

Georgia Climate Conference



Welcome to the 2023 Georgia Climate Conference

Minimizing Georgia's Risk and Maximizing Georgia's Future

University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education
Athens, Georgia

May 15-17, 2023

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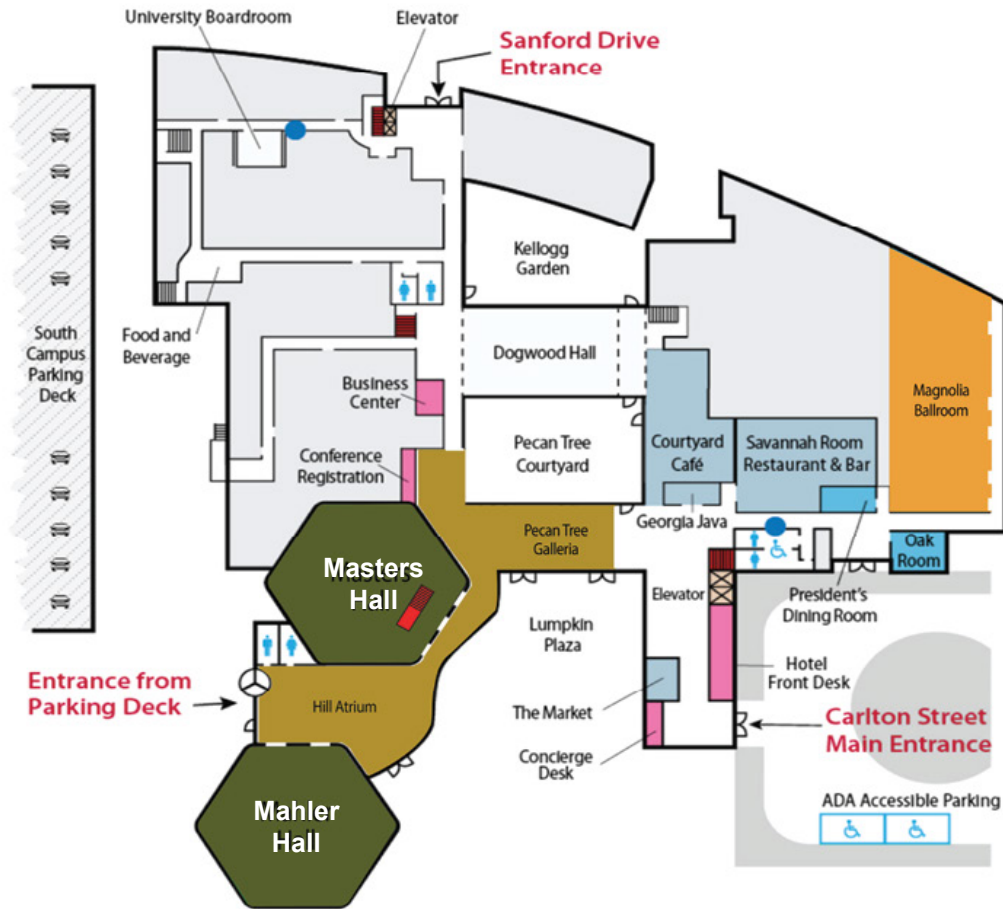
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TALKING DOG
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Conference Map

First Floor



Second Floor



	Restrooms		Meeting Space
	ADA Accessible		Banquet Dining
	Elevators		Restaurants
	Stairs		Registration & Service Areas
	Water Bottle Filling Station		Hotel Rooms

Conference Schedule



Plenary Sessions



Breakout Sessions



Tours and Other Events



Meals and Receptions



Evening Posters & Exhibits

Monday, May 15

Mahler Hall

Master's Hall

Room Q

Room R

Room F/G

7:30-8:30 am

BREAKFAST

8:30-10:00 am

MORNING PLENARY: Governance

10:00-10:15 am

REFRESHMENTS

10:15-11:45 am

Urban Climate Challenges

Okefenokee Destiny Screening & Peatland Carbon at Risk

Agriculture as a Solution

Sea-Level Rise

How to Begin: Building Codes, Sustainability + Resilience

11:45-1:15 pm

LUNCH

11:45-1:15 pm

UGA Sustainability Walking Tours

1:15-2:45 pm

Climate Vulnerability Assessments

Some Good News: 100% Clean, Renewable, and Just Progress

Climate Trends and Impact on GA Agriculture

Climate and Health in Rural and Coastal Georgia

Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse in Resilient Buildings

2:45-3:00 pm

REFRESHMENTS

3:00-4:25 pm

Community Resilience Planning

Adapt. and Resil. of Military Communities

Urban Gardens and Community Food Systems

Health and Climate

Mass Timber as a Climate Solution

4:30-5:30 pm

AFTERNOON PLENARY: Climate Stories

5:30-7:30 pm

Georgia Climate Project: Sponsored Ice-Breaker Reception

5:30-9:00 pm

Evening Posters and Exhibitors

*Presenters at posters from 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, May 16

Mahler Hall

Master's Hall

Room Q

Room R

Room F/G

7:30-8:30 am

BREAKFAST

8:30-10:00 am

MORNING PLENARY: Business Leaders in Climate Action

10:00-10:15 am

REFRESHMENTS

10:15-11:45 am

Drawdown GA
Business
Compact Breakouts

Planning for
EV Charging
Infrastructure

Nature-based
Solutions for
Increasing Carbon
Stored on Georgia's
Forestlands

Coastal Land
Stewardship

Opportunities and
Risks of AI on
Climate Solutions

11:45-1:15 pm

LUNCH

11:45-1:15 pm

Climate Career Panel

Bus Tour to EV Bus Barn and Solar Array

1:15-2:45 pm

Drawdown Georgia
Business Compact:
Lightning Talks

Smart Siting
Solutions for
Solar

Risk Perceptions
and Disaster
Management

Flood and Drought
Resilience: Planning,
Policy, and Practice

Experiential Learning +
Undergraduate
Research Discussion

2:45-3:00 pm

REFRESHMENTS

3:00-4:25 pm

Implementing
Drawdown Georgia on
University Campuses

Climate Law, Policy,
and Planning -
What's Next for
Georgia?

Taking
Faithful Climate
Action

Regional
Resilience

Infrastructure
Futures
Visioning

4:30-5:30 pm

MORNING PLENARY: Advancing Equity in Drawdown Georgia Solutions

5:30-7:30 pm

Drawdown Georgia: Sponsored Reception

5:30-9:00 pm

Evening Posters and Exhibitors

8:00-10:00 pm

UGA Fine Arts Theatre: "Too Wonderful for Anybody" a play by Alan Flurry

Wednesday, May 17

Mahler Hall

Master's Hall

Room Q

Room R

Room F/G

7:30-8:30 am

BREAKFAST

8:30-10:00am

Climate Solutions Journalism

Resilience and Restoration of Coastal Ecosystems

Federal Funding for Climate Solutions in Georgia

Building Relational Trust around Clean Energy and Community Service

Deep Resilience & Inner Adaptation: Working with Climate Anxiety and Eco-Grief

10:00-10:15 am

REFRESHMENTS

10:15-11:30 am

CLOSING PLENARY: A Community Moving Forward

11:45-1:15 pm

LUNCH

11:30-1:00 pm

Bus Tour to Solar Array and UGarden

1:00-2:45 pm

Innovations in Climate Pedagogy, Experiential Learning

Blue Carbon Law Symposium

Bringing Your Science to Policy Makers

Shrinking Your Carbon Footprint

Justice 40 in Action

2:45-3:00 pm

REFRESHMENTS

3:00-5:30 pm

Teaching Climate Across the Curriculum

How We Bring Solutions Even Closer to Home

From Field to Fork to Field

Carbon and Climate Simulators

6:00-8:00 pm

Closing Celebration sponsored by the Georgia Climate Project and Blue Carbon at LiveWire

Welcome to the Georgia Climate Conference

Hello and welcome to the **University of Georgia** in **Athens, Georgia**, home to some of the earliest and most advanced efforts in the state to understand, mitigate, and adapt to a changing climate. We hope you take time to explore our beautiful city and campus on foot, by E-bike, or electric bus, eat a locally-grown meal, drink a sustainably-brewed beverage, and enjoy the sunshine that makes our region such a great place to solarize.

