Policy](#), which reflects a commitment for all institutions to adopt sustainable operational and maintenance practices. Although a framework for sustainability has been established, our Council has identified a lack of accountability and compliance on the institutional and System Administration level for the second consecutive year.

The long-term fiscal advantages and environmental benefits of sustainability practices should motivate the U. T. System to foster creativity, innovation, and implementation of initiatives that provide long-lasting, sustainable impact. According to the FY 2019 Energy Utility Task Force Report, U. T. institutions reported a 28.8% energy reduction per gross square foot compared to 2001 benchmark levels. This cumulative reduction saved \$1.05 billion in current dollars. From a cost reduction standpoint, it is advantageous for U. T. Systems to hold institutions accountable for continuing and implementing sustainability efforts, in accordance with UTS 169.

UTS 169 requires each institution to “complete an annual plan and report detailing the impact of the institution’s sustainability efforts” (Section 19, UTS 169). However, the Council was unable to access these annual reports for most institutions, indicating the need for greater transparency regarding campus sustainability practices. Furthermore, the lack of compliance at the institutional level indicates a need for accountability and follow-up by the U. T. System Administration.

Thus, the 2020-2021 U. T. System Student Advisory Council recommends:

1. The Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs holds each U. T. System institution accountable for submitting an annual report detailing their sustainability practices, in accordance with UTS 169.
2. Institutions are required to maintain transparency on their sustainability practices by making annual reports publicly accessible to students. Reports are to be published on each institution’s website, and the U. T. System should publish a compilation of all reports on its website.



The U. T. System Student Advisory Council believes that commitment to increased accountability in Systemwide sustainability efforts will be fiscally advantageous for the U. T. System in years to come. Maintaining transparency among the System's students, staff, and faculty will foster this accountability and ensure that available resources are easily accessible.

Thank you for your consideration.