



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

NSS+NEES 2019 Call for Abstracts

Sustainability and energy Extension professionals, researchers, graduate students, formal and informal educators, practitioners, and community partners are invited and encouraged to submit proposals to participate in the **2019 Joint National Sustainability Summit (NSS) & National Extension Energy Summit (NEES)**.

Submit your abstract online at [NSS+NEES-2019](#)

Submission deadline: *Extended to* **Monday October 15, 2018 11:59pm EST**

The Event

Share your experiences, stories, and insights at the inaugural National Sustainability Summit (NSS)—formerly the Extension Sustainability Summit—and biennial National Extension Energy Summit (NEES). Hosted by the [University of Florida IFAS Extension](#) and the [Southern Rural Development Center](#) in partnership with [USDA-NIFA](#), this joint conference will be held **April 16-19, 2019** at [The Westshore Grand](#) in [Tampa, Florida](#).

NSS+NEES 2019 will bring leading sustainability and energy educators and practitioners together to showcase land grant university Extension and research program successes, share challenges, and identify opportunities to strengthen our collective impacts.

The **joint conference focus** is on Extension and research strategies to strengthen our community of practice and collaborations, and to share our experiences as sustainability and energy educators. A diversity of disciplines and perspectives will offer conference attendees the opportunity to showcase their work on a national stage, discuss critical issues in the field, and expand and enhance their professional networks. Extension professionals from all national associations will benefit from the cross-disciplinary and process-oriented structure of the conference.

Themes & Delivery Formats

Conference sessions will be organized around six foundational pillars of sustainability—Energy, Climate/Air, Land/Soils, Food Systems, Water, and Community Capacity—and will emphasize nexus issues across these core themes and collaborative approaches to programming.

We invite sustainability- and energy-focused abstracts for the following formats:

- Oral presentations (15-30 minutes)
- Graduate student and early-career posters (lightning presentation + poster session)
- Roundtable discussions (30-45 minutes)
- Workshops or panel sessions (60-90 minutes)
- Hands-on tools, demonstrations, or skills training (15-30 minutes)
- Multimedia and tabletop exhibits (for display in networking space)

Conference Focus Areas

Submissions may focus on current or emerging research, case studies, design applications, tools and techniques, educational programs, and/or lessons learned. Special consideration will be given to proposals addressing *process issues of planning, funding, delivering, measuring, coordinating, and/or evaluating* sustainability initiatives, strategies, and innovations.

NSS-track proposals are expected to demonstrate an integrated, systems approach to sustainability programming and its many pillars, although singular foci will also be considered. We encourage submission of abstracts that address stakeholder diversity, citizen engagement, and/or strategies to improve program business models and cost effectiveness.

NEES-track proposals are expected to demonstrate applied value and the potential to foster partnerships in energy research and education across one or more of the core Extension program areas: agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development.

Across both summit tracks, we invite abstract submissions addressing, but not limited to, one or more of the following topical areas:

- **Energy:** renewables; biofuels; conservation and efficiency; emerging technologies; performance benchmarking; building systems; affordable housing; utility supply and demand-side management programs; transportation.
- **Climate/Air:** climate change and sea-level rise; local and regional impacts; extreme weather; community preparedness; risk management; adaptation and resilience; economic policies; carbon markets; population dynamics.
- **Land/Soils:** land use planning; land conservation; urban development; soil health and fertility; agroecology; environmental horticulture; forestry; landscape architecture; green infrastructure and low-impact design; wildlife ecology; ecosystem services; geospatial analyses and tools.
- **Food Systems:** permaculture; urban agriculture and “agrihoods”; cooking and nutrition programs; community gardens and kitchens; supply-chain operations; food security, access, and waste reduction.
- **Water:** conservation and efficiency; watershed education; supply planning; quality; drinking water safety and security; impairment and restoration; microplastics; stormwater management; water law; pricing and incentive structures.
- **Community Capacity & Resilience:** civic engagement; social equity and justice; innovative or creative strategies/programs/collaboratives; economic development; human dimensions and social capital; integration of humanities with sustainability and energy programs; community based social marketing; public-private partnerships; fostering civil dialogue; behavioral economics; public issues education; big data, analytics, and visualization.

Proposal Submission Deadline

Proposals must be submitted online at [NSS+NEES-2019](#) by **Monday October 15, 2018 11:59pm EST**.

Submission Guidelines

All proposals should adhere to the instructions detailed in the online submission form, where you will be asked to provide:

1. **Title** (12 words maximum)
2. **Proposal abstract** (including 2-4 objectives for participants attending your session; 300 words maximum *excluding references*, which may be included in PDF upload)
3. **Primary and secondary topic/subject-matter areas** (selecting from: Energy; Climate/Air; Land/Soils; Food Systems; Water; Community Capacity & Resilience)
4. **Preferred delivery format**
 - Oral presentation (15-30 minutes)
 - Roundtable discussion (30-45 minutes)
 - Workshop or panel (45-60 minutes)
 - Hands-on tools, demonstration, or skills training (15-30 minutes)
 - Poster presentation (1-minute lightning talk + traditional session)
5. **Primary author/presenter information** (name, title/position, affiliation/institution, email, phone)
6. **Co-author/presenter information** (name, title/position, affiliation/institution, email)
7. **Primary author/presenter bio** (1 paragraph/100 words maximum)
8. **PDF upload of complete submission** (one .pdf formatted document including items 1-7 above)

Presenter Agreement

Presenters should be aware that if your proposal is accepted and you agree to participate in the joint conference:

- (1) The planning committee may record your presentation and take photographs of you during conference activities for use on websites, publications and social media channels managed by the planning committee or conference partners.
- (2) There is no expressed guarantee that your presentation will be placed in the category or format of choice and the planning committee reserves the right to make any adjustments necessary.
- (3) All presenters and participants are responsible for travel expenses associated with the conference, including applicable registration fees.

To assist with preliminary budgeting and travel approvals, the *estimated* registration fee is \$450 for regular full attendance and \$200 for graduate student 1.5-day attendance. *Confirmed registration fees will be posted on the [conference website](#) in October 2018.*

Evaluation Criteria

Proposal submissions will be evaluated by the joint NSS and NEES planning committee, who will assess overall quality, relevance to the topic areas, uniqueness, demonstration of systems approach, speaker qualifications, and adherence to submission guidelines. Applicants will be notified of final committee decisions by Wednesday November 15, 2018 and selected speakers will be asked to accept/confirm their participation by mid-December 2018.

The Path to NSS+NEES 2019

This joint conference is an extension of sustainability summits that were organized by the National Network for Sustainable Living Education (NNSLE) and hosted by the Western Rural Development Center in [2013 \(Park City, UT\)](#) and [2016 \(Portland, OR\)](#) and biennial national summits organized by the National Extension Energy Initiative (NEEI) and hosted by Colorado State University in [2013 \(Fort Collins, CO\)](#), Washington State University in [2015 \(Seattle, WA\)](#), and the University of Tennessee in [2017 \(Knoxville, TN\)](#).

Partners & Sponsors

NSS+NEES 2019 is offered with the support of the [USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\)](#), the [Regional Rural Development Centers \(RRDCs\)](#), and [UF/IFAS Extension](#). Visit our [conference webpage](#) at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/NSS+NEES> to learn more.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about how you and your organization can support this important event, please contact Ramona Madhosingh-Hector (UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County) at ramona.m.hector@ufl.edu or 727.582.2656.

For Questions concerning submission requirements, contact:

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For More Information about the ANREP Initiatives supporting this conference, contact:

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