

Sustainability & Environmental Justice Pedagogical Initiative

Request for Faculty Proposals

The [Sustainability & Environmental Justice Pedagogical Initiative](#) offers \$250-\$1,000 honoraria for Wesleyan faculty who incorporate sustainability and environmental justice into their courses. The College of the Environment is generously funding this pedagogical initiative for the tenth year in a row. Since 2016, this initiative has generated workshops, a faculty seminar series, and has supported 69 faculty teaching 88 courses. Professor Katie Brewer Ball (Faculty Coordinator, Sustainability and Environmental Justice) and Jen Kleindienst (Director, Sustainability Office) coordinate the initiative.

This initiative seeks to increase the number of Wesleyan courses that engage sustainability and environmental justice across the curriculum. This approach is proven to be an effective way to foster a culture of sustainability at dozens of colleges and universities and aligns with Wesleyan's [Strategic Sustainability Plan](#). Courses that are funded through this initiative will be included in the [Sustainability and Environmental Justice Course Cluster](#) in WesMaps.

All Wesleyan faculty are encouraged to apply (tenure track, tenured, professors of the practice, visiting faculty, post-doctoral fellows). **We encourage faculty whose teaching already addresses sustainability and environmental justice to apply, but especially welcome creative proposals from those who are not currently teaching one or both of these topics.**

Proposals are due in May and December each year. **The Fall 2025 proposal deadline is December 15, 2025 for courses taught in Spring 2026 and beyond.**

Proposal Requirements

Please provide the following information for each course (you may apply for funding for multiple courses) at <https://forms.gle/PX5wTwadWVg3ywks6>:

- Course type (new or existing)
- Course Name
- Course ID (include any cross-listings)
- Semester(s) scheduled
- Maximum enrollment of course
- Does this course currently include sustainability (Y/N)?
- Does this course currently include environmental justice (Y/N)?
- Current WesMaps course description
- A brief description of your plans for course integration
- The current syllabus for the course (or proposed/draft syllabus for a new course)

Post-Course Requirements

Details on these requirements will be shared ahead of the semester in which you plan to teach your course.

- Submit your updated final syllabus
- Attend at least one lunch in the 2025-2026 academic year with fellow faculty participants (dates TBD in November, February, and April).
- Complete a 1-page report on your experiences with course integration, including changes made to the course, course impact, and what you would do differently if teaching the course again.
- During class time, give students in your course a survey gathering their feedback on their experiences and learning.

Priority Areas

- Proposals that amend **existing** courses with a **new** focus on sustainability **and** environmental justice
- Proposals for **new** courses that include an intersection between sustainability, environmental justice, and topics relevant to the instructor's discipline

- Proposals from departments/colleges/programs that do not typically include a focus on sustainability and environmental justice, especially those listed below (≤ 2 courses over the previous 3 years):
 - Astronomy (ASTR)
 - College of East Asian Studies (CHIN, JAPN, KREA)
 - Center for Jewish Studies (CJST, HEBR)
 - Classical Studies (CLST, GRK, LAT)
 - Computer Science (COMP)
 - College of Integrative Sciences (CIS)
 - College of Social Studies (CSS)
 - Education Studies (EDST)
 - Molecular Biology & Biochemistry (MB&B)
 - Medieval Studies (MDST)
 - Neuroscience & Behavior (NS&B)
 - Physics (PHYS)
 - Quantitative Analysis Center (QAC)
 - Writing Center (WRCT)
- Proposals for courses at an introductory level
- Proposals for courses that have higher student enrollments
- Proposals for courses that will be taught at least two times

Faculty Honoraria

- An honorarium of \$250-500 will be offered to faculty who integrate sustainability and environmental justice in one unit or module of their course.
- An honorarium of up to \$1,000 will be offered to faculty who integrate sustainability and environmental justice throughout the course.

Ideas for course integration may include any of the following:

- New or amended learning outcomes with accompanying course assignments
- New case studies
- Labs and/or field experiences
- Class projects/collaborative learning opportunities
- Community Engaged Learning opportunities
- Problem-solving exercises and/or new assignments
- Using campus as a learning lab
- Reorienting course paradigms
- Other modules (use sustainability and/or environmental justice to bring attention to aspects of the subject matter that are less visible or common in the main discipline).

Sustainability and Environmental Justice @ Wesleyan

Courses that investigate sustainability & environmental justice may focus on one or more of these themes:

1. Explore the relationships between power, social inequities and the development of just and sustainable communities.
2. Explore how diversity, including biodiversity and/or cultural diversity, contributes to sustainable systems.
3. Explore the dynamics of production and consumption as they relate to environmental health and human well-being and explore strategies for developing sustainable life practices.
4. Explore how social systems promote, or fail to promote, cultures of sustainability, especially in terms of tolerance, non-violence and peace.
5. Explore how human well-being depends on ecosystem processes and materials.
6. Explore the politics and/or economics of sustainable development including its social benefits and environmental costs, and raise critical questions about what development and progress mean for different communities.
7. Explore how science and technology shape environmental and public health at both the local and global levels.
8. Explore multiple ways of representing and understanding humans' relationships to the environment, and how taken-for-granted metaphors and stories can engender or endanger environmental and public health.

If you have questions or feedback about this call for proposals or its parameters, please contact Katie Brewer Ball at kbrewerball@wesleyan.edu.