

2027 Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability

Application Deep Dive Climate Action Plan & Resilience and Adaptation

August 12, 2026



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Application Overview
- Section Questions & Best Practices
- Panelist Discussion
- Q&A
- Next Steps



Housekeeping

- Attendee microphones are muted to limit disruption
- Use chat to introduce yourself
- Use Q&A to ask and upvote questions
- Participate in the polls
- Recording will be sent to everyone who registered
- Thanks for being here!



Introductions



David Liebman
Energy & Sustainability Manager
Sonoma County Junior College District



Javier Lugo Perez
Professor & Sustainability Coordinator
University of Puerto Rico at Utuado



Elizabeth Rowe
Founder & Principal
E Rowe Consulting



Amy Halvorson
Director for Sustainability
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Hallie Nelson Garcia
Program Manager for Sustainability
University of Colorado Boulder

Application Overview



2027 Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability Application Timeline



MARCH 9, 2026
Applications become
available online



AUGUST 14, 2026
Deadline to register
and submit payment



DECEMBER 18, 2026
Online application
deadline



MAY 2027
Notifications to
institutions of their
classification status



JUNE 2027
Public announcement
of 2027 Carnegie
Elective Classification
for Sustainability

2027 Carnegie Sustainability Application Framework

Context Definition Ecosystem Model

- I. Campus Information
- II. Institutional Context and Definition
- III. Ecosystem Model for Collaborative Community Partnerships

Academics Research & Innovation Workforce Development & Career Preparation

- IV. Academic Integration of Sustainability
- V. Research & Innovation for Sustainability and Climate Solutions (Non-Community Colleges)
- VI. Workforce Development and Career Preparation
 - A. For Non-Community Colleges
 - B. For Community Colleges

Climate Action Plan Campus Infrastructure Resilience & Adaptation Reflection

- VII. Climate Action Plan
- VIII. Campus Infrastructure for Sustainability
- IX. Resilience and Adaptation
- X. Reflection and Additional Information

Data should
reflect AYs
2022-2023,
2023-2024,
2024-2025



Poll #1

Has your institution registered your intent to apply for the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability?



Section VII: Climate Action Plan

Long-term planning is essential for higher education institutions to effectively address climate change and align sustainability efforts over time. This section asks applicants to upload their Climate Action Plan (or equivalent) and briefly describe its development process, key stakeholders, and primary goals.

BEST PRACTICES

- Institutions may submit comprehensive sustainability planning documents (Campus Master Plans, Sustainability Plans, Energy Plans, etc.) that serve this purpose even if they are not formally titled Climate Action Plans
- Connect back to Section II: Governance
- Not a make-or-break section of the application but an opportunity to delve deeper into the long-term planning decisions being made for campus sustainability and climate action



1. Strategic Plan Existence

Does your institution have a climate action plan or equivalent planning document? If so, you will be asked to upload your CAP document. If not, describe your institution's efforts to develop a climate action plan, or explain the rationale for not having one.

BEST PRACTICES

- Can upload any sustainability planning document – does not need to be a formal Climate Action Plan, but does need to be the guiding strategic document for campus sustainability efforts
- If no CAP exists, provide context for why this is and what plans exist for developing a CAP in the future, particularly for Emergent and Developing sustainability programs



2. CAP National and International Compatibility

Provide a brief description of the plan, including its development process, stakeholders involved, and the primary goals and priorities. Describe how the CAP aligns with national and international goals, such as the Paris Agreement, net zero frameworks, or the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

BEST PRACTICES

- Provide a summary of the CAP, including the development process, key stakeholders, and priority strategies
- Provide context on how the CAP is aligned with national and international frameworks, such as Second Nature's Presidents' Climate Commitment, state climate planning, and/or UN SDGs
- Opportunity to discuss market-based versus location-based emissions reporting and offsets



3. CAP Progress Assessment & Lessons Learned

How does your institution assess progress on the CAP? Share the most successful strategies from the plan, and explain what factors contributed to their success. Identify areas requiring additional attention or resources and provide insights into how these challenges are being addressed.

BEST PRACTICES

- Identify key indicators used to assess the efficacy of the CAP, how progress is evaluated, and who reviews/reports this data
- Highlight 2-3 of the most successful strategies, including measurable outcomes
- Identify constraints and areas needing more attention/resources
- If in process of developing a CAP, explain the intended process for assessment and review



Poll #2

Does your institution have a CAP or similar guiding document?