The Georgia Climate Project is pleased to host the 2023 Georgia Climate Conference, May 15-17, at the UGA Center for Continuing Education. Our mission is to build a greater network in Georgia around climate-related science, solutions, and stories to envision and realize a more resilient and equitable Georgia. We hope this conference also helps you get to know us better.

Climate change is no longer just a future threat—we can see its impacts on communities every day. Worse, the burdens of climate change are not shared evenly across the state. Some of our neighbors, some of our livelihoods, and some of our ecosystems suffer more than others. Some climate solutions introduce issues of their own, requiring a balanced and thoughtful approach.

The 2023 Georgia Climate Conference aims to support and accelerate Georgia's efforts to take practical steps to minimize the risks and maximize the opportunities associated with a changing climate. The event brings together over 500 attendees representing multiple sectors and areas of expertise to collaborate, raise awareness of work across the state, highlight progress, and identify opportunities to do more. What can we work on together to build a more resilient and equitable future?

I am grateful for the GCP collaborators who helped make this event happen: Project Manager **McKenzie Beverage**, grad students **Sophia Lamb**, Nikolai Ozturk, Kofi Styles and the rest of the Student Leadership Council, as well as Mark Johnson, Tyra Byers, Justin Ellis, Pam Knox and others on the Conference Planning Committee.

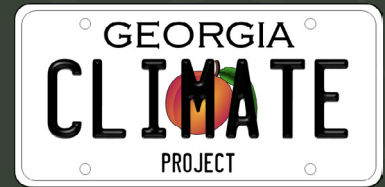
Our ask of you during this conference is to be an **active participant**, whether or not you are on the stage. Please use this opportunity to reach across silos, broaden your own network, and think beyond the current situation to imagine what is possible for Georgia's future. We encourage you to spend time talking with someone new, attend a breakout session you might not ordinarily choose, take home knowledge or inspiration you didn't have before you arrived, and use it to guide your next steps. Our state's climate resilience truly depends on the community we build this week. Let's go!

Sincerely,



Dr. Patricia L. Yager
Director of the Georgia Climate Project
Professor of Marine Sciences, UGA





About the Georgia Climate Project

The **Georgia Climate Project (GCP)** is a network of 11 Colleges and Universities from across the state of Georgia. Dr. **Patricia Yager**, UGA Professor of Marine Sciences, is the Director of GCP. Our staff consist of **McKenzie Beverage**, GCP Manager, and three graduate student coordinators: Sophia Lamb, Nikolai Ozturk, and Kofi Styles.

We believe that, in the coming years, Georgia can emerge as a clear leader on climate change, with a track record of rigorous analysis and constructive engagement among diverse groups leading to practical, science-based solutions that reduce risks and maximize opportunities associated with a changing climate.

An Exciting Opening Chapter

Since its launch in 2018, the **GCP** has grown from a promising idea into an influential statewide hub for climate collaboration, research, and communication. In partnership with the **Ray C. Anderson Foundation** and others, we built a highly credible, non-partisan organization with a track record of delivering high-impact results, including the 2019 and 2023 **Georgia Climate Conferences**,

The **Georgia Climate Project** aims to advance four strategic priorities:

1. **SCIENCE:** synthesizing the known and exploring the unknown to improve understanding of climate impacts and solutions in Georgia;
2. **STRONGER CONVERSATIONS:** fostering a constructive, nonpartisan discussion about how climate change affects Georgia and what can be done about it;
3. **SOLUTIONS:** Working with partners to enable Georgians to take practical steps responding to climate change and its impacts;
4. **A STRONGER NETWORK:** bringing together experts working to understand and act on climate.

the **Georgia Climate Research Roadmap**, the **Georgia Climate Stories** platform, serving as an incubator for **Drawdown Georgia**, and a dynamic network of 11+ colleges and universities with hundreds of experts. In the process, we have consistently worked across silos – engaging the entire state, exploring the full range of climate impacts and solutions, and bringing academia together with public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Meeting the Moment: Georgia is at the Cusp of a Climate Transformation

Though we have come a long way in a short time, we feel the most exciting work is yet to come. Georgia is at the cusp of a powerful transformation in how it addresses climate change, with leaders from new political, geographic, and economic perspectives joining the

conversations, the state's experts coming together, and a wide range of climate solutions now within our grasp. We plan to use the conversations and insights developed during the **2023 Georgia Climate Conference** to move the state forward on a more equitable and resilient future for Georgians.

Sustainability at this Year's Conference

We are thrilled to announce that the Georgia Climate Conference will be the first event to offer composting at the Georgia Center. The **UGA Office of Sustainability** and the Georgia Center have partnered to compost all food waste from the conference lunches.

The **Georgia Climate Project** has also worked with the Georgia Center to eliminate plastic from refreshment breaks and boxed lunches. We encourage all attendees to bring their own water bottles and choose sustainable transportation options to and from the conference.

Sustainable Transportation

We encourage conference attendees to carpool or consider other forms of public transit to arrive at the 2023 Georgia Climate Conference.

Many attendees will be visiting from Atlanta, and there are numerous bus services that shuttle between Athens and Atlanta daily.

We developed an opt-in ride sharing board for conference attendees to share contact information with each other if they would like to offer or look for a ride from another conference attendee. Check your email for details.

Information on Parking

Conference attendees may park in the **South Campus Parking Deck**. It is self-pay.

Georgia Center hotel guests may park in the South Campus Parking Deck. Overnight parking for hotel guests is \$10 per day.

Time	Fee
Entry - 30 Minutes	\$1
31 Minutes - 1 Hour	\$3
1 Hour - 2 Hours	\$5
Each Additional Hour	\$1
Maximum Daily Fee	\$10

Visiting? Need a ride to and from the Georgia Climate Conference?

Athens-Atlanta travel?

Click Here for UGA Bus Info

Bulldog Bike Share

The **Bulldog Bike Share** offers an easy way to travel around campus while avoiding traffic and reducing emissions from single-occupancy cars. The GPS-enabled, electric pedal-assist bikes are located at hubs across campus and can be rented using the Spin mobile app. Each bike features individual locks for safety and the ability to park at designated hubs listed in the **Spin** app.

Riders can download the app from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store to register, locate, and unlock the bikes.

*Please note that Bulldog Bike Share bicycles are not allowed on UGA busses.

Safety

Safety is an important aspect of the Bulldog Bike Share program. Spin and UGA advise wearing a **helmet** while riding. Riders can request a free helmet at the TPS Customer Relations Office located in the Tate Plaza.

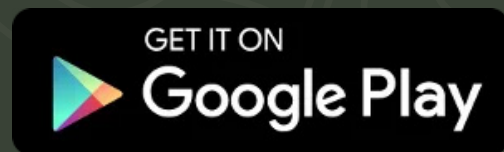
Pricing

A variety of pricing options are available through the **Spin** app including:

- \$1 to unlock a bike + \$0.25 per minute
- Monthly pass pricing of \$5.99 flat monthly rate, \$0 to unlock + \$0.25 per minute
- 24-hour Spin Pass Pricing which includes unlimited rides for under 30 minutes, for \$14.99 per month
- Riders are charged per minute until a bike is returned to a hub and the ride is ended in the Spin app



Download Spin for Electric Scooters and Bikes Here!



Conference Registration

Registration will open at 7:00 AM on Monday, May 15. Registration will remain open throughout the duration of the conference until 5:30 PM each day. All attendees must visit the registration desk upon arriving at the conference.

Breakfast Location

A **breakfast buffet** will be available from 7:30-8:30 AM each day in the Hill Atrium

Lunch Locations

Lunch will take place each day in the Georgia Center's **Magnolia Ballroom**.

Some conference attendees will have lunch at the **UGA Oglethorpe House Dining Hall ("O-House")**. We are excited for you to experience the sustainability strategies and efforts to reduce food waste that this dining hall implements. An **orange circle** on your badge indicates which day you will be dining at O-House. You will be given a dated lunch ticket for entry. Not all attendees will dine at O-House. O-House is located at **160 University Court**, Athens. It's about a 5 minute walk from the Georgia Center, down Lumpkin St.

Other Lunchtime Sustainability Tours

The **UGA Office of Sustainability** will be hosting walking and bus tours with a box lunch each day of the conference. Sign-ups will be available at the registration desk.

Sustainable UGA Walking Tour: On Monday, May 15, a walking tour led by students and staff in the UGA Office of Sustainability will feature a green space creation project, pollinator plantings, the Campus Arboretum, a student-run green roof garden, and more. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and be prepared for the Georgia sun.

