

2027 Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability

Application Deep Dive Section VIII: Campus Infrastructure for Sustainability

July 14, 2026



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Application Overview
- Campus Infrastructure for Sustainability: 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!



Poll #1

Is your institution planning to apply for the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability?



Introductions



Amber Saxton
Sustainability Program Manager
George Mason University



Sarah Dawson
Director for Sustainability
University of Colorado Boulder



Elizabeth Rowe
Founder & Principal
E Rowe Consulting



Amy Halvorson
Director for Sustainability
University of Colorado Boulder



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 #2

How confident are you feeling about collecting data and evidence on campus infrastructure and operations?



Section VIII: Campus Infrastructure for Sustainability

This section describes how the institution's physical and operational systems support sustainability goals. Highlight how sustainability principles are embedded in campus facilities, infrastructure, and operations. Throughout the section, refer back to campus as Emergent, Developing, or Established to provide context on campus operations decisions. Provide quantitative data to support qualitative responses.

Connectivity to STARS & Second Nature Reporting

- Refer to STARS Crosswalk available through CU Boulder Carnegie Resources
- Institutions have the option to upload current STARS report or Second Nature Climate Commitment report to provide additional context
 - Note: this does not replace the data upload requirement for Question 7
- Can set own start and end date for Question 7 to align w/ FY

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



1. Green Building Practices

Describe green building practices and identify 5 to 7 standards or targets that support building decisions or examples of green-certified buildings or campus-wide sustainability features such as energy-efficient designs, construction, and occupancy. If your institution does not use a formal green building rating system, explain the alternative methodology or approach applied to achieve these goals. Additionally, highlight any campus-wide sustainability features such as energy-efficient designs or renewable energy systems.

BEST PRACTICES

- Highlight standards, certifications, or performance targets that guide building decisions
- If no formal standard exists, such as a LEED standard, explain any internal guidelines or methodologies used for building decisions



2. Hubs & Collaborative Spaces

Highlight sustainability hubs including physical spaces or centers dedicated to sustainability education, research, and cross-disciplinary collaboration space?

BEST PRACTICES

- May include living labs, field stations, campus museums, greenhouses, urban gardens, makerspaces, innovation hubs, and sustainability institutes
- Provide context on how these physical spaces support teaching, applied research, student engagement, and community partnerships described in other application sections
- As able, provide metrics on the scale of impact of these spaces



3. Natural Habitat, Indigenous Land & Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Describe efforts to recognize, honor and preserve the campus's natural habitat, including Indigenous land acknowledgements, traditional ecological knowledge, and partnerships with local communities.

BEST PRACTICES

- Highlight policies, educational efforts, or stewardship practices that demonstrate respect for cultural and ecological significance
- May include habitat restoration initiatives, biodiversity conservation plans, or partnerships with Indigenous communities and local organizations
- Demonstrate sustained engagement, reciprocal partnerships, and alignment with broader environmental and community commitments referenced in other application sections



4. Inclusivity & Accessibility of Green Infrastructure

Describe your institution's efforts to ensure that sustainability-related infrastructure, programs, and practices are inclusive and accessible to all members of the campus community – regardless of physical ability, socio-economic status, or digital access barriers. This includes both the physical campus environment and virtual and virtual platforms used for sustainability education, engagement, and decision-making with consideration for socio-economic and language inclusion.

BEST PRACTICES

- Demonstrate how accessibility and inclusion are intentionally embedded in sustainability initiatives, not just policies on accessibility and inclusion at the institution
- Consider two or more of the following areas: Physical Accessibility, Socio-Economic Inclusion, Digital and Remote Accessibility, Planning and Policy, and Language



5. Conservation Practices

Describe your institution's approach to conservation, focusing on efforts to protect and sustain natural resources on and around campus. Your response may address water conservation, land conservation and stewardship, resource management and circularity, transportation solutions, and/or healthy and sustainable menu choices.

BEST PRACTICES

- Highlight conservation practices tied back to Institutional Context, Ecosystem Model for Collaboration, and other campus sections
- Highlight data, metrics, institutional goals, and other data in two or more of the following areas: Water Conservation, Land Conservation and Stewardship, Transportation Solutions, and Healthy and Sustainable Menu Choices



6. Campus Physical & Population Evolution

Provide an overview of how your institution's physical campus and population have evolved over the years, ideally using the same baseline year provided in Question 7 below. Describe changes in campus square footage (i.e., new buildings, renovations, land acquisition), and institutional population (i.e., student enrollment, staff hiring, facility growth on contraction).

BEST PRACTICES

- Provide context for changes in campus footprint, including new construction, major renovations, demolition, land acquisition, and shifts in building use
- Provide context for changes in campus populations
- Provide normalized metrics as available and connect to campus operations and facility decisions



7. Energy, GHG, Water & Waste Data

Download and complete the data submission file to provide a snapshot of your institution's energy use, GHG emissions, water consumption, and waste diversion. Include a brief narrative that provides context for each specific area and your institution's approach to monitoring, managing, and assessing programs in each area, and provide an explanation if data is unavailable.

