

Schedule of Events

Analisa Akan

Eco Agency, Facilities Team

Program 1: Facilities Knowledge Walk

Date: April 22nd, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM – 7:20 PM

Location: Walking tour of UM facilities



FIGURE 1: OUTLINE OF WALKING ROUTE

Route:

1. Start at Lakeside Patio
2. Walk past Stanford Circle along the canal to the Miami Herbert Business School.
3. Walk past the Panhellenic Building to the School of Communications
4. Walk past the School of Nursing to the Gifford Arboretum
5. Walk past the School of Engineering to the Foote Green

Description of Knowledge Walk:

The Facilities Knowledge Walk will highlight the University of Miami's initiatives to improve facility efficiency and sustainability. During the walk, students will be guided through several campus buildings that the ECO Agency team audits, gaining insight into real-world sustainability practices.

Participants will learn about key initiatives such as energy-efficient lighting systems, ethically sourced printer paper, and the use of biodegradable materials for utensils and dinnerware in office spaces. The walk will also reinforce the University's goal of achieving Gold LEED certification across its buildings and its broader commitment to sustainability.

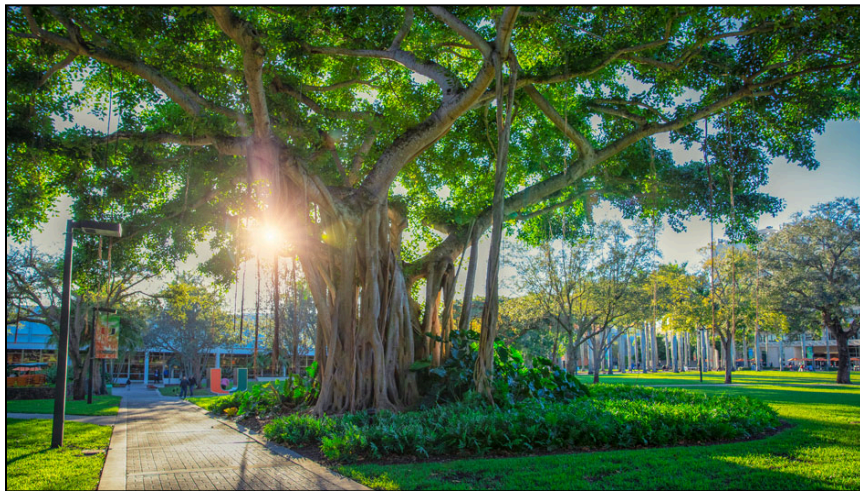
This interactive experience is designed to raise awareness, showcase the work of the Facilities team, and engage students in the University's ongoing sustainability efforts.

Program 2: Sunset Yoga

Date: April 22nd, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Foote Green*



Description of Yoga Event:

Sunset Yoga will act as the closing event following the Knowledge Walk. This session allows students to reconnect with their personal commitment to sustainability through a calming, meditative practice. It will

offer the opportunity to reflect on the Knowledge Walk (if attended) and to step away from the demands of daily life while fostering a sense of community.

The session will be led by Sydney Loebach, a University of Miami student and Secretary of the Eco Agency. Sydney will guide participants and explore the connection between our diverse roles and our shared responsibility toward environmental stewardship.

* If it rains, a backup room, specifically one of the conference rooms in the UC Shalala Student Center, will be reserved.

Program 3: Facilities Tabling

Date: April 22nd, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Foote Green



Description of Tabling:

The Facilities Tabling event will be the bridge between the Knowledge Walk and the Sunset Yoga session. Attendees will have the opportunity to enter a raffle for a yoga mat giveaway. Raffle entries can be earned by participating in Facilities events, where attendees receive three entries for completing the Knowledge Walk, two entries for attending the Yoga session, and one entry for participating in Facilities trivia at the tabling station. Participants who engage in all three activities can earn up to six entries, increasing their chances of winning. Multiple winners will be selected.

In addition to raffle prizes, ECO Agency merchandise and other giveaways will be available. Free food will also be provided from Smoothie King or fresh fruit from a local vendor (both tentative options).

Script:

Hi everyone! Welcome to the first Earth Day Facilities Walk. Today, we are going to learn about the work of the Eco Agency's Facilities Green Patrols Audit team while we complete our tour! We'll be discussing the buildings we audit as we pass them, and some general sustainability information on each building.

