



2027 Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability

Call for Application Reviewers

Deadline for Submission extended to Friday, October 2, 2026

The University of Colorado Boulder is seeking reviewers to participate in the evaluation process of applications for the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability's inaugural cycle. Reviewers will play a crucial role in assessing the institution's commitment to sustainability and climate action as integral to its academic mission and efforts across curriculum, research, operations, campus life, and community engagement.

The [Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability](#) uses a narrative-based application that allows each institution's unique strengths, priorities, and context to shine, rather than a one-size-fits-all model. 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.

To ensure a fair and inclusive review process that reflects the diversity of applicant universities and colleges, we encourage experts from all races, genders, and ages to join our panel of reviewers. This includes experts from various institution types, including community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). By fostering a diverse and inclusive panel of reviewers, we aim to incorporate a wide range of perspectives and expertise to provide comprehensive evaluations for the Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability applications.

Peer Review Process

The Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability utilizes a peer review process to evaluate and assess applications. This process consists of three tiers of reviewers:

Tier One: Peer Review Teams

Applications are reviewed by peer review teams consisting of three individuals per team and support from one graduate student fellow. These teams are intentionally assembled to include reviewers with a diverse range of perspectives, representing different types of institutions, professional experiences, and areas of expertise, helping to ensure a fair, comprehensive, and well-rounded review process. Each team is assigned a set of 6-8 applications to review. Teams are asked to provide their recommendations and feedback for each application.

Tier Two: Experienced Reviewers

Tier Two reviewers are experienced reviewers who conduct additional review of applications identified by Tier One reviewers as requiring further consideration. Considering the notes and evaluations provided by the Tier One peer review teams, Tier Two review teams may recommend that an institution be classified, not classified, or advanced for further review.

Tier Three: Carnegie Sustainability Staff

The Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability staff and experts conduct a final review of each application, considering the notes and evaluations provided by the peer review teams.

Drawing on their expertise and knowledge, staff ensure that the assessment process aligns with the standards and objectives of the Carnegie Elective Classifications and supports consistent and well-informed classification decisions.

Eligibility Criteria for Tier One Reviewers

The Carnegie Sustainability Classification staff determine the number of required reviewers based on the number of institutions that indicate they will apply in the 2027 cycle. We are looking for Tier One reviewers who are sustainability experts, including faculty, administrators, and/or staff that meet the following criteria:

- Have work experience or scholarship related to sustainability and climate action across higher education (e.g., curriculum, research, operations, campus life, community engagement, or institutional sustainability initiatives).
- Earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.
- Are currently active in the field of sustainability and climate action: currently or recently (within the last year) employed by an accredited institution of higher education, or a nonprofit or consulting organization serving higher education in the United States.
- Are not the primary or lead author on an institution's active Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability application (to be submitted in December 2026).

Reviewer Expectations

- Attend and actively participate in all training sessions, including discussions and breakout working groups, to receive clearance to review sustainability applications.
- Complete conflict of interest paperwork and keep the Carnegie Sustainability Classification staff at CU Boulder apprised of any changes in employment, education, consulting, or other professional affiliations that may affect eligibility to review.
- Participate in Tier One of the review process, evaluating 6–8 applications individually and as part of a review team.
- Prepare thoroughly for each application review; reviewers must evaluate the details and institutional context of submitted materials.
- Evaluate evidence of sustainability and climate action across areas such as curriculum, research, operations, campus life, community engagement, and institutional planning.
- Participate in a minimum of one reviewer team meeting per application to discuss applications, generate group review notes, and log decision recommendations.
- Generate detailed independent review notes, group review notes, and decision recommendations.
- Work effectively and collaboratively with members of the review team, actively engaging in open communication, sharing insights, and providing constructive feedback. Foster a positive and inclusive team environment that values collaboration, respect, and diverse perspectives.
- Uphold strict confidentiality throughout the review process.

