12th Annual University of Calgary Sustainability Awards: Terms of Reference

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i. About the awards

This year, we celebrate the 12th annual University of Calgary (UCalgary) Sustainability Awards. For over a decade, these Awards have honoured exceptional students, faculty and staff for their positive contributions to the sustainable future of the University of Calgary and our world.

The Sustainability Awards recognize and celebrate the cooperative efforts of students, faculty and staff in advancing our institutional commitment to excellence and leadership in sustainability. UCalgary’s Sustainability Policy (2009) builds from the Brundtland Report’s definition of sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (UNWCED 1987). Our emphasis is on understanding the interaction of human and natural systems within a context of purposeful human action and social justice. The UCalgary Sustainability Awards are an opportunity to tell our story of sustainability leadership, to share our knowledge in positive ways and to recognize leaders in our community.
ii. Nomination, adjudication, and award granting process

- All nominations except the Student Club Sustainability Award must be submitted through the online form by midnight January 20, 2020.
- Student Club Sustainability Award nominations are collected by the UCalgary Students’ Union as part of the SU Clubs Awards. Nominations for this award will be gathered through the ClubHub Portal. To nominate an SU student club for a Sustainability Award, please check the ClubHub Portal for the nomination form beginning in January.
- Winners and finalists will be notified in early March.
- The judging panel consists of the Students’ Union Vice President Operations/Finance, the Graduate Students’ Association Vice President Finances and Services, UCalgary’s Chief Sustainability Officer, the Academic Lead for Sustainability Studies and a select panel of invited judges.
- Winners and finalists will be announced at the Sustainability Awards celebration on March 25, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

iii. Before you nominate

Who can be nominated for a Sustainability Award?

- Nominate yourself! Self-nominations are encouraged.
- Nominate others! Any undergraduate or graduate student, permanent or sessional faculty member, instructor, postdoctoral researcher or staff member can nominate or be nominated for a Sustainability Award in the appropriate category.
- Nominate more than one person! Nominators can submit multiple nominees in a category.

What do I need to know before I nominate?

To submit a nomination, please prepare the following information:

- About the nominees’ initiative(s):

  The Sustainability Awards judging panel will evaluate nominees’ initiatives on the basis of three criteria: impact, creativity and collaboration. Strong nominations will provide concrete examples that demonstrate how each nominee’s initiative(s) fulfill(s) each criterion. A maximum of 2,000 characters (~300 words) is allotted for each response.

  I. Impact: Describe the nominees’ initiative(s). How have these initiative(s) had a measurable and lasting impact on environmental, economic and/or social sustainability at UCalgary and/or in local or global communities? (Max. 2000 characters, or ~300 words.)
II. **Creativity:** What is creative about the nominees’ initiative(s)? Discuss the initiatives’ most innovative, exceptional or transformative elements. (Max. 2000 characters, or ~300 words.)

III. **Collaboration:** Describe how the nominees have collaborated with other people, campus groups or community partners. How have the nominees built partnerships for sustainability? How do these partnerships add value to their initiative(s)? (Max. 2000 characters, or ~300 words.)

• **About yourself (the nominator) and one reference (the reference):**

  Please be prepared to share the following information about yourself and one reference as part of your nomination. The Office of Sustainability may use the information you provide here to contact you and/or the reference for further information about the nominees’ initiative(s).

  • Name
  • Contact information (email and phone)
  • Department or office
  • Year of study (if applicable)
  • Title (if applicable)

• **Privacy**

  Please note that all information submitted as part of nominations for the 2019 Sustainability Awards is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) and 34(1)(e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. It is required to determine the suitability of nominees for the 2020 Sustainability Awards. If you have any questions about how these data will be managed or used, please contact the Office of Sustainability at sustain@ucalgary.ca.

iv. **Nomination form**

  Please fill out and submit an online nomination form here. The web form cannot be saved – please fill out the form in one session.

  For assistance, please contact the Office of Sustainability at sustain@ucalgary.ca.

v. **Award categories**

  1) **Undergraduate Student Sustainability Award**

  **Prize**

  • $250 from the Office of Sustainability.
Description

The Undergraduate Student Sustainability Award recognizes exceptional undergraduate students who have led initiatives that make positive contributions to the sustainable future of UCalgary and our world. These initiatives may be curricular or co-curricular in nature, but must make a measurable impact on environmental, economic and/or social wellbeing.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be full or part-time students in good standing currently enrolled in an undergraduate program at UCalgary.
- Individuals and groups are both eligible to receive this award.
- Students’ Union Clubs are not eligible to receive this award as a group. If you would like to nominate a group of students registered as a Students’ Union Club, please nominate them for the Student Club Sustainability Award (description on page 3 below).

2) Graduate Student Sustainability Award

Prize

- $1500, awarded jointly by the Office of Sustainability ($250) and the Graduate Students’ Association ($1250).
- The winner of this award will be announced at the Sustainability Awards and recognized at the GSA Awards.

Description

This award is a joint initiative with the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA).

The Graduate Student Sustainability Award recognizes exceptional graduate students who have led initiatives that make positive contributions towards the sustainable future of UCalgary and our world. These initiative(s) may be curricular or co-curricular in nature, but must make a measurable impact on environmental, economic and/or social wellbeing.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be full or part-time students in good standing currently enrolled in a master’s or doctoral program at UCalgary.
- Individuals and groups are both eligible to receive this award.
3) **Student Club Sustainability Award**

**Prize**

- $250 from the Office of Sustainability.
- Student Club Sustainability Award nominations are collected by the UCalgary Students’ Union as part of the SU Clubs Awards. Nominations for this award will be gathered through the [ClubHub Portal](#). To nominate an SU student club for a Sustainability Award, please check the [ClubHub Portal](#) for the nomination form beginning in January.
- The winner of this award will be announced at the Sustainability Awards and recognized at the annual Students’ Union Clubs Awards Banquet.