Founded in 2012, ECO Agency is the umbrella organization under the Student Government that promotes sustainable living on campus. It includes the ECO Board, its affiliated Committees (Facilities, Waste Diversion, Conservation, Outreach, etc.), and the Housing ECO Reps. Eco Agency has used its influence through the creation of multiple on-campus projects that you'll learn about on this walk. If you have a project for UM to become more sustainable, you can reach out to our Chair, Margaret Todd, and see if it is implementable.

After completing our walk, you'll get 3 entries for a free yoga mat, and please join us for our Sunset yoga event from 7:00 to 8 PM to get 2 more entries.

We are by the lakeside patio, behind us is The Donna E. Shalala Student Center (SC), one of the buildings that our Green Patrols Team audits.

Each building is rated based on a weighted average of the individual performance categories. The weighting allocation varies based on the building type. All annual building goals are based on the University's 2035 Sustainable Operations Plan. For Non-Residence Buildings like Shalala, the building metrics are as follows,

Non-Residence Buildings:

Category	Weighting Allocation	Performance Metric	2035 Target	Data Sources
Energy	15%	Energy use/square foot/year	35% reduction from FY2016 (2.5%/year)	Electricity, natural gas, and propane meters
Water	15%	Daily potable water consumption	33% reduction from FY2016 (2%/year)	Potable water building meters
Waste	15%	% waste diverted from landfill	90%	Annual waste audit
Transportation	15%	% of occupants that utilize sustainable commutes	33%	Annual commuting survey
Purchasing	15%	% of EPP / EPEAT purchases	75%	Office purchases, provided by Procurement
Occupant Engagement	25%	% of building occupants that participate in GreenU programs	33%	ECO Events, Sustainability Webinars, Green Office Certification, Green Lab Certification

FIGURE 2

Residence Buildings:				
Category	Weighting Allocation	Performance Metric	Target	Data Sources
Energy	15%	Energy use/square foot/year	35% reduction from FY2016	Electricity, natural gas, and propane meters
Water	15%	Daily potable water consumption	33% reduction from FY2016	Potable water building meters
Waste	20%	% waste diverted from landfill	90%	Annual waste audit
Transportation	15%	% of occupants that utilize sustainable commutes	80%	Annual commuting survey
Purchasing	15%	% of EPP / EPEAT purchases	75%	Office purchases, provided by Procurement
Occupant Engagement	20%	% of building occupants that participate in GreenU programs	33%	ECO Events, Sustainability Webinars, Green Office Certification, Green Lab Certification

FIGURE 3

Like other sustainability goals, UM is working towards Gold and Platinum LEED certification in all of its buildings.

The US Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Building Rating System, which establishes guidelines and evaluates the environmental sustainability of buildings, will be the design and measurement standard. Specifically:

1. All new buildings shall be designed and constructed to attempt to reach a minimum standard of LEED Silver rating.
2. Projects will strive to achieve a higher level than LEED Silver whenever possible.
3. Major renovation of existing buildings where major portions or floors of the facility and infrastructure are upgraded shall be designed and constructed to attempt to reach a minimum standard of LEED Silver rating.
4. Minor renovations shall follow good sustainable design practices and shall comply with the University of Miami Building Component Standards.
5. University of Miami Building Component Standards shall be updated regularly to include the latest Green Building components and standards as deemed acceptable by Design and Construction and Physical Plant. All projects shall follow the standards whenever possible.
6. Contractors and Architects shall employ, whenever possible, LEED-accredited staff to assist in the management and documentation of design and construction activities for LEED certification.

As of right now The Donna Shalala Student Center Building is LEED Certified Silver.

In the distance is the Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music. Frost is, for now, the only building on campus with platinum status in LEED certification.

The Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music is one of the largest and best music schools located in a private university in the U.S., and one of the most comprehensive and relevant in all of higher education. The complex was made possible by the generosity of the school's naming benefactors, Dr. Phillip and Patricia Frost.

Designed by award-winning architects Yann Weymouth and HOK, and constructed by Skanska USA, the facility boasts two buildings with 41,089 square feet of upscale teaching spaces and beautiful curb appeal. The Patricia Louise Frost Music Studios is the first LEED® Platinum certified building project in the City of Coral Gables.

