

EN 14: Participation in Public Policy

2 points available

A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that promote sustainability through public policy advocacy. There are myriad public policies for which institutions can advocate that address sustainability, including policies specific to higher education. Given the prominence and importance of colleges and universities in their communities, institutions can be powerful voices in advancing sustainability through legislation and policy.

B. Criteria

Institution advocates for public policies that support campus sustainability or that otherwise advance sustainability. The advocacy may take place at one or more of the following levels:

- Municipal/local,
- State/provincial/regional,
- National, and/or
- International.

The policy advocacy must have the implicit or explicit support of the institution's top administrators and/or governing bodies to count. For example, advocacy by administrators, students, staff, or faculty who are acting as representatives of the institution or its governance bodies may count. Advocacy by students, staff, or faculty conducted in a personal capacity does not count unless it is formally endorsed at the institutional level.

Examples of advocacy efforts include supporting or endorsing legislation, ordinances, and public policies that advance sustainability; active participation in campaigns aiming to change public policy; and discussions with legislators in regard to the above.

This credit acknowledges institutions that advocate for policy changes and legislation to advance sustainability broadly. Advocacy efforts that are made exclusively to advance the institution's interests or projects may not be counted. For example, advocating for government funding for campus sustainability may be counted, whereas lobbying for the institution to receive funds that have already been appropriated may not.

C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

D. Scoring

Institutions earn 0.67 points for each level outlined above at which they advocate for public policies that support campus sustainability or that otherwise advance sustainability. A maximum of 2 points are available for this credit.

E. Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Does the institution advocate for public policies that support campus sustainability or that otherwise advance sustainability at the following levels?
 - ☐ Municipal/local
 - ☐ State/provincial/regional
 - ☐ National
 - ☐ International

For each positive response above, provide:

- ☐ A brief description of how the institution engages in public policy advocacy for sustainability, including the issues, legislation, and ordinances for or against which the institution has advocated

Optional

- ☐ A brief description of other political positions the institution has taken during the previous three years (if applicable)
- ☐ A brief description of political donations the institution made during the previous three years (if applicable)
- ☐ The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

F. Measurement

Timeframe

Report on sustainability policy advocacy efforts that took place during the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission. The report does not have to include all advocacy efforts.

Sampling and Data Standards

Not applicable

G. Standards and Terms

Not applicable