**Description**

This award is a joint initiative with the Students’ Union (SU).

The Student Club Sustainability Award recognizes exceptional student clubs whose initiative(s) have made positive contributions towards the sustainable future of UCalgary and our world. The club’s initiative(s) should be co-curricular in nature and must make a lasting and measurable impact on environmental, economic and/or social wellbeing.

**Eligibility**

- Nominees must be current UCalgary Students’ Union clubs in good standing.
- Sustainability does not have to be in the club’s mandate or mission statement.
- This is a group award, received by the club. Individuals are not eligible to receive this award.
  Nominators are encouraged to recognize individual student leaders for their work with a Student’s Union club by nominating them for Undergraduate Student Leadership awards.

4) **Individual Staff Sustainability Award**

**Description**

The Individual Staff Sustainability Award recognizes an exceptional staff member who has made positive contributions towards the sustainable future of UCalgary and our world. Staff nominees must have led initiative(s) that have made a lasting and measurable impact on environmental, economic and/or social wellbeing at UCalgary. Initiative(s) that also advance sustainability in local or global contexts are considered an asset but are not required for nomination.
Sustainability may or may not be one of the nominee’s defined job responsibilities. However, strong nominations for the Individual Staff Sustainability Award will demonstrate that the nominee has moved above and beyond the requirements of their role to advance sustainability on campus.

**Eligibility**

- Nominees must be current employees of UCalgary.
- This is an individual award that recognizes one person’s sustainability leadership. To recognize team initiatives, see the Group Staff Sustainability Award.

### 5) Group Staff Sustainability Award

**Description**

The Group Staff Sustainability Award recognizes exceptional staff teams who have made positive contributions towards the sustainable future of UCalgary and our world. Staff teams must have built meaningful coalitions to advance initiative(s) making a lasting and measurable impact on environmental, economic and/or social wellbeing at UCalgary. Initiative(s) that also advance sustainability in local or global contexts are considered an asset, but are not required for nomination.

Sustainability may or may not be one of the staff team’s defined job responsibilities. However, strong nominations for the Group Staff Sustainability Award will demonstrate that the nominees have moved above and beyond the requirements of their role to advance sustainability on campus.

**Eligibility**

- Nominees must be current employees of UCalgary.
- This is a group award that recognizes a team’s sustainability leadership. To recognize individual staff leaders, please see the Individual Staff Sustainability Award.
- When filling out your nomination, please designate one member of the staff team as the primary contact. You may list all staff members with a meaningful involvement in the initiative under “additional nominees.”

### 6) Faculty Sustainability Research Award

**Description**

The Faculty Sustainability Research Award recognizes exceptional faculty members, instructors and postdoctoral fellows conducting collaborative, community-engaged research that promotes cross-cultural understanding and social justice, improves quality of life and helps to secure a sustainable future for all.
Strong nominations will demonstrate the breadth of the nominee’s sustainability research as well as its significance at the local, provincial, national and/or global levels. Undergraduate or graduate student engagement in the nominee’s research is an asset but is not required.

Finalists for the Faculty Sustainability Research Award may be asked to submit a current curriculum vitae for consideration by the Sustainability Awards judging panel.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be active UCalgary faculty, instructors or postdoctoral fellows.
- This is an individual award that recognizes one person’s sustainability leadership.

7) Sustainability Teaching Award

Description

The Sustainability Teaching Award recognizes exceptional educators who systematically and continuously integrate sustainability into their classrooms and across the curriculum at UCalgary.

Strong nominations will illustrate how the nominee’s classroom teaching, course design and/or assignments engage their students and prepares them to make innovative contributions to the environmental, economic and/or social wellbeing of their local or global communities. A strong record of creating meaningful campus- or community-based experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students is an asset but is not required.

Eligibility

- Faculty Sustainability Teaching Award nominees must be active UCalgary faculty, instructors or postdoctoral fellows.
- This is an individual award that recognizes one person’s sustainability leadership.
- For the purposes of this award, SUST core courses (i.e. SUST 201, SUST 401, etc.) will not be considered as part of the nominee’s contributions to sustainability education at UCalgary. However, sustainability-related or focused courses affiliated with the Sustainability Certificate are eligible.
8) Experiential Learning Project in Sustainability Award

Description

The Experiential Learning Project in Sustainability Award recognizes exceptional projects in sustainability education that uphold the UCalgary’s draft definition of experiential learning:

Experiential learning (EL) is learning-by-doing that bridges knowledge and experience through critical reflection. EL activities are intentionally designed and assessed. As such, they empower students to enhance individual and collaborative skills such as complex problem solving, professional practice skills, and teamwork. Reflecting critically on these activities help students develop higher order thinking to challenge and advance their perspectives. The EL process prepares students to take on roles as active citizens and thrive in an increasingly complex world (EL Working Group, 2019).

Eligibility

- Experiential learning projects falling within any category of the University of Calgary Experiential Learning (EL) Framework (2019 draft) are eligible for nomination. This includes co-curricular EL, community-engaged learning EL (including knowledge keeper-guided and land-based education), curriculum-integrated EL, research-based EL and work-integrated learning.
- Campus as a Learning Lab (CLL) and Community as a Learning Partner (CLP) projects are eligible for nomination.
- The Experiential Learning in Sustainability Project Award is project-based and recognizes a team’s sustainability leadership. To recognize individual faculty, staff or student leaders involved in experiential learning projects, please see the respective individual award categories above.
- When filling out your nomination, please designate one member of the project team as the primary contact. You may list all members with a meaningful involvement in the initiative under “additional nominees.”