[GROUP WALKS ACROSS BRIDGE TO LAKESIDE VILLAGE]

Here we have Lakeside Village. Lakeside Village is a little harder to audit because it is a mix of both residential and office buildings.

Nevertheless, some things we look for include:

1. Water fountain hydrostation data
2. Leaking sinks, toilets in restrooms
3. Faulty light Fixtures
4. Plastic dinnerware/utensils in office spaces

5. FSC-certified paper and recycling bins near printers
6. Presence of Non-native plants
7. Other concerning issues of relevance

Lakeside Village received Gold LEED certification in 2019 (Refer to Figures 4 &5)

LV hosts a range of innovative design features such as rooftop green spaces, a rain garden, and a hub for sustainability initiatives of our campus and local communities.

1. The village's green roofs reduce and slow down water runoff, provide food for pollinator species of animals, naturally insulate the building, absorb carbon dioxide to clean the air, and help regulate the climate.
2. Insulated walls and enhanced window glazing help to regulate the interior temperature without relying on cooling or heating systems.
3. Innovative heating and cooling systems are designed to condition and filter the air and repurpose it for other uses throughout the facility.
4. Existing trees and plant life were evaluated and, when possible, were incorporated into the landscape of Lakeside Village or located elsewhere on campus or in the surrounding local area.

[WALK PAST STANFORD CIRCLE ALONG THE CANAL TO THE MIAMI HERBERT BUSINESS SCHOOL.]

We are now going to head to the Miami Herbert Business School. We are also passing an iconic canal that is connected to Biscayne Bay and even receives manatees from time to time. Let's check if they're here today!

The Miami Herbert Business School has achieved LEED Gold Certification for Existing Building Operations & Maintenance (EBOM) as designated by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) for its environmental performance and sustainable operations. The project is the first LEED v4.1 OM higher-education building in the State of Florida.

Some of the green features include:

1. Staff and student experience are matched with efficiency with more than 90% LED lighting, in-room air quality sensors, audio/visual and telepresence technology, and automatic window shading.
2. The building successfully diverts 60% of all waste generated from landfill.
3. The building is 30% more energy efficient than the national average of university college buildings.
4. There is a high focus on student and staff ergonomics and comfort with state-of-the-art furniture, indoor foliage, and beautiful views of the outside in nearly every occupied space.

[WALK PAST THE PANHELLENIC BUILDING TO THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS]

We are now passing the Panhellenic building and the School of Communications.

These spaces add to the rich student life and engagement here at the U.

[WALK PAST THE SCHOOL OF NURSING TO THE GIFFORD ARBORETUM]

The School of Nursing hosts the completion of a five-story expansion of the University of Miami's existing nursing and health studies building, a new academic simulation center featuring smart classrooms and multiple clinical practice labs, seminar and conference rooms, high-tech computer labs, and a state-of-the-art simulation academy, all equipped with industry-leading technology. The spacious facility supports the work of nurse scientists and clinical educators as well as undergraduate and graduate students. This LEED-certified project consists of an addition of approximately 35,000 square feet and renovation of 5,000 square feet of the existing school. A 300-seat auditorium, classrooms, and exam rooms simulate real-life settings for students. Simulated spaces such as operating rooms, emergency care, NICUs, patient rooms, and ICUs reflect the real-life continuum of care in a hospital. Situated centrally for accessibility, the control rooms allow observation of students during simulation activities for performance evaluation and teaching follow-up. Smart classrooms located on every floor serve as a briefing room space designed to allow for mid-size conferences or one-to-one discussions.

Our green Patrol Team tracks that these spaces are operating at 100% efficiency.

Now my favorite part of the tour is The Arboretum.

The Gifford Arboretum is run by the Department of Biology and the Friends of the Gifford Arboretum Committee, which consists of faculty, students, administrators, and community members. It is a collection of important trees and plants that have been assembled for education and research.

The arboretum was planted in 1947 by Dr. Frank J. Rimoldi and Dr. Roy Woodbury, professors of tropical botany at the University of Miami. Over 350 plants were donated from local, state, and federal nurseries.