Climate Solutions Bus Tours: These one-hour electric bus tours will each explore two off-campus sites of interest. On Tuesday the 16th we'll visit **UGA's Campus Transit Station** to see the state of the art charging infrastructure, followed by a visit to **Georgia Power's 1MW Solar Array** constructed on UGA property. On Wednesday the 17th we'll start the tour at the **1MW Solar Array** and then end across the street at the **UGarden**, a student community farm that grows organically to share with members of the community who face food insecurity.

If you have a ticket for O-House and choose to go on a walking or bus tour instead, simply return your O-House ticket to the tour guide.

Opening Plenary: Governance

Mahler Hall, Monday, 8:30-10:00 AM

This opening plenary session will welcome everyone to the UGA and Athens, Georgia, highlighting climate resilience leadership at the local, state, and federal levels.

Dr. S. Jack Hu is Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at UGA since 2019. In this role, he oversees instruction, research, public service and outreach, and information technology. Prior to his appointment, Hu was Vice President for Research at the University of Michigan. His research in manufacturing systems, assembly, and engineering statistics has been supported by agencies such as the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, as well as corporations such as General Motors. Hu holds eight patents, co-founded a startup company based on his research, and worked closely with several industry partners to enhance manufacturing quality and productivity. Hu is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Academies' Transportation Research Board. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), and the International Academy for Production Engineering (CIRP).

Arthur L. Tripp, Jr. was appointed to serve as the State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Georgia in October 2021. Tripp is a native Georgian born in Warner Robins. Prior to his appointment, Tripp served as the Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Congressman David Scott, current Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, where he managed the Congressman's Committee Assignments for the House Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Financial Services. He also served as a Senior Administrator in the Office of the President at UGA and as District Director for Georgia's 7th Congressional District. Tripp is a graduate of the UGA. He was named to the 2015 Class of the UGA's 40Under40 and served on the Alumni Board of Directors for the UGA School of Public and International Affairs.

Daniel Blackman was appointed on November 29, 2021 by President Biden to serve as the Regional Administrator for EPA's Southeast Region (Region 4). In this role Daniel is leading EPA efforts to protect public health and the environment for the region spanning Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and six federally recognized tribes. Blackman has dedicated his career to creating economic opportunities for marginalized communities throughout the South, specifically in building more resilient communities with equitable economic opportunity, greater access to education and a healthy environment for all, not just for a select few. He is the son of immigrants from Barbados and is an alumnus of Clark Atlanta University.

Day 1



Dr. S. Jack Hu
Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and
Provost, UGA



Arthur L. Tripp, Jr.
State Executive Director, US
Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency in
Georgia



Daniel Blackman
Regional Administrator for
the US Environmental
Protection Agency's
Southeast Region

Opening Plenary: Governance

Chandra Farley is the Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Atlanta. She leads the expansion of the City's resilience and sustainability efforts through a lens of equity including implementation of the City's 100% clean energy plan, creating the City's first comprehensive food systems plan, delivering on waste diversion goals, and leveraging federal resources. Prior to joining the City, Chandra led ReSolve Consulting, an energy justice consulting practice with a mission to increase the impact of energy and climate initiatives by centering equity. Chandra has advised the Department of Energy, the EPA, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the importance of prioritizing the leadership of marginalized communities to advance equity in clean energy.



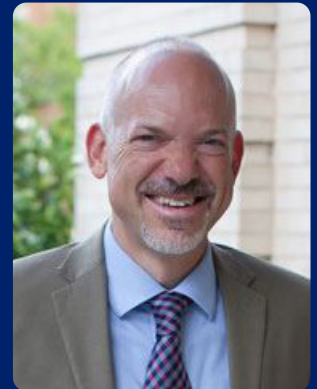
Chandra Farley
Chief Sustainability Officer,
City of Atlanta



Kevin Kirsche
Director of Sustainability
UGA

Kevin Kirsche is a landscape architect with more than two decades of experience in campus sustainability, planning, and ecological design. He leads a dynamic team of staff and students to address grand challenges through local solutions, developing inspired leaders, stronger communities, and thriving natural systems. Prior to becoming UGA's first Director of Sustainability in 2010, Kevin served in the Office of University Architects with responsibility for campus planning and project management. He has Masters and Bachelor degrees in Landscape Architecture, as well as a graduate Certificate in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development, from UGA.

Kelly Girtz has been mayor of Athens-Clarke County since January 2019. Under his leadership, Athens has developed numerous sustainability programs, including the 100% Clean and Renewable Resolution that was signed late 2019, and the launch of the 100% Clean and Renewable Campaign. Prior to his election, Girtz was Regional Director for Student Services at Foothills Charter High School, a District 9 Commissioner, and a Principal and Teacher in Clarke County School District. He holds advanced degrees in Educational Leadership, Teaching, and Sociology.



Kelly Girtz
Mayor of Athens-Clarke
Co. Unified Government,
Athens, Georgia



Jacob Yarbrough
Sustainability Manager,
Creature Comforts
Brewing Company

Jacob Yarbrough has worked for Creature Comforts since 2014 and served as Sustainability Manager since 2021. Under his leadership, Creature Comforts has developed sustainability programs based on industry-specific guidelines, while developing their own improvements to general best practices - tracking solid waste generation and reduction, water usage improvements, energy efficiency, and developing a local supply chain with a nearby wheat farmer. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from UGA.

Monday, May 15

Conference Breakout Sessions

Urban Climate Challenges: Beyond GHGs

Mahler Hall, 10:15-11:45 AM

Dr. Marshall Shepard (Professor, UGA)

Dr. Guanyu Huang (Professor, Spelman)

Max Applebaum (Graduate Student, UGA)

Mr. Joseph Wermter (Scientist, DOE/SRNL)

Haley Selsor (Graduate Student, UGA /IRIS)

Climate change is often framed from the lens of greenhouse gas emissions, but the urban environment is a significant modifier of climate and is also impacted by broader climate processes. This session will explore the ways that urban environments impact local, regional, and global climate systems from various perspectives including science, observations, modeling, equity, justice, and policy.

Okefenokee Destiny Screening & Peatland Carbon at Risk

Masters Hall, 10:15-11:45 AM

Rena Ann Peck (Executive Director, Georgia River Network)

Sara Aicher (Retired USFWS Biologist, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge)

Charles McMillan (Okefenokee Swamp Park Trustee, The Georgia Conservancy)

Okefenokee Swamp, “The Trembling Earth,” is a place unlike any other in the world. It’s the largest intact blackwater wetland in North America and one of the largest carbon sinks in the nation. It’s also in the heart of an economically depressed region and under pressure from mining which is expected to lower the water level of the shallow swamp destroying wildlife habitat, massive peatlands and swamp tourism. How much carbon is sequestered in the Okefenokee Swamp and how can the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge be conserved for future generations?

Agriculture as a Solution

Room Q, 10:15-11:45 AM

Michael Wall (Georgia Organics Director of Farmer Advocacy)

Perri Cooper (Executive Director Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District)

Demetrius Milling (Worker Co-Owner, Love is Love Cooperative Farm)

Agriculture is more commonly thought of as a villain in the realm of climate change. And ag can be a major source of greenhouse gases, especially when it comes to methane-based synthetic fertilizers. But it is time we acknowledge the many ways the agriculture industry can be an ally to reduce greenhouse gases, and even draw down GHGs while increasing economic development in rural Georgia. In this series of presentations, we’ll look at the latest science from UGA and beyond around the climate mitigation solutions right beneath our feet.

Sea Level Rise

Room R, 10:15-11:45 AM

Jill Gambill (Executive Director, Coastal Equity and Resilience (CEAR Hub), GA Tech)

Maurice Bailey (Founder, President and CEO, Save Our Legacy Ourselves / Co-Director, Cornelia Walker Bailey Program, University of Georgia)

Dionne Hoskins Brown (Director, NOAA Sponsored Programs, Savannah State University / Chair, Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission)

This session will explore the risks and effects of sea level rise in Georgia's coastal communities, exploring diverse adaptation strategies and equitable, community-driven approaches to research, outreach, and planning.

Jennifer Kline (Coastal Hazards Specialist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division)

Amir Jamal Touré J.D. (Historian, author and civic leader / Founder of Day Clean: The African Soul and Day Clean Journeys)

How to Begin: Building Codes, Sustainability + Resilience

Room F/G, 10:15-11:45 AM

Ryan Taylor (President, Ryan Taylor Architects, LLC)

Ganesh S. Nayak (Principal, Metier Consulting, Inc.)