Time Commitment

- Three 1.5-hour virtual training sessions. (4.5 hours total)

- The application review period will be January 11 – April 30, 2027. Tier One reviewers are expected to independently review 6-8 applications and hold a minimum of one group review meeting per application, typically 1-1.5 hours, with their review team to discuss applications, provide feedback notes, and log decision recommendations. (6-12 hours total)
- Each application review can span 3-4 hours. As reviewers become more adept at evaluating applications, review time tends to decrease. (18-32 hours total)

Reviewer Training

Three required 1.5-hour training sessions will be offered via Zoom for Tier One reviewers. The training will build reviewers' knowledge of the 2027 Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability Framework and prepare them to conduct thorough, holistic reviews while understanding their roles, responsibilities, and documentation requirements. Training dates are outlined below, and calendar invites will be provided. Please hold your calendars in the meantime.

- Training Session 1 - Choose one:
 - Wednesday, November 4th 1:00-2:30 p.m. MT
 - Thursday, November 5th 9:00-10:30 a.m. MT
- Training Session 2 - Choose one:
 - Wednesday, November 18th 1:00-2:30 p.m. MT
 - Thursday, November 19th 9:00-10:30 a.m. MT
- Training Session 3 - Choose one:
 - Wednesday, December 2nd 1:00-2:30 p.m. MT
 - Thursday, December 3rd 9:00-10:30 a.m. MT

Reviewers must attend one option for each of the three training sessions. Reviewers who cannot attend a session live must watch the recording and certify that they have completed it. To receive the training payment of \$150, reviewers must attend at least two of the three training sessions live.

At the conclusion of reviewer training, the Carnegie Sustainability Classification staff will select the final reviewer teams. Participation in reviewer training does not guarantee selection as a reviewer. The number of reviewers needed for the Tier One review teams will be determined after all applications have been submitted.

Review Team Leader Opportunity

To enhance the efficiency of the reviewer process, each team will have a team leader to guide them through their application reviews. Team leaders will be selected based on stated interest and expertise within their submitted application. Team leaders will be required to attend two additional 1-hour training sessions and will receive an additional compensation of \$300 at the completion of the process. The team leader role includes all key reviewer expectations listed prior, as well as:

- Facilitate review team meetings using the process outlined by the Carnegie Sustainability Classification staff, ensuring discussions are inclusive and collaborative.
- Ensure that agendas are prepared, Zoom meetings are communicated, and meeting notes are documented, in partnership with the graduate student fellow.

- Provide substantive answers about the review process and considerations when reviewing applications.
- Work collaboratively with the graduate fellow to assist the team through the review process and support the team through drafting feedback reports.
- Guide graduate fellows in drafting, gathering review team feedback, and finalizing feedback reports to ensure they accurately reflect the team's recommendations and meet expectations for completeness, clarity, and equity.
- Ensure that the team meets all deadlines.
- Communicate with the Carnegie Sustainability Classification staff at CU Boulder.

Eligibility Criteria for Team Leaders

Team Leaders must meet the reviewer criteria and demonstrate:

- Sustainability expertise
- Higher education experience
- Team leadership/facilitation skills
- Review or assessment experience
- Strong analytical and communication skills
- Commitment to equity, collaboration, and the required time commitment

Team Leader Training

Team Leader training dates are outlined below. Calendar invitations will be provided for each session. Please hold your calendars if applying to be a review team leader.

- Team Leader/Graduate Fellow Session A:
 - Thursday, November 12th 1:00–2:00 p.m. MT
- Team Leader/Graduate Fellow Session B:
 - Tuesday, December 8th 1:00–2:00 p.m. MT

If interested in serving as a team leader, please make sure to provide the additional information requested at the end of the reviewer application.

Compensation

- Individuals who participate in all training sessions, including at least two live sessions, will be compensated \$150 (January 2027).
- Each reviewer will be compensated \$200 per application reviewed, at the completion of the process (April 2027).
- Each team leader will be compensated \$300 at the completion of the process (April 2027).

Application Instructions

Interested applicants should fill out an [application form](#) by **Friday, October 2, 2026**. The form requests the applicant's CV/resume and a Statement of Interest (maximum 5000 characters) indicating their suitability to serve as a reviewer, their motivation for participating in the review process, and how it connects to their professional interests or institutional role. Please direct questions to CarnegieSustain@colorado.edu. Selected reviewers will be notified by October 12, 2026.