



2022 Emerging Issues Call for Proposals

Submission Deadline: Aug. 19

Introduction

Since the main Call for Proposals for AASHE's [Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education \(#GCSHE\)](#) closed in March, the need for urgent and transformative sustainability solutions has become ever more clear. In an effort to address developing issues such as widespread gun violence, the rollback of reproductive rights and the escalation of extreme weather due to climate change at #GCSHE, we are opening the [Emerging Issues Call for Proposals](#) through **Fri. Aug. 19, 2022** (deadline will not be extended). Proposals related to contemporary issues e.g. racial and social justice, LGBTQ+ rights, corruption, democracy, and immigration are particularly welcome.

All proposals must be submitted electronically through [AASHE's Proposal Submission Form](#). We strongly recommend you review this packet, the [best practices for building your session](#) and the [submission template](#). All these resources provide you with all the information you need to submit a successful proposal. Please visit the [AASHE Education website](#) or email education@ashe.org with any questions regarding the [Call for Proposals](#).

Why Present with AASHE?

- **Demonstrate thought leadership:** Gain recognition for your successes by sharing your experiences and lessons learned on the largest stage for sustainability in higher education.
- **Advance the higher education sustainability movement:** From engaging attendees with your sustainability story to empowering others with insight, tools and solutions that have helped you, your participation will enhance the community's sustainability knowledge, skills and competencies.
- **Strengthen your skills:** Each presentation is an opportunity to refine your presentation skills and to experiment with new audience engagement techniques.
- **Build community:** Sharing your work is a great way to make connections and find partners within the AASHE community. It encourages increased peer-to-peer learning, networking and collaboration to support a stronger campus sustainability community.

GCSHE Session Formats

Educational Session

These 45-minute sessions may be offered live or on-demand. They typically include presenters from one or two organizations and are intended to help attendees develop new skills and/or deepen their understanding of a specific issue or topic. See some [recommended formats](#).

Lightning Talks

These 15-minute sessions may be offered live or on-demand. They only include a single presenter and are intended to offer valuable insight in a concise, easy-to-digest format. Review [suggestions for short formats](#).

Networking & Discussion Session

These 60-minute sessions are an opportunity for topical interest groups, regional networks and other affinity groups (e.g., engineers or community college representatives) to convene, network and discuss issues that are relevant to the group. They are interactive in nature and do not include a formal presentation. These live sessions will take place on a specific date and time during the main conference. Review [recommendations for designing your session](#) as a collaborative experience that taps into the expertise of the participants.

Topic Areas

Topic areas describe the focus of your proposal and help participants find programs that are relevant to their interests. They generally align with the subcategories of the Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System ([STARS](#)), as described in the [STARS Technical Manual](#) and listed in the [Campus Sustainability Hub](#). You will be required to select one primary topic area that best characterizes the focus of your proposal and will have the option to select up to two secondary topic areas.

Competency Areas

To help participants find programs that help them develop their professional skills, you will have the option to select from a list of competency areas that the proposed educational program will help attendees develop. The competency areas are based on the sustainability competency framework developed in [Brundiens et al. \(2020\)](#) and synthesized by [Redman and Weik \(2021\)](#). [Learn more about these competencies](#).

Session Levels

All submitters self-identify their proposals as introductory, intermediate or advanced. AASHE defines each level as follows:

- **Introductory** - Material covered is foundational in nature and sessions are designed for attendees who have no prior background or are just starting in the domain of practice presented in the session.
- **Intermediate** - Material is designed for participants who have a working knowledge of the topic and a few years of experience in the domain of practice.
- **Advanced** - Material is designed for participants who have a detailed knowledge of the topic and specific experience applying or using this knowledge in a professional capacity over a long period of time.

Create a Proposal

All proposals must be submitted electronically through [AASHE's Proposal Submission Form](#).

- Review the submission fields and prepare your text in advance by using this [template](#).
- Remember to use a character count to make sure you don't exceed the character limits.
- You can save an incomplete proposal and come back later to submit it prior to the deadline.

Changing your Proposal

To make changes to your proposal before the submission deadline, use the link provided in the email confirmation you received when submitting the proposal. If you make any edits to your proposal, **you must re-submit the updated proposal for it to be considered**. No changes will be accepted to proposals after the deadline. If your proposal is accepted, you will be able to make **minor edits** to your session.

