



Carnegie Sustainability Communities of Practice

Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability

Call for Participants

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 Elective Classification for Sustainability is hosting Communities of Practice (CoPs) to connect professionals across the country who are applying for the classification and share common interests or areas of work. Each Community of Practice is composed of up to 15 participants and provides a space to learn from peers, exchange strategies, and deepen sustainability expertise. Through discussions, resource sharing, and collaboration, participants will develop practical skills and knowledge to strengthen their institution's sustainability practices.

While participation is intended to be beneficial, it does not confer an advantage in the review process or guarantee a successful application. There is no fee to participate.

Open Call for Participants

We invite higher education professionals committed to advancing sustainability at their institutions and applying for the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability to join our Communities of Practice (CoPs).

Through peer learning, discussion, and resource sharing, participants will exchange strategies, build practical skills, and deepen their understanding of sustainability across curriculum, operations, research, workforce development, and community engagement. CoPs are designed to foster collaboration, spark innovation, and build capacity—supporting collective progress toward more sustainable and resilient institutions.

Participants are expected to:

- Affirm that institutional leadership is committed to submitting the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability.
- Ensure that the institution is registered and that the application fee is paid by July 1, 2026 (to align with CoP meeting dates) or communicate with CU Boulder if additional arrangements are needed.
- Attend and actively engage in scheduled CoP meetings.
- Contribute to discussions by sharing experiences, insights, and resources.
- Communicate openly and respond in a timely manner to CoP-related messages or requests.

- Come prepared and complete any suggested pre-work or follow-up actions.
- Collaborate respectfully and support a peer learning environment.
- Apply insights and strategies to advance sustainability efforts on their institution.
- Maintain confidentiality and foster a trusted space for open dialogue.

Communities of Practice

1. **Advancing Sustainability as an Institutional Priority** – Focuses on developing the knowledge, skills, and strategies needed to advocate for sustainability, gain institutional support, and embed sustainability across the institution.
2. **Community Partnerships** – Focuses on strategies for identifying, mapping, building, and showcasing institutional and community sustainability partnerships in the application.
3. **Curriculum and Teaching** – Focuses on documenting sustainability integration in courses and programs, including faculty support and professional development, to strengthen the Carnegie application.
4. **Sustainability and Campus Operations** – Explore strategies to advance sustainable practices across campus facilities, operations, and infrastructure.
5. **Comunidad de habla hispana para la Sostenibilidad** (Spanish-Speaking Community for Sustainability) – Focuses on preparing to apply for the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability through shared learning, capacity building, and exchange of effective practices, all in Spanish.
6. **Southeast Regional Network: Institutions Preparing the Carnegie Sustainability Application** – Connect with nearby institutions in the Southeast United States to build partnerships, document shared sustainability initiatives, discuss common challenges and exchange best practices to strengthen the Carnegie application.
7. **Community Colleges Preparing the Carnegie Sustainability Application** – Focuses on challenges, strategies, and considerations unique to completing the Carnegie application for community colleges.
8. **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)s Preparing the Carnegie Sustainability Application** – Focuses on challenges, strategies, and considerations unique to completing the Carnegie application for HBCUs.

Timeframe

Communities of Practice will be convened between early July and mid-November 2026 (based on facilitators' schedules) and will typically consist of five 90-minute virtual sessions.

Participant Interest Form

Please complete and submit the [participant interest form](#) by **June 26, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** Ensure all required fields are filled.

For More Information

Contact CarnegieSustain@colorado.edu.