

Agenda



8:30AM – 9:15AM Registration
9:15AM – 9:30AM Welcoming Address
9:30AM – 10:30AM Session Block One

Climate Hazard Resilience Forum

Max Cawley & Tomara Gee, NC Museum of Life + Science

Planning for Climate Justice: Rewriting Systems of Power and Inequality

Dr. Danielle Spurlock, UNC, UNC Department of Urban Planning

Robeson Rises: Impacted Communities At The Brunt of Climate Disaster

Jorden Revels, Climate Justice Organizer

What is your Climate Superpower? Identifying Your Unique Opportunities to Create Change

Sami Grover, Independent Author and Designer and James Barnes

Sponsored By:



10:30AM – 10:45AM Break

10:45AM – 11:30AM Inspiring the Next Generation of Climate Storytellers - Operation Climate

11:30AM-1:00PM Zero-waste lunch with GreenToGo, community partners and museum exploration featuring:

- Make-Your-Own-Swag
- Science on a Sphere
- Robeson Rises Film Screening
- Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association
- Triangle Youth Team
- Audacity Labs
- Bluestem Conservation Cemetery
- SEEDS: DIG Program
- NC River Basins
- NC Museum of Natural Science
- Garden Environments & Artistry in Plants & Deep Roots Native Nursery
- Biogen
- Don't Waste Durham
- Composting 101
- Citizen Science
- Durham Co. Beekeepers Association
- Buddha Bee Apiary

1:00PM – 2:00PM Session Block Two

Designing waste out - virtual reality and solution-building!

Crystal Dreisbach, Don't Waste Durham

Food Fight! Redesigning our Food Systems to Combat Climate Change

Erica Neal, Farmer Food Share

Raise Some Noise for the Climate!

Jennifer Roberts, Shruti Agrawal, Samiksha Pyndi, and Clean Aire NC

Scientist Spotlight: Urban Heat Mapping with Climate Experts

Dr. Angel Hsu, UNC, Founder of EnviroPolicy Lab and Xuewei Wang

2:00PM – 2:15PM Break

2:15PM – 3:30PM Climate Action Planning

3:30PM – 4:00PM Closing Address, Evaluation, and Next Steps

Speakers and Sessions



Inspiring the Next Generation of Climate Storytellers

All students will attend from 10:45AM - 11:30AM

Even though climate scientists have come to a consensus that climate change is indeed happening, there are still people who don't accept the science. Even more concerning is that climate action is low among those who do show concern for the planet. Climate communicators and storytellers are needed in order to help people connect climate change to their own lives and promote climate action. This session will be about climate communication strategies to engage different stakeholder groups in climate action. Students will discover many effective ways to tell their climate stories and put them into practice.



We are Operation Climate: an environmental education non-profit organization created by young people, for young people. Our mission is to empower youth climate educators, storytellers, and creatives. We do this through the creation and distribution of digital media resources for use in classroom settings and through our volunteer internship program for high schoolers. We strive to create and support the next generation of climate ambassadors in order to facilitate more action and understanding surrounding the climate crisis. We're 3 Duke civil engineering students who co-founded this organization in 2021 and look forward to talking more with you all!

Session Block One

Students will register to attend one of the following workshops from 9:30AM - 10:30AM

Climate Hazard Resilience Forum

Pedagogical roleplaying in serious games is a rigorous and sound way of predicting human behavior related to values and priorities. In this serious game, players will step into the role of city planners making decisions for a fictional town experiencing climate-exacerbated drought. Players will learn about and consider stakeholder perspectives, manage a simple budget, and make hard choices related to building resilience and adaptation policy choices for their towns. Then, they'll learn the outcomes, successes, challenges, and tradeoffs related to their decisions.



Max Cawley is an educator, researcher, evaluator, and science communicator at the Museum of Life and Science. He is an AGU Thriving Earth Exchange Fellow and a Co-PI for the newly-formed Carolinas Collaborative for Climate, Health, and Equity. Max believes that more robust, just, and equitable public engagement about climate change is key to sustaining democracy in a warming world.



