



# Community Partnership Framework for Reciprocal and Mutually Beneficial Collaboration

## Office of Sustainability – Public Affairs, The American College of Greece

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### Purpose

The American College of Greece (ACG) is committed to developing and maintaining community partnerships that advance sustainability, social impact, civic engagement, and shared value for all participating stakeholders.

This published framework serves as the institutional guideline for establishing, managing, and assessing sustainability-related community partnerships. The framework seeks to ensure that partnerships are equitable, reciprocal, inclusive, and mutually beneficial.

The framework formalizes and publicly documents practices followed by ACG in the development, implementation, and assessment of sustainability-related community partnerships.

### Principles for Community Partnerships

#### 1. Mutual Benefit and Reciprocity

ACG seeks partnerships that provide meaningful value to both the institution and community partners. Partnerships are designed collaboratively, with shared goals, responsibilities, and outcomes that respond to community needs and institutional learning objectives.

#### 2. Equity and Respect

ACG recognizes the expertise, experience, and priorities of community partners and works to foster relationships built on trust, transparency, respect, and inclusive participation.



### **3. Collaborative Planning and Shared Decision-Making**

Community partners are engaged throughout the planning, implementation, and evaluation phases of projects and activities. Whenever possible, objectives, timelines, roles, and expected outcomes are co-developed.

### **4. Sustainability and Long-Term Impact**

Partnerships are encouraged to support long-term environmental, social, cultural, and economic sustainability while strengthening community resilience and student learning opportunities.

### **5. Ethical Engagement**

ACG seeks to ensure that partnerships do not create disproportionate burdens on community organizations and that activities are conducted responsibly, professionally, and in alignment with institutional values and community priorities.

## **Partnership Development Process**

Community partnerships may be initiated through the Office of Sustainability, academic departments, student organizations, or institutional initiatives.

Before formalizing or implementing a partnership, the following considerations are reviewed:

- Alignment with ACG sustainability and social impact goals
- Alignment with community partner priorities and needs
- Defined roles and expectations
- Opportunities for student learning and civic engagement
- Anticipated community impact
- Communication and coordination mechanisms
- Assessment and feedback procedures



## Assessment and Continuous Improvement

ACG evaluates community partnerships through an ongoing assessment process that includes feedback from both institutional participants and community partners.

Assessment includes feedback from community partners to ACG and from ACG to community partners to evaluate the effectiveness, reciprocity, and mutual benefit of the collaboration.

Assessment methods may include:

- Meetings and debrief sessions
- Partner feedback forms or surveys
- Informal and formal evaluations
- Reflection activities
- Review of project outcomes and impact indicators

The assessment process is intended to:

- Evaluate reciprocity and mutual benefit
- Identify opportunities for improvement
- Strengthen long-term collaboration
- Ensure community needs and perspectives are incorporated into future activities

Community partner feedback is considered an essential component of partnership evaluation and future planning.

## Partnership Monitoring and Accountability

To support responsible and impactful collaboration, ACG may engage in practices such as:

- Reviewing organizational mission alignment and program impact
- Maintaining regular communication with partner organizations
- Conducting meetings or site visits when appropriate



- Requesting updates, reports, or impact information related to collaborative activities
- Evaluating outcomes and community benefit
- Identifying opportunities for continuous improvement and long-term impact

## Scope and Implementation

This framework applies to sustainability-related community partnerships reported through AASHE STARS indicators 6.1 and 6.2 and supports the institution's commitment to responsible community engagement and social impact.

The Office of Sustainability encourages participating departments, programs, and student initiatives to apply this framework when developing and maintaining sustainability-related community partnerships.

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