

Dear Faculty,

The Office of Sustainability is hoping to increase the number of sustainability focused courses offered at Connecticut College. To support course development, we are starting a pilot program to offer \$500 to faculty who develop a course with a strong focus on sustainability. The course could be a new offering, or one that had some aspect of sustainability in the subject but was not primarily focused on the topic of sustainability. The course must be offered some time in Spring 2021 or the 2021-2022 academic year (\$250 will be paid when the proposal is approved and the remaining \$250 will be awarded during the semester it is taught).

We request a 1-2-page proposal that describes the proposed title, course description, level (100-, 200-, 300- or 400-level), and a fuller narrative of how the topic will be addressed. The course must meet the criteria specified below, so please be explicit in how this is to be achieved. If a course already is included in the course catalog, a description of how the class will be modified should be included in the submission. Please note that existing courses that already are classified as sustainability-focused courses according to our ASHEE, STARS database will not be considered for awards.

The Office of Sustainability can support up to four courses with these funds. Proposals for sustainability-focused courses will be accepted beginning on December 11 and will continue until four awards have been granted. Reward recipients will be asked to share their syllabus and additional appropriate class materials with the Office of Sustainability so that they can be shared more broadly with faculty at Connecticut College looking to develop future sustainability courses.

Please submit your proposals to either Doug Thompson (dmtho@conncoll.edu) or Margaret Bounds (mbounds@conncoll.edu).

Sincerely,

Doug Thompson

Margaret Bounds

Sustainability-focused course criteria

To count as sustainability-focused, the course title or description must indicate a primary and explicit focus on sustainability. This includes:

- Foundational courses with a primary and explicit focus on sustainability (e.g., Introduction to Sustainability, Sustainable Development, Sustainability Science).

- Courses with a primary and explicit focus on the application of sustainability within a field (e.g., Architecture for Sustainability, Green Chemistry, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Business). As sustainability is an interdisciplinary topic, such courses generally incorporate insights from multiple disciplines.

- Courses with a primary and explicit focus on a major sustainability challenge (e.g., Climate Change Science, Environmental Justice, Global Poverty and Development, Renewable Energy Policy). The focus of such courses might be on providing knowledge and understanding of the problems and/or the tools for solving them.

The course title or description does not have to use the term “sustainability” to count as sustainability focused if the primary and explicit focus of the course is on the interdependence of ecological and social/economic systems or a major sustainability challenge. If the course title and description do not unequivocally indicate such a focus, but it is evident from the course description or syllabus that the course incorporates sustainability challenges, issues, and concepts in a prominent way, the course may qualify as sustainability-inclusive (see below).