Carmen R. Evans (Associate + Design Studio Manager, Epsten Group)

Climate change is often framed from the lens of greenhouse gas emissions, but the urban environment is a significant modifier of climate and is also impacted by broader climate processes. This session will explore the ways that urban environments impact local, regional, and global climate systems from various perspectives including science, observations, modeling, equity, justice, and policy.

Climate Vulnerability Assessments in Georgia Using Spatial Analysis

Mahler Hall 1:15-2:45pm

Jairo Garcia (CEO, Urban Climate Nexus)

Marshall Shepherd (Professor, UGA)

Jennifer Chirico (Associate Vice President of Sustainability, Georgia Tech)

Nick Deffley (Sustainability Director, City of Savannah)

Climate vulnerabilities are defined by the IPCC as the susceptibility of a system to the negative effects of climate change and other stressors. Climate vulnerabilities include three components: exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. During this session, experts in climate change vulnerabilities in Georgia and Hawaii will share their experiences in developing these assessments from environmental, social, and economic perspectives in order to shine a light to municipalities and regions in their development of their respective climate plans.

Monday, May 15

Some Good News: 100% Clean, Renewable, and Just Progress

Masters Hall 1:15-2:45pm

Jennette Gayer (Director, Environment Georgia)

Chandra Farley (Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Atlanta)

Alicia Brown (Clean Energy Program Manager, City of Savannah)

Aron Hall (Energy Program and Conservation Coordinator, Athens-Clarke County)

Rachel Usher (Policy Program Manager, Southeast Sustainability Directors Network)

Roughly 1 in 15 Georgians live in a city or county that has made a 100% clean and renewable energy commitment with more in the works. Many of those communities now have concrete plans to map their course and have begun implementing creative programs to help transition away from dirty, climate polluting energy and transportation systems. In our session we'll hear from sustainability directors about the projects they are pursuing, where they are seeing success and what challenges they are facing.

Climate Trends and Impact on GA Agriculture

Room Q, 1:15-2:45 PM

Pam Knox (Agricultural Climatologist, UGA)

Todd Callaway (Associate Professor, UGA Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences)

Jason Mallard (Ag Water Agent for South Georgia, UGA Cooperative Extension)

Dario Chavez (Associate Professor, Extension Peach Specialist, Department of Horticulture, UGA)

Agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to Georgia's economy. Changes in climate over time have affected agriculture in several ways, including length of the growing season, chill hours for fruit, and distribution of rainfall in space and time. Panelists from peach, commodity crops, and livestock will discuss how producers are adapting to current climate extremes as well as expected changes in future climate to ensure continuing sustainable agricultural production.

Climate and Health in Rural and Coastal Georgia

Room R, 1:15-2:45 PM

Noah Scovronick (Assistant Professor, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University)

Josiah "Jazz" Watts (Justice Strategist, One Hundred Miles)

Treva Gear (Georgia Campaign Manager, Dogwood Alliance; Founder and Chair, Concerned Citizens of Cook County)

This session will focus on the links between climate change and health in rural and coastal Georgia. It will examine the potential health impacts of climate change itself, as well as the health risks of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse in Resilient Buildings

Room F/G, 1:15-2:45 PM

Shan Arora (Director Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design, Georgia Tech)

Joshua Gassman (Principal and Sustainable Design Director, Lord Aeck Sargent)

Jimmy Mitchell (Senior Director Business Development, Skanska)

Georgia Tech's Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design is a resilient net-positive energy, net-positive water Living Building that has onsite farming. These are "nice to have" features in normal times, but become lifesaving during the zombie apocalypse... or extreme weather events that are intensified by climate change. With proper planning, buildings and infrastructure can help the state better withstand climate impacts.

Best Practices for Community Resilience Planning

Mahler Hall, 3:00-4:25PM

Kimberly Reeves (Executive Director of the Center for Sustainability, Agnes Scott College)

David Nifong (Energy & Sustainability Manager, City of Decatur)

Captain Gary Menard (City of Decatur Fire Department)

As the world feels the impacts of our changing climate, there is an imperative at the local level to build community resilience.

Agnes Scott College and the City of Decatur have joined together to leverage the power of community and collaboration by designing a joint Climate Resilience Plan (CRP). The plan draws on existing commitments and programs of both partners but also sets out new strategies with the most promise for ensuring the resilience of the community for both the college and the city. In this session, we will provide a broad overview of best practices, lessons learned, and tools Agnes Scott College and City of Decatur used to gain support, draft and implement a joint resilience plan.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience for Military Communities in Georgia

Masters Hall, 3:00-4:25PM

Michelle Covi (Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison, GA Sea Grant)

Scott Pippin (Defense Community Resilience Program Manager, UGA, Carl Vinson Institute of Government)

Ashby Nix Worley (Coastal Climate Adaptation Director, The Nature Conservancy)

Whitney Ray (Master Planner, Directorate of Public Works, Ft. Benning)

As climate change and extreme weather threaten military installations and their supporting communities, several new initiatives have emerged within the Department of Defense and with partners supporting climate adaptation planning and the use of natural infrastructure for climate resilience. This panel discussion will highlight innovative work of the UGA, The Nature Conservancy and DOD to further climate resilience in communities that supports the resilience of Georgia's military installations.

Urban Gardens and Food Systems

Room Q, 3:00-4:25PM

Jennifer Jo Thompson (Associate Research Scientist, Dept of Crop & Soil Sciences, UGA)

Andie Bisceglia (Program Coordinator of the Campus Kitchen, Office of Service-Learning, UGA)

April McCoy (UGArden Farm Manager, Department of Horticulture, UGA)

Whitney Barr (Landscape designer and Food Systems Innovation Fellow, City of Atlanta)

Lauren Towe (Program Manager, Concrete Jungle)

Cecilia Herles (Assistant Director, Institute for Women's Studies, UGA)

This session focuses on the relationship between climate and community food systems — and considers how we reclaim and return energy to the soil, ourselves, and our communities. Panelists provide concrete examples of working with campus and urban gardens, rescuing food, and reducing food waste, while reflecting on the joys and challenges of building community while addressing climate change at a local scale.

Health and Climate

Room R, 3:00-4:25PM

Yang Liu (Professor, Emory University)

Arie Manangan (Health Scientist, US CDC/NCEHC)

Saria Hassan (Assistant Professor, Emory University School of Medicine)

Brooke Lappe (PhD candidate, Emory University)

This session will focus on health risk factors exacerbated by climate change in the Southeastern US.

Erin Lipp (Professor, UGA)

Representatives of the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government

Seedlings to Solutions: Mass Timber as a Climate Solution

Room F/G, 3:00-4:25PM

Nick DiLuzio (Vice President, Georgia Forestry Foundation)

Laura Cullen (Regional Director, WoodWorks)

Troy Harris (Managing Director of Timberland and Innovative Wood Products, Jamestown)

Mass timber is an innovative, sustainable, and renewable building methodology that is de-carbonizing the built environment. Georgia has several mass timber buildings under construction, including the 619 Ponce building, the first locally-grown building in Georgia and the southeast. This talk will provide an overview of mass timber, Georgia's Sustainable Development Carbon Registry, and how mass timber can reshape the built environment into carbon sinks instead of carbon sources.

Monday Afternoon Plenary: Climate Stories

Mahler Hall, Monday, 4:30-5:30PM

Patrnr is **The Weather Channel's** new climate-focused unit, investigating all aspects of climate and its impact on the United States and the world. In this session, we'll explore the successes and strategies used by Patrnr to engage, educate, and inspire audiences wherever they are watching. Through visual storytelling, Patrnr explains complex research, highlights the people impacted by our changing Earth, and explores the solutions for protecting her environment sustainably.

We also welcome the early career perspective to this plenary, hearing inspiration from a recent college graduate, followed by **Student Poster Lightning Talks**.

Brooke Michael is a writer and producer with more than 10 years experience in crafting content for both digital platforms and television. She was born and raised in Alpharetta, Georgia. She received her B.A. in Media Production from Florida State University. After a five-year stint in New York City, Brooke returned to Georgia in 2016 to join The Weather Channel as a writer and producer for its flagship morning show, AMHQ. In 2020, she joined The Weather Channel's Patrnr team, devoted to telling stories about climate science, resiliency, and solutions.



