



Portland State University
February 6-8, 2018

HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Hosted by:



Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference February 6-8, 2018 - Portland, Oregon

Event Summary

The Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is an opportunity for collective direction and solidarity in higher education for our region. As political, social and environmental issues become more complex, WOHESC convenes and empowers stakeholders who are driving leadership and generating solutions for a more sustainable future. Our aim is to both enliven the role of higher education in the future of Washington and Oregon and the role students play in a future world.

2018 Spotlight

Equity and Diversity - Planning for Equitable Actions through Climate Resilience

Explore the opportunities and barriers of marginalized and vulnerable communities through environmental, climate, and social justice work as we weave this idea throughout this year's conference. Why is it important to address diversity and equity issues in our sustainability efforts? What is social sustainability and how can we work to increase its relevance? We will draw connections between environmental impacts, economic impacts, and social impacts as we gain insight and understanding about the vital role equity and diversity plays in our sustainable future. 2018 conference programming will highlight, but is not limited to, this topic.

Host Campus – Portland State University

Portland State University's mission is to "let knowledge serve the city". This reflects their dedication to finding innovative, sustainable solutions to local and global problems. The PSU Campus Sustainability Office fosters partnerships across departments and disciplines that nourish institutional stewardship of our environment and support a growing culture of sustainability within PSU. The PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions empowers effective community-university collaboration for a more livable, resilient, and sustainable future.

Host Partners

WOHESC 2018 is made possible through partnership with the following higher education institutions:





Selection Criteria

- **Actionable Takeaways** We want attendees to leave breakout sessions with a skill they can put to use, a project they can implement, or new knowledge of a subject to take back to their own work. Generating meaningful learning objectives for well thought-out proposals will increase your likelihood of selection for inclusion in the program.
- **Creativity of Subject Matter.** We are interested in creative problem solving that goes beyond what has been tried before and will inspire action and thinking outside of the box. We are particularly looking for innovative proposals that will inspire solutions building in the sessions with attendees.
- **Connectivity.** We seek proposals that assemble linkages among faculty and curriculum development activities, campus operations, research, student affairs, and student initiatives. This event aspires to bring stakeholders together from separate divisions of the campus to create collaborations and break down traditional silos.
- **Transferability.** We are looking for sustainable practices and ideas that transfer between institutions and will launch discussion about overcoming the limitations of replication.
- **Quality.** We are looking for high quality session abstracts that describe how the proposal will convey a clearly articulated subject and objective. We are dedicated to ensuring that the presentations at our conference meet the high standards of the academic institutions that host the conference.
- **Interaction and Inclusivity.** Above all, our selection team is committed to proposals that will bring an engaging delivery of presentations and inclusive interaction for everyone. Preference will be given to proposals that outline participative and experiential formats.

Topic Areas

WOHESC is seeking, but is not limited to, submissions from the list of topics below.

Academics

We seek proposals from students, faculty, and staff to discuss how sustainability impacts their area of study. Some ideas may include:

- Assessments of student sustainability literacy
- Coursework focused on service learning or community based research
- Cross-departmental learning
- New curricular pathways and concentrations/minors in sustainability

Engagement

We seek proposals that are interested in the ways that students, faculty, and staff are choosing to participate and become involved in sustainability issues:

- Sustainability 101 – examples:
 - How to put together a sustainability committee on your campus?
 - How to get funding for a Sustainability Coordinator?
- “Green” jobs and career services
- **Social justice movements**
- Local community engagement
- Outreach and collaboration
- Professional development for students



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Innovation and Leadership

We seek proposals that examine the movements happening on campuses across the state and the unique ways that students, faculty, and staff are influencing sustainable change on their campuses:

- Campus culture
- **Equity and Diversity**
- Innovative technologies
- Living Lab Initiatives
- Student-led initiatives
- Transportation and alternative fueled vehicles
- Zero waste strategies

Operations

We seek proposals that are focused on how a university or college can be run more sustainably and/or that increases the efficiency of the campus:

- Campus agriculture and gardens
- Clean energy solutions
- Climate action planning
- Climate change resilience and readiness
- Communicating sustainable practices to the campus community
- Cost saving operational measures
- Energy efficiency
- Food procurement and food waste
- Green cleaning
- How to transition off natural gas
- Preserving the natural habitat
- Solar projects
- Sustainability in campus master plans
- Tracking progress
- Working with campus administrators

Planning and Administration

We seek proposals that look at the big picture of how universities can take steps towards modeling and leading sustainability in our communities:

- Divestment
- **How to diversify your workforce**
- Funding university sustainability
- Institutionalizing sustainability
- Procurement and business services
- Responses to state legislation



Session Styles

WOHESC invites proposals to be submitted for different session styles described in detail below. All concurrent breakout sessions will be 60 – 75 minutes in length.

Case Study/Speakers (for inclusion as a part of a session or panel)

Submit a new and original case study that demonstrates leadership, busting the status quo and developing inventive breakthroughs in thinking. This could be combined with other case studies/speakers into one inclusive session.

Participative Panel Discussion

An interactive version of conventional panel presentations with 3-4 speakers and a moderator leading the group discussion; emphasis will be on drawing connections between the panelists' perspectives. The aim will be to both share fresh ideas and generate new knowledge amongst the participants in the room.