Section IX: Resilience and Adaptation

This section invites applicants to describe their commitment, actions, and strategies for building resilience and adaptive capacity to environmental, social, and economic challenges on campus and in the surrounding community.

BEST PRACTICES

- Connect back to the institution's priorities and long-term goals described in Section II: Institutional Context and how these efforts strengthen institutional readiness, support community well-being, and promote equity and sustainability over the long term



1. Addressing Theme Vulnerabilities

What frameworks, models or strategies does your institution use to assess and address vulnerabilities to climate risks (e.g., disaster planning, extreme weather events, resource scarcity) on campus and in the local community?

BEST PRACTICES

- Reference formal tools and plans, which could include climate risk and vulnerability assessments, emergency preparedness plans, climate vulnerability mapping, and scenario planning
- Connect these planning frameworks to local climate needs and vulnerabilities as identified in Section II: Institutional Context
- Connect with Second Nature Presidents' Climate Commitment as appropriate



2. Infrastructure Adaptation Initiatives

What specific campus operations and infrastructure initiatives have your institution undertaken to adapt to changing climate conditions (e.g., green infrastructure, water management systems, heat mitigation strategies)?

BEST PRACTICES

- Connect the risks and vulnerabilities identified in the previous question with project implementation
- Institutions may describe efforts at any stage of implementation assuming they are appropriate for local climate, geography, and institutional context



3. Resilience in Curriculum, Research & Training

How are resilience and adaptation integrated into curriculum, research, or training programs for students, faculty, and staff? Describe the specific metrics or indicators used.

BEST PRACTICES

- Highlight curricular offerings, research initiatives, and/or training or professional development for faculty and staff
- Integrate quantitative metrics as available, providing context on number of trainings held, number of courses that address resilience, quantity of funding secured, etc.



4. Support for Marginalized Communities & Climate Resilience

What specific programs or initiatives support marginalized communities in building climate resilience? How does your institution share data, resources, or expertise with local organizations to support climate adaptations efforts? Describe the specific metrics or indicators used.

BEST PRACTICES

- Connect back to Section II: Institutional Context for the needs and vulnerabilities of the institution's surrounding community
- Responses may also have been addressed in Section III: Ecosystem Model for Collaboration
- Provide quantitative metrics as available, and provide details on how programs have changed in light of these assessment initiatives



Discussion Questions

1. Does your institution have a Climate Action Plan? If a formal or approved plan is in development, how are you intending to describe your CAP in your submission?
2. What frameworks did you use to develop your Climate Action Plan and/or climate resilience planning efforts?
3. Provide an example of an identified climate vulnerability for your region, and how you are addressing that particular vulnerability throughout the application. For example, how was it identified, what are your priority implementation strategies, how do you assess these programs, and how does this positively impact your local community?



Poll #3

What are your next steps for these sections of the application?

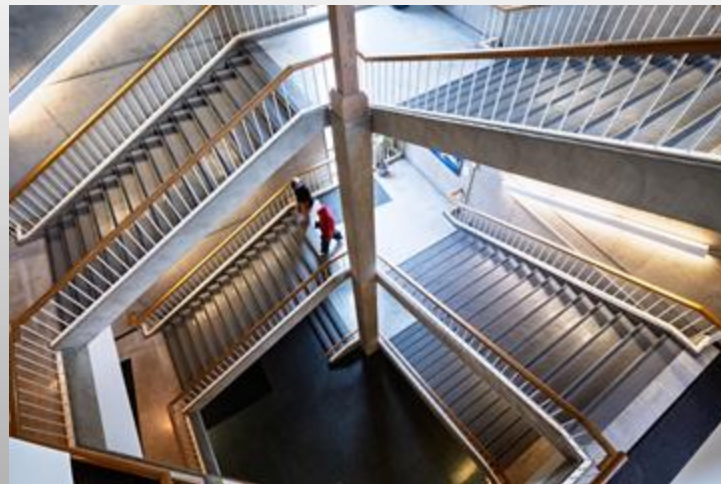


Q&A



Staying Connected and Building Capacity

- Download the [application & guidebook](#) from our site
- Sign up for our [mailing list](#)
- Register for upcoming [webinars](#)
 - **Narrative as Data** on September 22nd
- Check out our [Resources](#) page, includes crosswalks and [office hours](#)





www.colorado.edu/sustainability/carnegie-elective-classification-sustainability

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