Proposal Review Criteria

All complete proposals will be reviewed by AASHE staff. Our primary goal is to ensure AASHE's educational offerings include a well-balanced mix of high-quality programs that will meet the diverse interests of the AASHE community. Complete proposals will be reviewed and evaluated using the following criteria (note that we don't necessarily expect proposals to be strong on every criterion):

- The proposed session provides **broadly applicable lessons, tools and ideas**.
- The proposed session introduces **new, high-impact and solutions-oriented** research or initiatives.
- The proposed session equips attendees with **new or enhanced skills**.
- The proposed session promotes **active learning** and makes effective use of audience engagement techniques.
- The proposed session reflects and/or contributes to **racial equity and social justice**.
- The proposed session is **relevant** to the conference theme: "The Urgency of Now".

Tips for Preparing a Successful Proposal

- **Start with your audience in mind.** Consider what you can offer that is likely to be relevant and useful to attendees and structure your proposal so as to make clear what they will take away from your session or program.
- **Engage the audience.** Review [best practices for building your session](#) as a collaborative experience which taps into the expertise of the participants and leaves them feeling energized and inspired.
- **Focus your proposal on something specific** (e.g., the findings of a particular research project; a valuable skill or competency; or an especially successful initiative). We rarely accept proposals that provide a general overview of an institution's sustainability efforts.
- **Highlight the unique or novel aspects** of your proposal while still being relevant to other institutions. For example, if you are proposing a session about your institution's green fund, be sure to describe any special features that distinguish your green fund from other green funds and that might be useful for other green fund administrators to implement.
- **Go deep!** Many of our members are seeking advanced, in-depth content.
- **Be provocative.** We appreciate proposals that thoughtfully challenge conventional wisdom.
- **Emphasize the impacts** of your research or initiative (e.g., on sustainability literacy, carbon emissions, or expenses). Proposals that demonstrate significant real-world impact tend to be reviewed more favorably.
- **Describe the evidence** you will be using to support your presentation. We especially value presentations that are well supported with evidence and/or empirical research.
- **Find partners** from other organizations. Proposals that offer insights from multiple institutions engaged in similar work tend to be well received. Posting a message to the [AASHE Member Community](#) can be a good way to find potential partners.
- **Avoid sales pitches.** All sessions must be educational in nature. Proposals that sound like advertisements of a product or service will not be accepted. If you are a supplier of products or services, be sure your proposal focuses on a relevant topic, concept, or idea – not one of your products or services. In addition, we strongly recommend including a campus representative as a presenter to help make the content applicable to participants.
- **Let AASHE consider your proposal for alternate formats.** Proposals that offer more flexibility have a better chance of being accepted in some form.
- **Become an AASHE member.** We give preference to submissions featuring people associated with AASHE member organizations and we don't accept proposals submitted by or featuring non-member businesses. Learn more about [AASHE membership](#).
- **Review the submission fields** and prepare your text in advance. Use this [template](#) to draft your proposal and remember to use a character count to make sure you don't exceed the character limits.
- **Read the review criteria** (below). To be accepted, your proposal will need to score well on at least several of them.

Important Dates & Deadlines*

- **Emerging Issues Call for Proposals submission period closes:** August 19, 2022
- **Emerging Issues proposal review:** August to September 2022
- **Emerging Issues acceptance/decline notifications:** September 2022
- **Emerging Issues schedule announced:** September 2022
- **Deadline to accept Emerging Issues invitations to present at GCSHE:** September 16, 2022
- **GCSHE:** Oct. 18; Oct. 23; and Nov. 3

*Schedule and deadlines subject to change.

Presenter Acknowledgement

If your proposal is accepted, you will need to [agree to presenter policies](#) when submitting your RSVP. These policies clarify our expectations for presenters and help us deliver an exceptional educational experience.

Among other things, they include the following:

- **Conference presenters (up to 3 presenters per session)** receive a discount (\$100 for non-student presenters, \$50 for student presenters) off the costs of a full conference registration. *The remaining registration costs are the responsibility of each presenter.* Note that by presenting at GCSHE, **you grant AASHE an irrevocable, royalty-free, exclusive and perpetual license** to use the recording of your session and any other submitted materials. You also agree to not share the recording on other platforms or conferences.

Thank you and we look forward to your submission!