



# Carnegie Sustainability Elective Consultants

## Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability

### Call for Institutions

#### Overview

The Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability is designed to recognize and celebrate higher education institutions that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and climate action as integral to their academic missions. The classification provides a rigorous framework for assessing and advancing sustainability efforts across curriculum, research, operations, and community engagement. Rather than a one-size-fits-all model, the narrative-based application allows each institution's unique strengths, priorities, and context to shine. It welcomes broad participation and offers equal recognition across the full spectrum of higher education — from large R1 universities to community colleges and minority-serving institutions.

The Carnegie Sustainability Elective Consultants program is a capacity-building initiative designed to increase access to the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability. To promote broad representation and inclusivity, we seek participation from institutions across diverse geographic regions and types in the United States and Puerto Rico, with particular encouragement for community colleges, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and campuses in rural areas. The program supports up to 12 institutions for the 2027 application cycle. Through the Sustainability Consulting Partners program, institutions receive strategic, facilitative, and implementation-focused support to strengthen institutional alignment, advance sustainability goals, and build long-term internal capacity. While participation is intended to be valuable, it does not confer any advantage in the review process or guarantee a successful application.

#### Benefits for Institutions

1. Application fee waiver—a value of \$2,000
2. 12 hours of virtual support from an experienced consultant who offers expertise, an objective perspective, strategic guidance, and accountability throughout the application process.

#### Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

1. Alignment with the goals of the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability (see first paragraph above).
2. Demonstrated commitment to sustainability – institutions should be seeking to strengthen sustainability goals, institutional alignment, and internal capacity through the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability self-study.
3. Demonstrated capacity for engagement – institution should be able and willing to actively participate in the program, work with an assigned consultant, and be ready to take full advantage of the support offered.
4. Institutional diversity – with preference for community colleges, MSIs, rural institutions, and geographically diverse campuses.

## The Consultant Role

Institutions will be matched with a consultant by the Carnegie Sustainability Classification at University of Colorado Boulder. Consultants will provide 12 hours of service virtually, between Monday, June 1, 2026 to Friday, October 30, 2026. The consultant and institution's representative will work together to determine goals, timeline, and activities.

The consultant relationship and activities will vary based on institutional needs, with all interactions conducted in a manner that maintains strict confidentiality. The consultant may support your institution's self-assessment and application process by:

- Preparing your institution for the application process
- Assessing strengths and identifying areas for growth
- Facilitating workshops for campus teams or leadership
- Providing one-on-one consultations to offer tailored guidance and individualized support to address specific questions, challenges, and goals
- Supporting the development of equity-centered outcomes
- Introducing frameworks, tools, and resources
- Assisting in identifying curricular examples that reflect your institution's commitment to sustainability
- Assisting with partnership identification, mapping and ecosystem development
- Helping to organize, synthesize, and prioritize ideas, information, goals, and strategies to support a cohesive narrative
- Working with your team to analyze input and identify opportunities for action, growth, and institutional transformation
- Providing detailed, reviewer-informed feedback on application narratives and drafts
- Building institutional capacity by cultivating and documenting knowledge and skills to be documented and that support future application efforts

Note: Consultants will not draft application narratives nor will they represent the campus at meetings, conferences, or webinars.

## Participant Timeline

Tuesday, April 21, 2026	Call for Institutions
Tuesday, May 12, 2026	Application deadline
Friday, May 22, 2026	Institutions will be notified if they have been selected
Thursday, May 28, 2025	Selected campuses complete intent to participate
Monday, June 1 – Friday, October 30, 2026	Consulting is provided
December 6, 2026	Institutions submit Sustainability Classification application
December 15, 2026	Institutions submit program evaluation

## To Apply

Please complete the [Campus Application Form](#) by **May 12, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** Ensure all required fields are completed, as late submissions will not be considered. Institutions will be notified on May 22, 2026. **For more information** contact [Amy.Halvorson@colorado.edu](mailto:Amy.Halvorson@colorado.edu).