Brooke Michael

Patrnr Producer, Weather Group

Sofie diTommaso joined Emory's Office of Sustainability Initiatives team in 2022. She assists with Emory's annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory, and supports campus climate commitments through data collection, task force facilitation, and campus outreach. Sofie graduated from Emory University in 2021 with a BA in Environmental Science. While at Emory, she completed a sustainable farming and hunger relief internship at a community nonprofit in Massachusetts and worked as a Teaching Assistant for a course in the Environmental Sciences Department.



Sofie diTommaso

Climate Solutions Fellow at Emory's
Office of Sustainability Initiatives

Tuesday Morning Plenary: Business Leadership in Climate Action

The Drawdown Georgia Business Compact leverages the collective impact of our business community to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Corporate climate commitments are translating into action as utilities and companies support the economic transition underway in Georgia.

Mason Ailstock is a trusted leader in the formation and stewardship of innovation districts and non-profit developments. With nearly 20 years of experience working with higher education institutions, governments and industry, Mason has a track record of converging real estate, academia, and business to advance communities of innovation. In his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Rowen, Mason is responsible for the real estate development, public-private-university partnerships, and investment activities of the 2,000-acre multi-use knowledge community ultimately comprising over 50 million square feet of space and housing over 80,000 employees.

Joanne Mello is Vice President of Corporate Sustainability for Southern Company Gas, the country's premier energy company serving 4.3 million natural gas customers through its regulated distribution companies in four states. Mello is responsible for developing and leading the company's overall sustainability strategy – including the coordination and support of local utility efforts to implement our path to net zero, and the company's efforts around renewable natural gas (RNG). She coordinates a portfolio of sustainability strategy initiatives for the company's natural gas business, leading efforts to reduce methane and carbon emissions through policy, strategy and technology, and supporting federal, state, and local climate policy, ESG engagement and strategy, renewable gas strategy, and outreach and communications efforts on climate and sustainability matters. She also co-founded and helps to lead the company's Innovation Council.

Jennifer Winn is Vice President of Corporate Sustainability for Georgia Power, where she leads efforts to develop, implement, communicate, and monitor progress of the company's vision of building a clean and sustainable energy future. Winn began her career with Southern Nuclear as an engineer at Farley Nuclear Plant in 2005. In 2009, Winn transitioned to the Vogtle 3 and 4 construction projects where she led internal and external reporting with multiple regulatory agencies. Winn served in roles of increasing responsibility including assistant to the Georgia Power CEO, general manager of Environmental Affairs and most recently, general manager of Natural Resources.

Day 2



Mason Ailstock
President of the Rowen
Foundation



Joanne Mello
Vice President for Corporate
Sustainability, Southern
Company Gas



Jennifer Winn
Vice President for Corporate
Sustainability, Georgia Power

Caroline Golin is Google's Global Head of Energy Markets, Development, and Policy. At Google, Caroline leads the team responsible for meeting Google's ambitious clean energy goal of powering its operations on 24/7 CFE. Her team is focused on building market and policy pathways to accelerate the deployment of clean energy across Google's footprint and working with partners to drive innovation in the access, products, and delivery of clean power. Caroline has worked in the clean energy industry for over fifteen years, having built two companies, and serving as a strategic consultant for many of the world's largest clean energy firms, advocacy organizations, and



Caroline Golin
Global Head of Energy
Policy and Markets, Google

Beril Toktay is Professor of Operations Management, Brady Family Chairholder and Regents' Professor. Her primary research areas are sustainable operations and supply chain management. She is the founding Faculty Director of the Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business and served as the co-architect and Executive Faculty Co-Director of Georgia Tech's Serve-Learn-Sustain Initiative (2016-2021). She is currently interim Executive Director for the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems and Co-Chair of Sustainability Next, a Georgia Tech Strategic Plan



Beril Toktay
Professor and Faculty Director of Ray
C. Anderson Center for Sustainable
Business, Scheller College of
Business, Georgia Tech

Drawdown Georgia Business Compact Breakouts

Mahler Hall, 10:15-11:45AM

Megan Farrell (Senior Director, Sustainability, Rivian)

Steve Metro (Head of Business Development, LanzaJet)

Kurt Ebersbach (General Council at Cherry Street Energy)

Moderator: David Eady (Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business, Georgia Tech)

Mobility and electricity generation have the largest carbon footprints and offer the greatest opportunities for reducing emissions while strengthening our economy and increasing resilience. Hear from three innovative companies advancing sustainable mobility and power generation.

Planning for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Masters Hall, 10:15-11:45AM

Ruthie Norton (Director of Strategic Development, 2KB Energy Services)

Allie Kelly (Executive Director, The Ray)

Glenn Halliday (Georgia Power)

Kylie McCord (Senior Engineering Consultant, CTE)

Fun new opportunities in electric vehicle technologies are popping up all over our state! Join us to discuss sustainable charging technologies through innovative solutions with The Ray, preparing for charging infrastructure with Georgia Power, and highlight funding/technological opportunities for bus fleets with CTE

Nature-based Solutions for Increasing Carbon Stored on Georgia's Forestlands

Room Q, 10:15-11:45AM

Puneet Dwivedi (Associate Professor Sustainability Sciences, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA)

Umesh Chaudhari (Technical Manager, Forestry, American Carbon Registry, Winrock International)

Joe Vaughn (Key Account Manager, NCX)

Joshua Puhlick (Assistant Scientist, Silviculture, The Jones Center at Ichauway)

Daniel Markewitz (Professor, Soil Site Productivity, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA)

Nature-based climate solutions are actions that protect ecosystems, address societal challenges, reduce disaster risk, and provide for human well-being. Nature-based solutions are becoming a critical component of climate change mitigation strategies, especially in Georgia's forestry sector, for their scalability and cost-effectiveness. This session explores the various nature-based options that can be potentially employed for increasing the total carbon stored on Georgia's forestlands. The session will also explore the role of carbon markets in financially supporting nature-based solutions for their wider adoption among private landowners.

Coastal Land Stewardship

Room R, 10:15-11:45AM

Frank S. Alexander (Vulnerable Communities Initiative, Sam Nunn Professor of Law, Emeritus, Emory Law)

Alex Muir (GSU Law School)

Felicia Harris (Commissioner, City of Brunswick, Glynn-Brunswick Land Bank Authority)

Tara Hicks (Housing Resource Development, City of Savannah)

Shana Jones (Carl Vinson Institute of Government)

Christi Lambert (The Nature Conservancy)

What is the nature and extent of existing public land ownership in coastal Georgia? How can we maximize collaboration among public entities in order to maximize public land stewardship? For purposes of this session the focus is on real property and real property interests of the State of Georgia, of counties, and of municipalities.

Jason Lee (Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division)

Josiah "Jazz" Watts (Gullah Geechee Commissioner, Sapelo Island Cultural and Revitalization Society, One Hundred Miles)

Opportunities and Risks of AI on Climate Solutions

Room F/G, 10:15-11:45AM

Matt Sullivan (Artist and Educator, Studio Groundworks LLC)

Adrienne Hoarfrost (Assistant Professor, UGA / Department of Marine Sciences / Institute for AI)

Gengchen Mai (Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Affiliated Professor and Graduate Program Faculty, School of Computing, AI Institute, UGA International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA))

Like the rise of the public Internet in the mid-90s, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is exploding onto the scene and rapidly reshaping the world around us. Join us for this interactive session where you'll hear from researchers working on the cutting edge of AI and explore how we all can effectively apply AI to climate work.

Guoyu Lu (Assistant Professor / School of Electrical and Computer Engineering / UGA)

GCP Climate Scholars: Climate Career Panel

Masters Hall, 11:45AM-1:15PM

Sophia Lamb (MPH Graduate, Georgia Climate Project, Emory University)

Kaitlin Ivey (Human Ecology student, Life University)

Dennis Creech (Fund Advisor for Sustainability, Kendeda Fund)

Nyasha Dunkley (Deputy State Climatologist, Department of Natural Resources, GA/Adjunct Professor, Georgia State University)

Treva Gear (Founder and Chair, Concerned Citizens for Cook County; Georgia Campaign Manager, Dogwood Alliance)

Michael O'Reilly (Director of Policy and Climate Strategy, Nature Conservancy)

This session invites a panel of professionals working in climate-related fields to discuss their career paths and their experiences navigating their given fields. Discussion will also include future job opportunities for early-career climate scholars.

Boxed lunches will be available to the first 40 attendees.

