



AMERICA EAST **SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE**

**Call for Proposals:
Speakers, Sessions
and Case Studies**



ABOUT US

The America East Conference provides member schools and their athletic programs a platform where student-athletes can achieve both collegiate and life success through athletic excellence, academic achievement and leadership, on and off the field across 18 sports with 10 member institutions.

America East is prioritizing sustainability and has established the America East Sustainability Network (AESN), a collaboration of the conference's member institutions, developed to advance member

institution environmental profiles, and to further the conference's collective sustainability goals. The group will identify shared goals and synergies that are unique to the America East and work collectively to implement them while creating ways to expand programming for students and student leaders to connect across the membership.

The AESN collaboration paves the way for the inaugural in-person America East Sustainability Conference (AESC) hosted on UMass Lowell's campus June 7-9, 2022. This comprehensive event will bring together students, faculty and staff from America East institutions, as well as national and international experts from industry to explore ways that our stakeholders and conference participants can work together to drive sustainable practices forward in their own programs, leverage additional resources and funding opportunities, and to help create joint research and teaching projects focused on sustainability.

Conference Theme: Partnership

The inaugural AESC will highlight partnership-focused approach to sustainability. These partnerships span across the conference membership, between campuses, between communities, between departments on each campus, between sports and sustainability and more; we will highlight the value of these partnerships and what they can accomplish. At the heart of these partnerships are common goals and synergies unique to The American East Conference which has led to the establishment of a formal network to collaborate and engage and help all members advance their environmental profile.

Social Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)

The America East Conference is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse work environment. One of the highest priorities for the AESC program is to be diverse, equitable, and inclusive. We aim to center social justice work in alignment with America East's Spread Respect initiative, which raises awareness to ensure equality and safety for all student-athletes, coaches and fans without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity and promotes social, racial and civic engagement.



To submit a proposal please see the guidelines below and then complete the [online submission form](#) by November 19th.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Submission Types

The conference program will include 75-minute sessions that are panel discussions and/or presentations, and 90-minute sessions that are interactive workshop and/or discussion-oriented sessions. We highly encourage using models of audience engagement and interaction throughout the conference program. We are also seeking poster submissions, and meet-up submissions, both of which will have dedicated time in the conference program.

Workshop Style Sessions – (90 minutes) Built to explore issues in greater depth, workshop attendees will experiment with new modes of thinking and formulate the application of presented strategies to address relevant and persistent issues. These workshops are highly interactive and aimed to provide tactical knowledge and actionable next steps. Attendees should leave with tools, resources and action plans that include in depth learning and dialogue.

Solutions-Driven Group Facilitated Discussion Sessions – (90 minutes) Moderators will introduce a topic and set up problem statements for discussion. Each roundtable will be assigned one problem statement with group-led conversations and thought-provoking discussions to drive solutions for the problem statements. To summarize, participants will come together and share their solutions to the problems and moderators will recap discussions

Case Study/Speakers/Best Practice Presentation Sessions – (for inclusion as a part of a 75-minute session) Featuring emerging best sports sustainability practices in operations, marketing and sponsorships, campus wide impact and student engagement, new and original case studies or leadership stories relevant to our themes, including athletics sustainability operations, leveraging sports to increase campus sustainability impacts, and engaging students in sports sustainability.

Panel Discussion Sessions – (75-minute session) Includes a Moderator and 3-4 speakers having a discussion based around topic with moderator-driven discussion questions. Format generally follows: Opening remarks/presentation, followed by moderated questions and answers with 10-15 minutes for audience questions to conclude the session.

Poster Proposal – Posters are displayed for the duration of the conference in our venue foyer and highlighted during a dedicated part of the program to showcase a range of ongoing sustainability projects and research. They are a visual presentation of a topic allowing viewers to learn on their own while the presenter shares in one-on-one or small group conversations.

Meet-up Proposal – Meet-ups are an opportunity for networking around a topic or with a specific peer group. Submit a proposal to host a meet-up for a certain group or around a certain topic and we will help promote it and create time in the program for it. Examples could include: “Student Athlete Meet-Up” or “Campus Community Gardens Meet-Up” or “Zero Waste Lifestyle Meet-Up” Etc.

SUBMIT TODAY

Submission Requirements

- Submitter's name and contact: "Submitter" is the individual completing the online form and who will be available to answer any questions about its contents, regardless of whether they are the proposed speaker.
- Proposal Title (20 words maximum)
- Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Session Description (3-4 sentences that will be published as a part of the conference program)
- 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)
- Additional Speakers (you should secure permission from speakers before including them in the submission)
- The following information will be requested, but optional to complete in the submission form for the submitter and speakers:
 - What preferred pronoun(s) do you use?
 - How old are you?
 - I identify my ethnicity as _____.

Program Policies, Guidelines and Expectations

- Diversity of gender, race and discipline is a priority for America East Sustainability Conference in developing the conference program, and will be given considerable weight when evaluating proposals.
- Presentations are not meant to be a platform for business promotion. AESC requests that all proposals offer educational outcomes and actionable 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 speakers to sign a release waiver to share presentation materials.
- Speakers with accepted proposals are invited and welcome to attend the full AESC with a complimentary speaker registration ticket but will be asked to cover their own travel and lodging expenses.

Review Criteria:

- **Actionable and Transferable.** We want attendees to leave our 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 and actionable learning objectives and ideas that transfer between institutions and organizational partners will launch discussion about overcoming the limitations of replication and increase likelihood of selection for inclusion in the conference 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 solution-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 collaboration and to break-down traditional silos.

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- **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.** 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 that promote reflection and discussion.
- **Social Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.** AESC strives to center JEDI in all that we do including conference thematic elements, speakers and attendees. Submissions that account for this topic, either directly or indirectly, will be given preference in the selection and program development process.

[Click here to submit!](#)

Call for Proposals Timeline

- September 7, 2021 Call for proposals issued
- November 19, 2021 Deadline for proposal submissions
- January 15, 2022 CFP Selection decisions announced to submitters
- March 9, 2022 Full program announced

Call to action:

Help us spread the word! Since this is the first inaugural America East Sustainability Conference, we hope that you will share more about it with your networks. Promote it using all the great graphics and sample copy in our [promo kit here](#).

Additional information:

Thank you for your interest! Please email sierra@aesustainabilityconference.com with any questions or for assistance in submitting your proposal.