Tomara Gee is an educator and manager of group programs at the Museum of Life and Science. The curiosity of Durham's different communities has inspired her to create some of the most effective outreach programs at MLS including Sparks, STEM Adventures, and Science Nights.

Planning for Climate Justice: Rewriting Systems of Power and Inequality

This session will introduce and illustrate how different types of power influences the systems of inequality that place marginalized communities at higher risk for negative effects of climate change. It will then describe best practices to create equitable plans that are 1) shaped with community residents, and 2) support implementation.



Dr. Danielle Spurlock is an assistant professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on the quality and implementation of plans and policy in urban contexts with special attention to environmental and social justice. Dr. Spurlock's work investigates how technical expertise and local knowledge can be synthesized within local policies that address green gentrification, displacement, and health disparities. Her motivation to engage in this research stems from the disincentives many stakeholders have to alter their behavior and decision-making processes to protect the health and well-being of marginalized populations and environmental resources. She holds a Ph.D. in Land Use and Environmental Planning, a MRP in Housing and Community Development, a MPH in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a BA in Human Biology from Stanford University.

Robeson Rises: Impacted Communities At The Brunt of Climate Disaster

This session will engage the documentary Robeson Rises, a short film focused on the struggle and continued fight of Environmentally impacted BIPOC communities like Robeson County. This session will focus on the perspective and history of one of the movement's leaders, Jordan Revels, in their efforts to protect their community.



Jordan Revels is Eastern based climate justice organizer and a long-time Indigenous water protector/land steward who, along with their tribal elders and community members was successful in thwarting the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Jordan has worked regionally and across the state for many partnerships and coalition-based projects to help embolden and develop leaders in frontline communities.

What's Your Climate Superpower? Identifying Your Unique Opportunities to Create Change.

Being less bad is not the same as doing the most possible good. Our culture tells us that personal responsibility is central to tackling the climate emergency, yet the choices we make are often governed by the systems in which we live—and powerful entities hold outsized sway over how those systems operate. While reducing your carbon footprint can help, this session will encourage participants to look beyond their individual negative impact. Instead, our goal will be to identify and explore where the unique leverage that each of us has to create wider-scale change.



Sami Grover is an environmental writer, branding specialist and author of *We're All Climate Hypocrites Now: How Embracing Our Limitations Can Unlock the Power of a Movement*. He's written about everything from composting to e-bikes to international climate politics, and has developed branding projects for clients including Burt's Bees, Dogwood Alliance, and Jada Pinkett Smith. Sami currently serves as brand development manager for The Redwoods Group, and lives in Durham. He has three compost bins, and also still occasionally eats steak.

Presenting with James Barnes

Session Block Two

Students will register to attend one of the following workshops from 1:00PM - 2:00PM



Designing waste out – virtual reality and solution-building!

What's waste got to do with it? Get ready to see for yourself! This workshop is the debut of Don't Waste Durham's fully immersive virtual reality experience on food and product packaging and the harsh realities of trash and recycling. Students will put on the VR headsets, and they will not only see the problems inherent in waste, but they'll feel them and experience them in a way that will get their solutionary minds ready for action! In this session, Don't Waste Durham Founder & Executive director will tell you about Don't Waste Durham's solutions to the problems of consumption and waste, and their inextricable link to solving our climate issues. First is a city-wide reuse system for takeout containers called GreenToGo, the Bull City Boomerang Bag program that replaces single-use in grocery stores, and The ReCirculation Project for the reuse of all durable product



Crystal Dreisbach is a solutionary whose life goal is to disrupt the status quo of our take-and-trash economy. She is the Founder & Executive Director of the nonprofit Don't Waste Durham whose mission is to create solutions that prevent trash. She leads her organization in systemic change projects like GreenToGo and The ReCirculation Project – because reuse should be the norm, not the exception.