Units of Measurement: Guide for Completing the following Tables	
Term	Description
kWh (Kilowatt-hours)	Used to report electricity consumption or generation. Data is commonly sourced from utility bills, sub-metering systems, or purchase records.
Gallons (Fuel)	Optionally used to report fuel consumption measured by volume, such as diesel, gasoline, heating oil, propane.
Therms (Fuel)	Optionally used to report stationary fuel use. Ensure only stationary fuel use is calculated, transportation-related fuel use should be excluded.
MMBtu (Million British Thermal Units)	Used to report stationary fuel use or generation. If specified MMBtu, fuel data originally tracked in therms, cubic feet, or gallons should be converted using conventional conversion factors.
MTCO ₂ e (Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent)	Used to report greenhouse gas emissions, including total GHG emissions and Scope 1/2/3 emissions. Values should reflect emission calculated using an accepted methodology (GHG Protocol, EPA Factors, etc.)
Gallons (Water)	Used to report water use or water supplied. Ensure to select whether this is total potable, non-potable, or both. Commonly sourced from utility bills, municipal invoices, or on-site water meters.
Tons (Waste)	Used to report mass-based quantities of waste. Clearly document assumptions or conversions in the narrative field if applicable.
Percentage (Waste)	Use these data fields to indicate the total relevant percentage of the stated category relative to the total waste indicated in the first row.



	Unit of Measurement	Baseline Year (Start Date)	Baseline Year (End Date)	Baseline Value	Most Recent Year (Start Date)	Most Recent Year (End Date)	Most Recent Year Value	Data Source	How often is this data reviewed?	Narrative (Max 250 words)
Example - Electricity Use	kWh	7/1/18	6/30/19	12,500,000	7/1/23	6/30/24	10,300,000	Utility-billing records and campus energy management systems	Yearly	Electricity use has decreased by approximately 18% between our baseline year and the most recent reporting year. This reflects a combination of targeted energy efficiency initiatives. Key contributors to our reduced electricity usage include a multi-year LED lighting retrofit, introduction to HVAC controls in select buildings, building energy demand.
Electricity Use (Electricity procured from offsite suppliers or generated onsite)	kWh								Choose from Selection	
Stationary Fuel Use (Fuel procured from offsite suppliers, including natural gas, propane/LPG, heating oil, etc. Transportation fuels excluded)	Choose from Selection								Choose from Selection	
Other (Please specify in narrative. May include steam, hot water, chilled water from offsite sources)									Choose from Selection	
Electricity Generation- Renewables (Total onsite and offsite renewable energy)	kWh								Choose from Selection	
Stationary Fuel Generation - Renewables (Total renewable fuels, including biofuels and biogas, etc.)	MMBtu								Choose from Selection	
Other (Specify in narrative)									Choose from Selection	

Discussion



Discussion Questions

1. What tracking systems did you use to keep track of operational data?
2. If an institution was not tracking any of this operational data, what data could they reasonably collect within the application timeframe? Who would you recommend they reach out to on campus to collect this information?
3. How did you incorporate quantitative metrics into qualitative responses?
4. Was there data you weren't able to locate and if so, how did you address missing data in your application?



Q&A



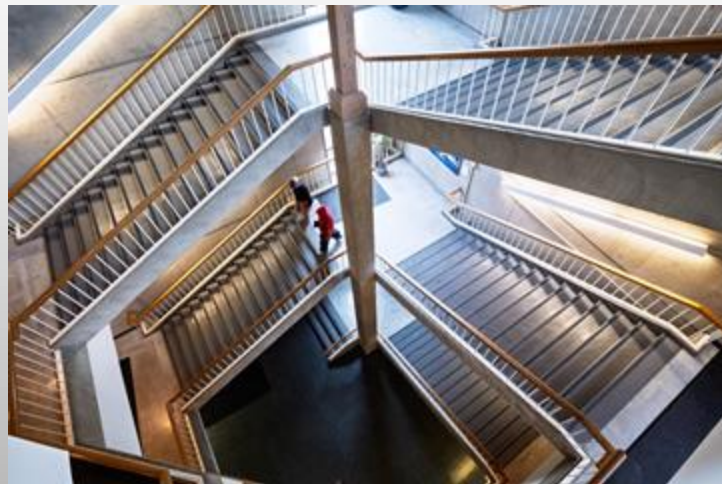
Poll #3

What are your next steps in gathering evidence and data on campus infrastructure and operations?



Staying Connected and Building Capacity

- Download the [application & guidebook](#) from our site
- Sign up for our [mailing list](#)
- Register for upcoming [webinars](#)
 - July 28 – Academic Integration, Research and Innovation, and Workforce Development for Non-Community Colleges
 - July 30 – Academic Integration and Workforce Development for Community Colleges
- Check out our [Resources](#) page, includes crosswalks and [office hours](#)





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

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