

Campus as a Living Lab (CLL)

The **Campus as a Living Lab (CLL)** initiative utilizes Brooklyn College's physical features and infrastructure as a dynamic, hands-on learning environment. This approach helps translate theoretical knowledge from the classroom into practical solutions, fostering sustainability and resilience through meaningful interactions with the natural and built environment on campus. It promotes opportunities and encourages experiential, interdisciplinary learning environments while strengthening our commitment to sustainability and innovation.

Classifying a Work, Project, or Research as a Living Lab

Projects under the Campus as a Living Lab framework must focus on the Brooklyn College campus and align with one or more criteria. A living lab work, project, or research initiative must fulfill **at least two criteria from the primary list or one from the primary and secondary list below**. If your project takes a different approach, please provide more detailed information in your submission.

Primary Criteria

- **Hands-On Learning:** Engages students in practical applications of knowledge by utilizing the campus-built environment.
- **Data Collection and Analysis:** Encourages gathering data from the campus community or environment to drive sustainability efforts.
- **Green Systems Engagement:** Enhances learning by employing campus green infrastructure, such as gardens and energy-efficient buildings.
- **Community Involvement:** An essential part of the Living Lab framework that involves engaging the Brooklyn College community, including students, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders.

Secondary Criteria

- **Interdisciplinary:** Integrates multiple disciplines to create a holistic approach that incorporates the principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- **Diverse Learning Formats:** Encompasses various project types, class projects, thesis work, term papers, internships, and more, provided there is a formal learning component.
- **Sustainable Development:** Involves long-term environmental, economic, and/or social sustainability considerations on campus.

Community of Practice (CoP)

A Community of Practice (CoP) refers to a group of people sharing knowledge, a passion for a common cause, and resources to build expertise and foster a sense of community to drive change. Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger first introduced this concept in their 1991 book, "Situated Learning."

Brooklyn College Framework for Campus as a Living Lab (CLL)

Within the Campus as Living Lab framework, CoP is a guiding principle for collective learning, collaboration, and engagement. CLL submissions should reflect this approach, demonstrating collaboration and interdisciplinary learning.

Campus as a Living Lab Lifecycles

CLL projects typically follow these stages but are not limited to:

1. **Ideation:** Recognize a sustainability challenge on campus and develop a proposal.
2. **Proposal:** Submit your proposal to the Office of Sustainability and the CLL Committee for review and feedback.
3. **Implementation:** After receiving final approval from the appropriate channels, take the necessary steps to implement your project. It is important to communicate with relevant parties at each phase of your project.
4. **Monitoring and Data Collection:** Monitor progress by making observations and gathering data. If applicable, consider whether long-term or regular maintenance and upkeep are needed.
5. **Evaluation:** Assess project outcomes and document lessons learned.
6. **Dissemination and Scaling:** Share the results and consider how the project can be expanded or replicated.

Proposal Submissions

1. Initial Submission

Please submit a brief description of your Living Lab idea through our [short questionnaire](#). Feedback and next steps will be provided within three to four weeks. While detailed information or supporting documents are not required for initial consideration, they are encouraged.

2. Detailed Submission

Upon receiving feedback, please take the following steps to submit a complete proposal:

1. **Proposal Form:** Provide detailed information about the project, including objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes, especially any details omitted from the initial submission.
2. **Supporting Documents:** Upload any relevant materials, including, but not limited to, research and data collection, methodologies, and/or any letters of support.
3. **Submission:** After you have completed the form and uploaded all relevant documents, the Office of Sustainability and the CLL Committee will begin their final assessment and review based on the evaluation criteria. Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis, with responses provided within four weeks. Approval is not guaranteed, but all ideas are welcome for consideration.

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Evaluation

The Office of Sustainability and the CLL Committee evaluate proposals based on:

- Alignment with Campus as a Living Lab criteria.
- Feasibility, innovation, and impact.
- Interdisciplinary learning outcomes and collaboration.
- Benefits for the campus, whether short-term or long-term.
- Opportunities for community involvement and academic integration.

Note: Most opportunities will require further development to be considered a CLL project, such as academic advisor sign-off, consultation with Facilities, or campus sustainability involvement.

Incentives

While the Campus as a Living Lab initiative does not provide direct funding, it offers significant support to ensure a project's success, including:

- **Access to Campus Spaces:** Utilize designated campus spaces for project implementation.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Connect with departments, classes, or programs to foster interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **Recognition and Visibility:** Showcase your project within the campus community, promoting long-term success and continuity.

Our goal is to celebrate and support projects on campus that utilize its built and physical features for integrated, experiential, and place-based learning. Ensuring projects that enhance sustainability efforts or features on campus remain impactful, even as participants transition. While not all projects need to be or have a long-term impact on campus sustainability, those with lasting benefits are encouraged.

Examples of Campus as a Living Lab

- **BC EATS Garden:** Provides a hands-on experimental learning experience focused on sustainable food production in this urban environment. [Active](#)
- **Native Plant Bed:** Restoring native plant species on campus enhances biodiversity and supports pollinators and ecological education. Active participation is encouraged. [Active](#)
- **Green Infrastructure Test Site:** Demonstrating solutions for stormwater management, including permeable pavements and rain gardens. [Active](#)
- **Eco-Scenography in Practice:** Integrating sustainable design in theater productions, exemplified in *Angels in America!*

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Contact Information

For more information on Campus as a Living Lab or to get involved with ongoing projects, please contact:

- **Office of Sustainability**
Email: Sustainability@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Phone: 718.951.5400 x2169

CLL Committee Members:

- **Stalin Haeger-Espinal**, Sustainability Coordinator
- **Rebecca Boger**, Associate Professor, Chair of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- **Michael Menser**, Associate Professor, Director of Urban Sustainability Program
- **Margrethe Horlyck-Romanovsky**, Assistant Professor, Health and Nutrition Sciences
- **Nora McCauley**, Adjunct Lecturer, Art
- **Jolanta Kruszelnicka**, Lecturer, Health and Nutrition Sciences
- **Jennifer Cherrier**, Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- **Xianfang Zeng**, Assistant Professor, Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship
- **Pieranna Pieroni**, Director, College Now

Ex-Officio Members:

- Alan Gilbert, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration
- Carrie Sadovnik, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, and Sustainability