In 1949, the arboretum was named for Dr. John C. Gifford, the first graduate forester in the United States, an expert on tropical woods and professor of tropical forestry at the University of Miami. In 1950, the Gifford Society of Tropical Botany was formed to promote the study of tropical plants, and the Arboretum grew to more than 500 plants. During the following decades, many students, professors, and community members used the arboretum for teaching, research, and recreation. However, in the late 1980's, the need for additional campus parking threatened the existence of the Gifford Arboretum. Through the efforts of Coral Gables tree activist Kathy Gaubatz, the University of Miami gave full support in 1992 to the renovation and enhancement of the Gifford Arboretum.

After the Arboretum survived Hurricane Andrew with little damage, no one was ready for the destruction that Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma inflicted on the Arboretum, with losses of almost half of the trees in the collection. Then Professor Carol Horvitz took on the task of renovating the Arboretum, and thanks to her tireless work, the Arboretum received two grants from the IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Services). Approximately 200 new trees were allotted to the Arboretum during its renovation. Come and enjoy the trees of the Gifford Arboretum, which are there just for you!

Today, the collection is organized for teaching and research purposes, with interpretive signage as well as individual identification tags on each plant. It is also a place of peace and connection with nature, as we hope to inspire interest in tropical trees as well as a better understanding of the history and importance of the plant world.

The Sustainable Garden, located next to the Gifford Arboretum, is a fantastic way to get involved on campus — and it's available to everyone! Help promote and teach sustainable, environmentally friendly gardening practices and provide garden plots to University organizations and classes. Together, we can make the garden an example of resilience and well-being for our local community.

The Facilities committee is currently hosting a project to construct a garden shed for the Arboretum in order to ensure all clubs and garden initiatives can properly store and utilize outdoor equipment. We'll take a second here to reflect on the sights, noises, and smells around us.

[Walk past the School of Engineering to the Foote Green]

The School of Engineering is home to the Miami Institute for Clean Energy

The Miami Institute for Clean Energy (MInCE), developed based on the research activities and expertise of the College of Engineering faculty, aims to create a cross-disciplinary team of researchers to work on projects involving clean/sustainable energy research and innovation, as well as to foster the next generation of energy leaders through educational initiatives and professional development opportunities. Through various research and educational activities, MInCE will foster a vibrant and dynamic research community in the field of Clean Energy and promote collaboration among students, professors, and other researchers within the College of Engineering as well as throughout the University of Miami.

In addition, the Engineering School hosts the Department of Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering (CEME), which provides high-quality undergraduate and graduate education that prepares students for professional careers and lifelong learning. The department advances knowledge to address global challenges in chemical, environmental, and materials engineering, with a focus on sustainability, innovation, and improving quality of life. Through cutting-edge research, inclusive education, and active engagement in the profession, the department aims to develop the next generation of engineers and become a global leader in engineering education and research.

As we end our Walk, I'd ask you to remember that you, too, have a part to play in UM's Sustainability. From being involved in environmentally oriented clubs, joining the facilities team for building audits, or even recycling a bottle, you help this campus reach its sustainability goals!

Thank you so much, and I hope you stick around for our sunset yoga event!

Building Name	LEED Certification	Year
Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music	Platinum	2016
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute - Naples	Gold	2017
Cox Neuroscience and Health Annex	Gold	2012
Lakeside Village	Gold	2019
Miami Herbert Business School	Gold	2019
Multi-Purpose and Practice Facility	Gold	2009
Robert and Judi Prokop Newman Alumni Center	Gold	2010
Schwartz Center for Athletic Excellence	Gold	2013
Student Services Building (Canes Central)	Gold	2021
Shalala Student Center	Silver	2011

FIGURE 4

Toppel Career Center	Silver	2014
Biomedical Research Building	<i>In Progress</i>	-
Centennial Village	<i>In Progress</i>	-
Frost Institute of Chemistry and Molecular Science	<i>In Progress</i>	-
Indoor Practice Facility	<i>In Progress</i>	-
John S. & James L. Knight Recital Hall	<i>In Progress</i>	-
Lennar Foundation Medical Center	<i>In Progress</i>	-
Life Science and Technology Center	<i>In Progress</i>	-
Marine Technology and Life Sciences Seawater Research Building	<i>In Progress</i>	-
Murphy Design Studio	<i>In Progress</i>	-
School of Nursing and Health Science Simulation Hospital	<i>In Progress</i>	-

FIGURE 5