Stephanie Wakefield (Assistant Professor of Human Ecology, Life University)

Daniel Blackman (Regional Administrator for the US Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast Region)

Georgia
Climate
Conference



Drawdown Georgia Business Compact: Lightning Talks

Mahler Hall, 1:15-2:45PM

Kashi Sehgal (Co-Founder and CEO, Retaaza)

Brandy Hall (Founder and Managing Director, Shades of Green Permaculture)

Bob Powell (Founder and CEO, Brightmark)

Martin Peters (Director, Marine External Affairs, Yamaha Motor Corp USA)

Ben Chambers (Director, Sustainability and External Affairs, RYAM)

Derick Corbett (Senior Vice President, External Affairs, Pull-A-Part)

Hear from a range of companies—from startups, small businesses, B-Corporations, and large corporations—as they share how their respective businesses are mitigating and/or adapting to climate change.

Meg Boyles (Commercial and Middle Market Banking Sustainability Advisor, Truist)

Corey Babb (Environmental Consulting Client Manager, Woodard and Curran)

Frank Morris (Clean Cities Georgia)

Moderator: *David Eady (Ray C. Anderson Cent for Sustainable Business, Georgia Tech)*

Smart Siting Solutions for Solar

Masters Hall, 1:15-2:45PM

Amy Gutierrez (Climate and Lands Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy)

Matt Elliott (Chief of Wildlife Conservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Resources Division)

Jennifer Cannon (Environmental Affairs Natural Resources Supervisor, Georgia Power Company)

Acceleration of solar energy development is essential for the clean energy transition, but large solar facilities can negatively impact natural systems already at risk from climate change. Proactive solar siting and site design practices can minimize impacts without slowing down the growth of solar. In collaboration with both utility and natural resource practitioners, this session will consider the challenges and opportunities presented by solar site selection and design.

Risk Perceptions and Disaster Management

Room Q, 1:15-2:45PM

Cory Struthers (Assistant Professor, UGA SPIA)

Michelle Ritchie (Assistant Professor, UGA IDM)

Chuck White (Director, Emergency Management Agency, Camden County)

Nyasha Dunkley (Deputy State Climatologist, Environmental Protection Division, GA)

Julia Teebken (Postdoctoral Research Associate, Princeton University)

How people perceive risks to health, livelihoods, infrastructure, and community can influence preparation for extreme weather and support for climate policy. But risk perceptions may not accurately reflect risk hazards or result in behavior change. Drawing on multi-disciplinary expertise across professional and academic backgrounds, this panel considers how perceived risks from climate impacts are formed and framed, and how risk and disaster management strategies such as information sharing and communitybuilding – address varied understandings of and responses to risk.

Flood and Drought Resilience: Planning, Policy, and Practice

Room R, 1:15-2:45PM

Ben Emanuel (Southeast Conservation Director, American Rivers)

Stacey Blersch (Associate Professor of Hydrology, Columbus State University)

Katherine Atteberry (Stormwater Planning Manager, Atlanta Regional Commission)

Gail Cowie (Senior Research Associate, Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center at Albany State University)

Chris Manganiello (Water Policy Director, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper)

This session will focus on climate change impacts on the water cycle: increased variability, more severe drought, and increasingly intense rainfall. We will ask how past and current planning processes in Georgia help secure freshwater resilience for people and nature in the face of climate change, and what more we need to be doing in Georgia's water sector to enhance resilience and enable adaptation.

Experiential Learning + Undergraduate Research Discussion

Room F/G, 1:15-2:45PM

Chelsea Brown (Physical Sciences Laboratory Coordinator, College of Coastal Georgia)

Emily Tarsa (Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, College of Coastal Georgia)

Kimberly Takagi (Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, College of Coastal Georgia)

Clifton Buck (Associate Professor, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, UGA)

Austin Heil (Marine Educator and Public Programs Coordinator, Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, UGA)

Hands-on experiential learning prepares students to apply their knowledge to advance climate change science. This type of learning often takes place outside of traditional classrooms, allowing learners to apply theory to real-world situations. In this session, educators discuss how to incorporate climate change curriculum and ways to implement climate change/sustainable practices into experiential-learning research. Undergraduates' posters will be on display to showcase current and

Jonathan Warehime and Carlie Blackburn (Undergraduates, College of Coastal Georgia)

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Implementing Georgia Drawdown on University Campuses

Mahler Hall, 3:00-4:15PM

Justin Ellis (Program Manager / Operational Strategy and Impact Analysis, UGA, Office of Sustainability)

Jennifer Chirico (Associate Vice President of Sustainability, Georgia Tech)

Jeff Benjamin (Associate Vice President of Facilities, UGA)

Arthur Frazier (Director of Facilities Management and Services, Spelman University)

Jamie Mitchem (Climatology Professor and Chair of Faculty Senate, University of North Georgia)

This Session will focus on current best practices to advance Drawdown Georgia's 20 high impact climate solutions within Higher Ed. with a particular emphasis on opportunities to facilitate and coordinate collective efforts. Representatives from higher education institutions in Georgia will share lightning talks that highlight key successes, challenges and next steps. Small group discussion prompts will examine how we can best foster collaboration, identify and implement solutions, and collectively leverage statewide partnerships. Outcomes will focus on strategies for connecting, sharing, and innovating to invigorate Drawdown Georgia Higher Ed, potentially including an annual gathering, web-based platforms, and cross institution research on the implementation of Drawdown Georgia solutions.

Climate Law, Policy, and Planning - What's Next for Georgia?

Masters Hall, 3:00-4:15PM

Adam Orford (Assistant Professor, UGA Law School)

Alex Muir (GSU Law student)

Aradhana Chandra (UGA Law student)

Scott Luis (UGA Law student)

Hunt Revell (Attorney)

Steffney Thompson (Director, Land Conservation Clinic, UGA School of Law)

Mark Nevitt (Associate Professor, Emory University School of Law)

John Marshall (Associate Professor of Law, Georgia State University)

Tim Echols (Georgia Public Service Commissioner)

All conference participants are invited to generate policy suggestions on the discussion board at [this link here](#). This session will begin with in-person group discussions of the results, with the goal of identifying the best "next steps" for Georgia in sectoral mitigation, climate adaptation, carbon resource management, and other topics. In the latter part of the session the groups will share out their conclusions in a discussion with policymakers.

Taking Faithful Climate Action

Room Q, 3:00-4:15PM

Tsharre Sanders (Program Coordinator, GA Interfaith Power and Light)

Ayesha Abid (Program Associate, GA Interfaith Power and Light)

Susan Varlamoff (Laudato Si' Action Plan co-author)

Brian Savoie (Sustainability Program Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Atlanta)

Faith communities and houses of worship have untapped potential when it comes to the work of acting on climate. People of faith and conscience are morally compelled to care for the Earth and thus make a great base when it comes to organizing for climate justice. Come discuss how your faith community can take actionable steps for climate justice by collaborating with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light.

Regional Resilience

Room R, 3:00-4:15PM

Jon Philipsborn (Climate Resilience Manager, SLR Consulting)

Chris Clark (President & CEO, Georgia Chambe)

Katherine Zitsch (Director, Metropolitan North GA Water Planning District & Managing Director of Natural Resources, Atlanta Regional Commission)

Ashby Worley (Coastal Climate Adaptation Director, The Nature Conservancy)

This “Visioning Session” will discuss the need in Georgia to consider climate vulnerabilities at a regional level, and imagine what a region-wide approach to climate resilience might look like and what it could achieve. This session will consider benefits of a regional approach to climate resilience; and include perspectives from across geographies and sectors on the opportunities and challenges of collaboration on topic.

Infrastructure Futures Visioning

Room F/G, 3:00-4:15PM

Stephanie Wakefield (Assistant Professor of Human Ecology, Life University)

David Iwaniec (Associate Professor of Sustainable Futures, Urban Studies Institute, Georgia State University)

Lelani Mannetti (Assistant Professor, Urban Studies Institute, Georgia State University)

Alysha Helmrich (Assistant Professor, College of Engineering, UGA)

This session will critically explore the infrastructures seen as necessary to adapt Georgia to climate and environmental change. From sea rise to extreme heat, and from extreme social-economic inequality to climate migration, Georgia’s diverse regions face distinct climate change futures. This session will bring together critical scholars and practitioners engaged in conceptual and applied work on the political, ecological, technological dimensions of infrastructure. This visioning session will provide space for discussion and exchange of ideas, with a view to developing potential collaborations and scoping potential future research agendas focused on adaptive infrastructural futures in Georgia.