Solutions Roundtable (facilitated conversations for problem solving)

Designed to provide space and facilitation for those champions who are ready to dive in; using roundtables and both small and full group discussion, these sessions will bring mixed perspectives together to tackle the bigger picture sustainability challenges facing higher education institutions. These sessions will require experienced facilitators to introduce the topic and provide background information to the room. From there 3-4 speakers will share their respective viewpoints on topics and pose questions for the room to discuss.

Interactive Workshop Session

Alternative formats for hands-on, experiential learning; sessions can be outlined in any structure depending on the topic areas and selected proposals. Interactive Workshop proposals will require additional information including a session timing outline and a session pedagogy including learning design, activities and engagement tasks and actionable takeaways/report back achieved from attending the workshop. Please also make note of any special materials, room structure or capabilities your session requires

Pecha Kucha/Lightening Round/Case Study Jam Session

Be prepared! This lively session will cover a lot of information in a limited amount of time. Pecha Kucha is a presentation style in which a number of slides are shown for a certain amount of time each. The format keeps presentations concise and fast-paced to power multiple-speaker events. A lightning round is a round of a game or contest in which the duration of the round is a pre-determined length of time, and the goal is typically to accomplish as much as possible within that period.

Collaboration Corner

Less structured spaces for freestyle collaboration and experiential idea exchange. This is a space for those who need to take a break from the conference atmosphere and engage in hands-on activities and multisensory learning. Collaboration Corner Proposals also require a session outline and pedagogy.

PLEASE NOTE: WOHESC reserves the right to make changes to submissions and require alternative combinations of speakers and case studies to most effectively shape each session's content and the event's sustainable learning experience as a whole.



Posters

The Planning Committee invites proposals for posters to be displayed for the duration of the conference in the venue's foyer and highlighted during a dedicated part of the program. The goal of the posters are to showcase a range of ongoing sustainability projects and research via visual presentation of a topic allowing viewers to learn on their own while the presenter discusses particular points in one-on-one or small group conversations. The Planning Committee will select 20 project posters to feature at the conference.

Submission Guidelines for Poster:

To submit a proposal for a poster, please use the online proposal submission form below. Be sure to provide a description of the project to be highlighted, how it contributes to the overall sustainability of your campus, and how it addresses the conference theme. Posters must be printed and mounted by presenter; WOHESC will not be responsible for printing posters.

Selection Criteria for Poster:

- **Actionable Takeaways.** Posters and projects that impart new skills and knowledge on the audience contribute to a more valuable learning experience.
- **Connectivity.** This event brings a wide range of Higher Education partners and stakeholders together to foster collaboration within and across sectors. We encourage proposals that explore cross-sector connections.
- **Relevance.** The strongest poster proposals will fit within the theme of the conference and cover topics that are timely and relevant to a wide cross section of stakeholders. Posters that present new research or have potential for peer-to-peer learning will receive preference.
- **Overall fit.** Proposals will be selected based on how well they fit into the overall set of posters to ensure a diverse collection of projects is represented.

Table Topics

Is there a specific topic you would like to network around at WOHESC? If so, please email us your table topic suggestion at sierra@wohesc.org. We want your input!

Table Topic Examples include:

- Agriculture and Food
- Behavior Change- Recycle and Reuse
- Campus Facilities
- Social Justice and Equity
- Sustainability in the Curriculum
- Waste Management

Speaker Guidelines

Presentations are not meant to be a platform for business promotion. WOHESC requests that all proposals tie directly to **offering educational outcomes and actionable next steps/takeaways for attendees**. Speakers are responsible for confirming that they have the right to use and will acquire the licenses needed for any copyrighted material used in the presentation. We will ask all speakers to sign a waiver if



they wish to share their presentation materials through WOHESC communication channels. Speakers with accepted proposals will be expected to register for and attend the conference, for a discounted rate, at their own expense.

How to Submit

[Click here to submit!](#)

All proposals must be submitted through our [online submission form](#). Below is the information required for all proposals:

- Submitter's full name and contact information: The "submitter" is the individual completing the online form and who will be available to answer any logistical questions about its contents, regardless of whether he/she is the proposed speaker/presenter.
- Proposal Title (20 words maximum)
- Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Proposal type/session style
- Relevant Audience- please specify if you are submitting your session for a student focused audience
- Learning objectives (please list 3-4 lessons/insights the audience will take away from this session and be able to utilize in their work)
- Speakers (name, affiliation, title, email address)

Interactive Workshops and Collaboration Corner proposals will require the below additional information:

- Session timing outline
- Session pedagogy including learning design, activities and engagement tasks and **actionable takeaways achieved from attending the workshop**. Please also make note of any special materials, room structure or capabilities your session requires.

Call for Proposals Timeline

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017 - Call for proposals issued

Monday, July 17th, 2017 - Deadline for proposal submissions

Friday, November 3rd, 2017 - Selection decisions announced

Wednesday, December 6th, 2017 - WOHESC 2018 program announced

February 6-8th, 2018 - Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference

For additional information, contact: Sierra Winegarner at sierra@wohesc.org

To view previous year program agendas and session descriptions, please visit: <http://wohesc.org/history/>