Food Fight! Redesigning our Food Systems to Combat Climate Change

We don't need to be specialists to know that Big [industrialized] Agriculture compromises our environmental health and still leaves communities struggling with food insecurity. Fortunately, we also don't need to be specialists to imagine and create a future where family farms thrive, and people are empowered to access or grow food where they need it most – right in their own communities.

Food Fight! Is a session where you can examine the climate impact of food production, and explore solutions that fit your activist style. Whether you're interested in starting a community garden, or a campaign to inspire conscious consumption, we can redesign our food systems to do what they're intended to do – feed all people in an earth friendly way.



Erica Neal Program Manager of Farmer Foodshare, is a design geek that brings years of experience as an Art Director and Curriculum Designer to the field of Sustainable Food Systems. After years of living in Chicago, she longed to get back to her “country girl” roots, and dove head first into studying regenerative agriculture and traditional foodways. As the Program Manager for Farmer Foodshare she merges this personal passion with her professional background to create a whole systems / design thinking approach to food security and food system education. Prior to working with Farmer Foodshare, she specialized in promoting African American food brands, served with non-profit and Civil Rights organizations, and developed equitable STEM integration programs with the Digital Youth Network and YOUmedia. In her downtime, Erica and her family care for one (mostly wooded) acre, eight chickens, and a dog named Rooster. She enjoys photography, gardening, and watching cartoons.

Raise some Noise for the Climate!

Many policy makers know that climate change is a challenge, but they do not hear often enough from constituents urging them to work on it. Every resident in our community, including those too young to vote, can have a voice in urging policy makers to work faster on climate solutions. This session will give you the basics in climate communication and advocacy - how to contact your city council or senator, how to be effective in getting your point across, and even the best ways to use social media to spread the ideas for climate solutions. Two youth from the Charlotte area, who helped start their own organization Framework4Future, will also share how they have become climate action advocates.

CleanAIRE NC (Action and Innovation to Restore the Environment) was founded in 2002 when a group of volunteers banded together to improve air quality for Mecklenburg County residents. Over the years, the link between air quality, climate change, and public health became more and more apparent. Today, CleanAIRE NC focuses on three powerful determinants of public health in North Carolina: climate change, air quality, and environmental justice. Through advocacy, education, and community-driven research, they are working to protect what connects us and ensure that people have clean air to live healthier, happier lives.



Jennifer Watson Roberts served as a four-term Mecklenburg County Commissioner and later as the 58th Mayor of Charlotte, and then ran the Communities Program on climate solutions for a national environmental non-profit, ecoAmerica, until May 2021. She has long been a champion of issues related to education, equality, inclusion and environmental protection. Roberts has been a life-long advocate for clean air and water and for environmental justice. While Chair of the Mecklenburg County Commission, she championed a Park and Rec Master Plan, supported energy reduction and conservation in County operations, and headed a Clean Air Works initiative to reduce carbon emissions in area businesses and the County's carbon footprint. As Mayor, she signed the Mayor's Climate Pledge, joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and introduced a 100% Clean Energy Resolution for the City of Charlotte. Now working as a consultant, she is currently also on the Steering Committee of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Climate Leaders, NC Climate Ambassadors, ecoAmerica Path to Positive Communities, and the Smart Surfaces Coalition. She is a lifetime member of the Sierra Club and the NAACP.

Scientist Spotlight: Urban Heat Mapping with Climate Experts

In our urban setting, hot days can be amplified by the lack of tree canopy cover and lots of impervious surfaces (like roads and parking lots) which absorb and emit heat from the sun. Though we all "feel the heat" of climate change, the effects of extreme heat are disproportionately severe on low-income and previously redlined communities and neighborhoods. Addressing urban heat islands is an essential part of climate equity and community resilience that requires hard data to support meaningful changes.



Angel Hsu is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and the Environment at UNC Chapel Hill and Founder/Director of the Data-Driven EnviroPolicy Lab, an interdisciplinary research group that innovates and applies quantitative approaches to pressing environmental issues. She is a contributing and lead author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report as well as the 2018 UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report. She holds a PhD in Environmental Policy from Yale University.

Joined by Xuewei Wang