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 national, state/provincial, or local public policies that support campus sustainability or that otherwise advance sustainability.

The policy advocacy must be done by the institution, not by students or a student group. 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 2 points for this credit by meeting the criteria outlined above. Partial points are not available for this credit.

E. Reporting Fields

Required
- An indication of whether the institution advocates for national, state/provincial, or local public policies that support campus sustainability or that otherwise advance sustainability
- An affirmation that the submitted information is accurate to the best of a responsible party’s knowledge and contact information for the responsible party. The responsible party should be a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once submitted and available to the public.
Conditional
Required if the institution is reporting advocating for public policies that support sustainability:
- 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
- A brief description of political donations the institution made during the previous three years (if applicable)
- The website URL where information about the institution’s advocacy efforts is available
- Notes about the submission

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