Plenary: Advancing Equity in Drawdown Georgia Solutions

Mahler Hall, Tuesday, 4:30-5:30PM

The scaling of Drawdown Georgia solutions will contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change and provide benefits in improved air quality and economic development. Solution engagement is critical to addressing historic inequities reflected in persistent high energy burdens as well as in areas such as limited access to capital, technology, innovation, and jobs. We will explore these themes across sectors and geographies in Georgia with the goal of achieving more equitable outcomes. Moderator: **Michael Oxman** (Scheller College, GA Tech, and Managing Director of the Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business).

Marilyn A. Brown is a Regents' Professor in the School of Public Policy at Georgia Tech, where she created the Climate and Energy Policy Lab and leads the research program for Drawdown Georgia. She coined the term "energy-efficiency gap" and has documented the energy burden and climate equity issues that challenge the Southeast. She has testified on these issues before Committees of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and before Public Utility Commissions in many states including Georgia. Dr. Brown is a member of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Garry A. Harris is President of Sustainability Solutions Group and Institute, a consulting firm that provides diverse sustainability, energy engineering, community development and energy generation technical services. He has more than three decades of experience in the fields of energy (including energy efficiency and renewable energy) and power generation, environmental conservation, community development and sustainability. He has worked tirelessly to create, build, and advance local, regional and statewide coalitions focused on environmental advocacy and collaborative problem solving in areas including climate, equity and inclusion, STEM education, sustainability, severe weather, emergency preparedness, environmental justice, housing, community redevelopment, economic development and job creation, clean energy, transportation, social justice, and health.

Dr. Veronica L. Womack has spent nearly 20 years in higher education as a political scientist, rural researcher, and Black Belt Region supporter. She currently serves as executive director of Georgia College & State University's Rural Studies Institute in Milledgeville. Previously, she served as the institution's chief diversity officer and professor of political science and public administration. Focusing her work on the underdeveloped rural South, Womack's research has garnered an international audience with a working group of experts at the United Nations; published in the Harvard Journal of African-American Public Policy; and secured federal funding for further examination of public policy in the rural South.



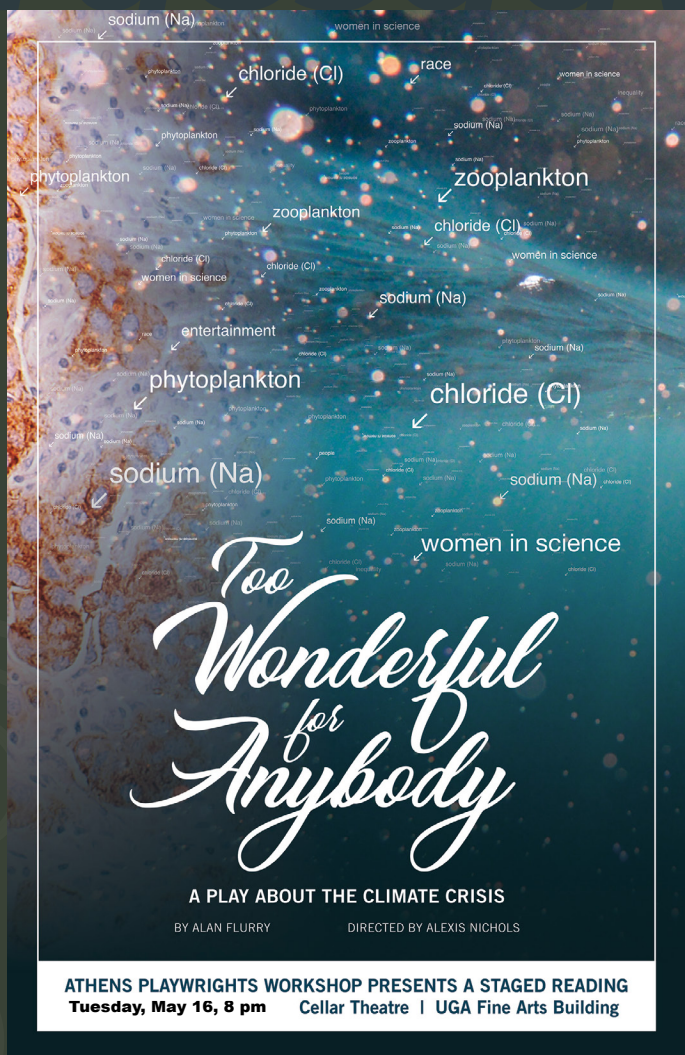
Dr. Marilyn A. Brown
Regents Professor,
Georgia Tech



Garry A. Harris
President, SSGI



Dr. Veronica L. Womack
Professor, Georgia State

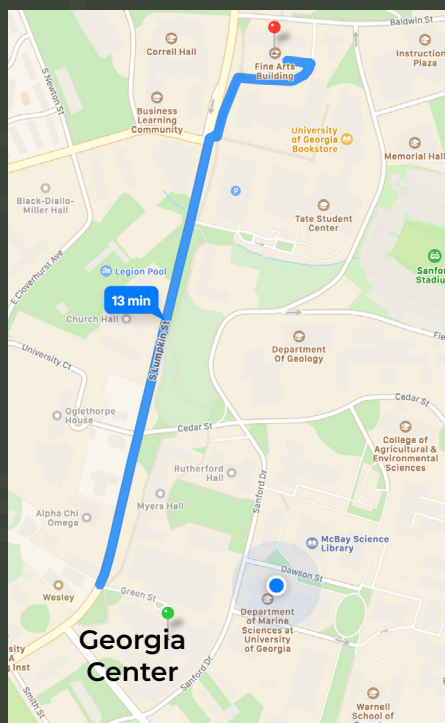


Too Wonderful for Anybody

Fine Arts Building, Tuesday, 8:00pm

“Too Wonderful for Anybody,” written by Alan Flurry, which aims to bridge the gap between everyday life and climate change, bringing the issue to the forefront of people’s consciousness. The play is about a director staging several plays, one of which deals with climate change. The main play takes place during a shipboard expedition, with actors playing scientists collecting ocean readings that will be used to analyze the effects of various pollutants on life in the ocean. The play avoids being preachy by using a play within a play structure, focusing on science, and bringing in love, politics, and other themes.

The play will be performed live May 16 at the Cellar Theatre of the UGA Fine Arts Building, free of charge. A postcard in your tote bag will have a map to the theatre. It’s about a 20 minute walk to North Campus.



Covering Climate with Solutions Journalism

Mahler Hall, 8:30-10:00AM

Kyser Lough (PhD, Assistant Professor, Journalism, UGA)

Amanda Bright (PhD, Senior Academic Professional, Journalism, UGA)

Ralitsa Vassileva (Lecturer, Journalism, UGA)

Katie Tong (Undergraduate Student, UGA)

Ali Van Fleet (Climate Science Producer, Pattn)

Come hear from journalists on how they've incorporated a solution-oriented approach to their climate journalism. You'll learn how this approach to reporting works, see some examples, and walk away with insights on how to prepare for, pitch and promote solution-oriented coverage of your own work. Solutions journalism goes beyond conflict-only reporting by using the same rigors of journalism (limitations, evidence, response, insight) to cover what people are doing about problems.

Resilience and Restoration of Coastal Ecosystems

Masters Hall, 8:30-10:00AM

Matthew Bilskie (Assistant Professor, University of Georgia)

Jan McKinnon (Coastal and Ocean Management Program, Georgia DNR)

Shawn Gillen (City Manager, Tybee Island)

Scott Pippin (Public Service Associate; Strategic Operations and Planning Assistance, UGA)

Jose Rolando (PhD Candidate, GA Tech)

Josiah "Jazz" Watts (Justice Strategist, 100 Miles)

This discussion-based session will focus on the restoration and resilience of coastal natural infrastructure for flood hazard mitigation, risk reduction, and environmental benefit across the Georgia coast. The session will consist of brief presentations from each panel member on how their organization is engaged in natural coastal infrastructure. A discussion and Q&A session will focus on valuation, monitoring, maintenance, beneficial use of dredged sediments, insurance, and cost-benefit analysis.

