EN 9: Community Partnerships

3 points available

A. Credit Rationale
This credit recognizes institutions that have developed partnerships with their local communities to advance sustainability. As community members and leaders, colleges and universities can be powerful catalysts, allies and partners in envisioning, planning and acting to create a sustainable future in the region and beyond.

B. Criteria
Institution has one or more formal partnership(s) with the local community, including school districts, government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and/or other entities, to work together to advance sustainability within the community.

Each partnership conforms to one of the types outlined in the table below (supportive, collaborative or transformative). An institution may have multiple partnerships of each type, however no single partnership may be both supportive and collaborative, collaborative and transformative, or supportive and transformative.

Recognizing the diversity of forms that community partnerships may take, it is not required that a partnership meet all of the criteria listed to be considered supportive or collaborative. A partnership must meet all of the criteria listed to be considered transformative, however. For further guidance in identifying community partnerships that meet the criteria for each type, see the Credit Example, below.

This credit recognizes campus-community partnerships that advance sustainability in an explicit and participatory way. Participatory, community-based research and engaged scholarship around issues of sustainability may be included if it involves formal partnership(s). Although community service activities (e.g. academic service learning, co-curricular service learning and volunteer activities, Work-Study community service and paid community service internships) may involve local partnerships and contribute toward sustainability, they are not included in this credit. Community service is covered by EN 12: Community Service.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Community Partnership</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
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| A. Supportive | **Scope:** Addresses a sustainability topic or a specific aspect of sustainability (e.g. community garden, environmental remediation, community environmental health and education)  
**Duration:** May be time-limited (short-term projects and events), multi-year, or ongoing  
**Commitment:** Institutional involvement may include financial and/or staff support or may be limited to resource sharing and/or endorsement  
**Governance:** Campus and community leaders or representatives are engaged in program/project development |
| B. Collaborative | **Scope:** Addresses one or more sustainability challenge and may simultaneously support social equity and wellbeing, economic prosperity, and ecological health (e.g. a green jobs program in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood)  
**Duration:** May be time-limited, multi-year, or ongoing  
**Commitment:** Institution provides faculty/staff, financial, and/or material support  
**Governance:** Campus and local community members are both engaged in program/project development, from agenda setting and planning to decision-making, implementation and review |
| C. Transformative | **Scope:** Catalyzes community resiliency and local/regional sustainability by simultaneously supporting social equity and wellbeing, economic prosperity, and ecological health on a community or regional scale (e.g. “transition” projects and partnerships focused on community adaptation to climate change)  
**Duration:** Is multi-year or ongoing and proposes or plans for institutionalized and systemic change  
**Commitment:** Institution provides faculty/staff and financial or material support  
**Governance:** Partnership has adopted a stakeholder engagement framework through which community members, vulnerable populations, faculty, staff, students and other stakeholders are engaged in program/project development, from agenda setting and planning to decision-making, implementation and review |
C. Applicability
This credit applies to all institutions.

D. Scoring
Institutions earn the maximum of 3 points available for this credit for having at least one formal partnership that meets the criteria as “transformative” outlined above. Partial points are available if an institution does not have any transformative partnerships, but has instead one or more partnerships that meet the criteria as “supportive” and/or “collaborative” outlined above. Points earned are calculated according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution has at least one:</th>
<th>Total Points Earned</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Supportive community partnership</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Collaborative community partnership</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Transformative community partnership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that points are not earned cumulatively. For example, an institution that has one or more supportive partnerships and one or more collaborative partnerships would earn 2 points for this credit, not 3.

E. Reporting Fields

Required
- An indication of whether the institution has at least one formal sustainability partnership with the local community that meets the criteria as “supportive”
- An indication of whether the institution has at least one formal sustainability partnership with the local community that meets the criteria as “collaborative”
- An indication of whether the institution has at least one formal sustainability partnership with the local community that meets the criteria as “transformative”
- 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 one or more supportive partnership(s):
  □ A brief description of the institution’s supportive sustainability partnership(s) with the local community (including timeframes)

Required if the institution is reporting one or more collaborative partnership(s):
  □ A brief description of the institution’s collaborative sustainability partnership(s) (including timeframes, how multiple dimensions of sustainability are addressed, how the institution supports the partnership, and how campus and local community members are engaged)

Required if the institution is reporting one or more transformative partnership(s):
  □ A brief description of each transformative sustainability partnership (including timeframes, how the partnership supports economic prosperity, social equity and wellbeing, and ecological health, how the institution supports the partnership, how relevant stakeholder groups are identified and engaged, and how the partnership proposes to institutionalize systemic change)

Optional
  □ A brief description of the institution’s sustainability partnerships with distant (i.e. non-local) communities
  □ The website URL where information about the institution’s community sustainability partnerships is available
  □ Notes about the submission

F. Measurement

Timeframe
Report on current partnerships and/or partnerships that were active during the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards
Not applicable
Credit Example: Identifying Community Partnerships

To earn points for this credit, institutions must formally engage with their community to advance sustainability. Since the structure, format, and organization of community collaboration vary across institutions, “formal partnerships” may take different forms at each institution. Sustainability partnerships address one or more major sustainability challenges (e.g. the partnership contributes toward achieving principles outlined in the Earth Charter).

Examples:

**Supportive Partnership**
Example University partners with a local middle school to co-sponsor an afterschool organic gardening program for urban youth in Example University’s neighborhood. Example University coordinates student and staff volunteers and provides some technical support. The program is coordinated by school administrators and the university’s community partnership staff.

**Collaborative Partnership**
Example Community College participates in a local alliance of higher education institutions, schools, non-profits and the City of Example to assist in the creation of local green jobs in disadvantaged areas. The five-year project engages local community members, faculty, and staff in planning, decision-making and assessment activities. The college provides training courses, some operational expenses, and staff support.

**Transformative Partnership**
Model College initiated a joint effort with local government, business partners, community organizations and other entities to build community sustainability. The project aims to create lasting change and local resiliency by eliminating community carbon emissions, improving the energy efficiency of local housing, increasing local food production, creating wildlife habitat and renewable forestry, and revitalizing the local and regional economy through sustainable development. The project has adopted a stakeholder engagement framework that involves regular open forums and other mechanisms to solicit feedback and engage community members in planning, decision-making and assessment. The college provides financial and in-kind support and engages the campus community at all levels (i.e. administrators, faculty, staff and students).