

2021 Sustainability Conference Request for Proposals

Proposals due DECEMBER 15, 2020

What is the Sustainability Conference?

The Sustainability Conference is an annual opportunity to pull together everyone in the DU community - faculty, staff, and students alike – who are passionate about sustainability to network, collaborate, and learn from one another. Originally designed to be more like a networking “retreat,” it has become clear that experts in our community need outlets for sharing that expertise with others so that we can all contribute to a more just and sustainable campus and city. Over the years, we have turned more and more to skills building and content learning as the vehicle for networking and collaboration.

This year, for the first time, we are further fostering that spirit of collaboration and learning from within our community by putting out an open call for proposals. We are interested to hear from anyone at DU who would like to teach the DU Sustainability Community more about their area of expertise – whether that is a skill (or set of skills), a particular content area, or an update from your department or field of study. All of the contributions from our community are valuable and we want to create a bigger platform for sharing that work.

The 2021 Sustainability Conference will take place January 28-30, with a full roster of events available at the start of the Winter quarter.

Types of Proposals we are Seeking

Skills Workshop: Do you know a new and novel way of solving problems? Do you know a brilliant way to design solutions? Have you uncovered a great approach to creating communications materials that you wish more people would use? This is your opportunity to teach others a skill that you have. Sessions will be 60 minutes long and should be highly interactive – with lots of time for attendees to put their new skill use in practice scenarios or even with real-life projects they are working on. Previous workshops like this have included “Design Thinking,” “Planning for Impact,” and “Understanding Behavior Change.”

Content Teaching: “What is an Anchor Institution?” “What is Environmental Racism?” These are the titles of some content areas that have been taught in previous Sustainability Conferences. Do you have an area of expertise that you would like to fill others in on? These sessions will be 60 minutes long and will be highly informative in a relevant and/or novel topic area related to sustainability. These sessions should give attendees a greater understanding of the larger umbrella of sustainability and how your topic area is relevant to a more nuanced conversation.

Panel Discussion: Panel discussion offer a great way to deliver a lot of content in a short period of time. Colleagues who have been working on similar topics through different lenses, collaborators on different pieces of the same project, or groups who can offer different points of view on a complex topic make for great panel discussions. The panels will be 60 minutes long and should include plenty of time for questions from attendees related to any prepared content. The Center for Sustainability is happy to moderate your panel if you do not have a moderator. Please let us know in your proposal below if that is the case.

Campus Update: Have you been working on an awesome project to make DU a more just and sustainable place and want this community to know the latest and greatest news? Providing a campus updates are a great way to reach a large and engaged audience. These presentations will be 30 minutes long and should include information about how this project is helping DU reach its sustainability or other long-term goals.

City Update: Have you been engaged with some of the great work that is happening in the larger Denver community, as we move towards a more just and sustainable city? Would you like to share that work with the University community so that we can be more informed and engaged in city-wide processes? This is a great way to reach a new and unique audience, and potentially get them more involved in work off campus. Presentations will be 30 minutes long and should include information about how DU can engage with this work to move it forward.

Rapid Fire Talk: Have something short and simple to talk about? Want to do it in a fast-paced and fun Pecha-Kucha style talk (20 slides, 20 seconds per slide)? We will be putting together our first-ever Sustainability RapidFire session, and you can be part of it! Presentations are just under 7 minutes long and can be anything from an interesting research project or class you are leading/taking, a skill you would like to discuss, or any other topic related to sustainability at DU or beyond. The key to this talk type is that you keep to the timing (slides will be on a timer that auto-advances), and that you're excited about the fast pace and fun nature of this style.

PROPOSAL DETAILS

Name(s) of Presenter(s):

Contact Email(s):

Type of Presentation:

Title of Presentation:

Brief (200 words) Description:

How will this presentation engage the audience?

How will this presentation connect sustainability work to equity and justice?

Any other information you would like to share?

Send your proposal to Emily Schosid at emily.schosid@du.edu