Bryan Cordell, Executive Director of The Sustainability Institute

As Executive Director of The Sustainability Institute in Charleston, SC, Bryan Cordell oversees fundraising and donor development, program management, community outreach, and facility management. He frequently presents lectures on sustainability, green design and the environment. He graduated from the College of Charleston with a degree in Political Science in 2003.

Education/Career History/ Community Service

As an undergraduate student, Bryan’s interest in sustainability emerged while participating in a grant-funded green building team that retrofitted the Political Science historic building with sustainable technologies. He focused an internship and two independent study courses around environmental policy and sustainable development.

Before becoming executive director in 2006 at The Sustainability Institute, Bryan held 3 different positions.

He founded a small non-profit organization in 1999 in response to the devastation of Eastern North Carolina after Hurricane Floyd that still exists today.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of four local non-profits: Family Services, Inc.; The 113 Calhoun Street Foundation; Charleston GreenMaps and Lowcountry Local First. He also serves on the steering committees of Plant A Row for the Hungry (Lowcountry Foodbank Program) and the Lowcountry Chapter of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

How political science helped get him where he is today

“The program of study gave me a great foundation for the work that I do today in terms of understanding both local politics and issues facing Lowcountry communities. The program also gave me the opportunity to explore my interests through independent, faculty-guided research."

Advice to Current Political Science students

“My advice for any student would be to take advantage of the significant opportunities that exist within the department to further their interests and career objectives and to seek out opportunities to give back to the local community.”