Federal Funding for Climate Solutions in Georgia

Room Q, 8:30-10:00AM

Mandy Mahoney (Principal, Trident Maple)

Shana Jones (Assistant Director, Strategic Operations and Planning Assistance, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, UGA)

Maggie Kelley Riggins (Built Environment Project Manager, Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance)

Jeff Pratt (President, Green Power EMC)

Alicia Brown (Clean Energy Prog. Mngr, City of Savannah Office of Sustainability)

New sources of federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act have the potential to bring large new investments to Georgia. This panel will explore how different stakeholders are approaching this opportunity.

Blair Beasley (Director of Climate Strategies, Ray C. Anderson Foundation)

Building Relational Trust Around Clean Energy and Community Science

Room R, 8:30-10:00AM

Rebecca Watts Hull (PhD, Assistant Director, Faculty Development for Sustainability Education Initiatives, Center for Teaching and Learning, Georgia Tech)

Adrienne Rice, Executive Director, Sustainable Georgia Futures

Cary Ritzler (Climate Advocacy Coordinator, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy)

Scott Presson, Clean Energy Committee Lead, Sierra Club Georgia Chapter

Christina Fuller (Associate Professor, School of Environmental, Civil, Agricultural and Mechanical (ECAM) Engineering University of Georgia College of Engineering)

Carla Lewis (Executive Director, Environmental Community Action, Inc. (ECO-Action))

Community engagement and relationship-building are essential to centering community priorities in climate justice initiatives. This workshop will introduce participants to Justice40 and community science initiatives that build trust between BIPOC communities, community-based organizations (CBOs), and academic partners. Community organizers and researchers from Sustainable Georgia Futures, the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and the Greater Atlanta Community Science Collaboratory will engage each other and attendees in conversation about relationship-building challenges and strategies, followed by an interactive mock house meeting

Deep Resilience & Inner Adaptation: Working with Climate Anxiety and Eco-Grief

Room F/G, 8:30-10:00AM

Janna Diamond (Evolutionary Somatic Practice, Climate Psychology Alliance)

Beth Remmes (Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, Unity Worldwide Ministries Earth Care Team)

We are alive in unprecedented and complex times—how do we prevent burnout and continue our important work in the world? This is an interactive space to connect with one another to process and integrate what we know about our changing planet. We will explore how climate emotions like eco-anxiety affect us, deepen our capacity for resilience and creativity, and imagine what inner adaptation looks and feels like.

Closing Plenary: A Community Moving Forward

Mahler Hall, Wednesday, 10:15-11:30AM

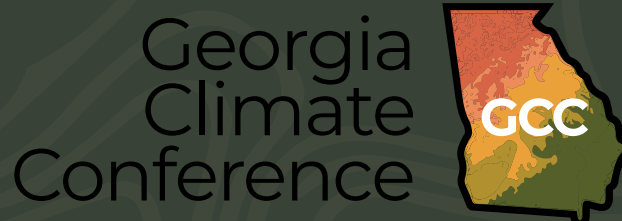
This mid-day plenary on the final day of the 2023 Georgia Climate Conference will be an opportunity for all participants to gather together and envision what future collaboration looks like.

We will also present **student poster and art awards** at the beginning of this session.

A native son of Atlanta Georgia, **Nathaniel Smith** has been passionate about racial equity from the very beginning. As the child of Southern Freedom Movement Activists, his experiences observing many of the historical injustices and inequalities placed on people from underserved communities was the driving motivation to create a platform that would not only expose these inequities, but also bring the issue of racial equity to a larger scale, bring together groups and individuals to develop real solutions, and address these inequities in our communities so prosperity can be created and shared by all. Smith's leadership was instrumental in partnering with several organizations to create the Justice40Accelerator, designed to provide organizations with innovative front-line community climate projects the assistance to better position them to pursue and win federal funding, and to hold accountable the Biden Harris Administration's executive order to direct 40% of federal climate action funds to disadvantaged communities.



Nathaniel Smith
Founder and Chief Equity Officer,
Partnership for Southern Equity



Innovations in Climate Pedagogy and Experiential Learning

Mahler Hall, 1:00-2:55PM

Lissa M. Leege (Professor of Biology, Georgia Southern University)

Emily Tarsa (Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, College of Coastal Georgia)

Jennifer Sweeney-Tookes (Associate Professor of Anthropology, Georgia Southern University)

Oliver Chapman (PhD. Candidate, Georgia Tech)

Jill Gambill (Coastal Resilience Specialist and Public Service Faculty, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant)

Fayola Waithe (Sustainability & Environmental Justice Fellow, Agnes Scott College)

This session will feature examples of innovative climate pedagogy for the classroom, including experiential learning, interdisciplinary approaches to solving wicked problems, and a climate solutions simulation. Program level approaches include translating NASA sea level information into K-12 education for coastal communities and a college-level environmental justice program. A final session on teaching community organizing for sustainability will lead into a discussion of the critical next steps in climate change pedagogy.

Rebecca Watts Hull (Assistant Director, Faculty Development for Sustainability Education Initiatives, Center for Teaching and Learning, Georgia Tech)

Blue Carbon Law Symposium

Masters Hall, 1:00-2:55 & 3:10-5:30PM

The first half-day of the Blue Carbon Law Symposium will be held in collaboration with the Georgia Climate Conference in Masters Hall. The Symposium will explore law and policy needs, including the intersection of law and blue carbon markets; describe the state of blue carbon science; assess claims about blue carbon market potential; review existing blue carbon projects; and discuss the needs of community stakeholders.



[Click Here for More Info](#)

Bringing Your Science to Policymakers

Room Q, 1:00-2:55PM

*Amy Sharma (PhD. Executive Director,
Science for Georgia)*

*Jennette Gayer (Executive Director,
Environment Georgia)*

Your science matters to the people of Georgia. You have to communicate it! During this interactive session, learn how to make your science clear, concise, and relevant to policymakers. Hear from seasoned professionals and role-play your messaging. For instance, the role of sustainable lifestyles, constraints, energy burdens, and climate leadership.

Shrinking Your Carbon Footprint

Room R, 1:00-2:55PM

*Marilyn A. Brown (Regents and Brook
Byers Professor, Georgia Tech)*

Cory Struthers (Assistant Professor, UGA)

*Joe Bozeman (Assistant Professor,
Georgia Tech)*

*David Iwaniec (Associate Professor,
Georgia State University)*

Household decision-making and pro-climate choices in Georgia: the role of sustainable lifestyles, constraints, energy burdens, and climate leadership.

Justice 40 in Action

Room F/G, 1:00-2:55PM

*Tawana Mattox (Director of Community
Education and Empowerment, Athens
Land Trust)*

*Heather Benham (Executive Director,
Athens Land Trust)*

*Aron Hall (Energy Program and
Conservation Coordinator, Athens-Clark
County Unified Government)*

Xavier Coates (Young Urban Builder)

*David Iwaniec (Associate Professor,
Georgia State University)*

This panel will showcase the work of Athens Land Trust (ALT) in building climate equity in underserved communities in Athens, Georgia. This includes the ongoing partnership with the Athens Clarke County (ACC) Government and the ACC Sustainability Office. ALT received a Drawdown Georgia Equity Grant to support their work in the West Broad neighborhood and in North Athens. This includes programs to deliver home repair, weatherization, and energy efficiency improvements; expand workforce development capacity through their Young Urban Builders program; assist low-income homeowners in applying to the state Weatherization Assistance Program for deep energy retrofits; and build community leadership capacity for implementation of climate solutions by supporting the establishment of Neighborhood Advisory Boards.

Teaching Climate Across the Curriculum

Mahler Hall, 3:10-5:30PM

Tyra Byers (Director, Interdisciplinary Sustainability Certificate, UGA)

Cecilia Herles (Associate Director, Women's Studies)

Nancee Reeves (Senior Lecturer, English)

Jason Roberts (Senior Lecturer, Religion)

Malcom Adams (Professor Emeritus, Mathematics)

Neil Bendle (Associate Professor Marketing)

Jenn Thompson (Associate Research Scientist, Crop and Soil Science)

Katie Hein (Clinical Assistant Professor, Health Promotion and Behavior)

Chris Cuomo (Professor, Philosophy and Women's Studies)

Michelle Richie (Assistant Professor, Institute for Disaster Management)

Complex challenges such as Climate Change require interdisciplinary understanding and education to prepare students to develop innovative solutions in diverse fields post-graduation. In this session, a panel of UGA Faculty from different disciplines will share the ways they teach climate including specific activities from classes. This will be followed by a large group discussion and an opportunity to share best practices.

How We Bring Climate Solutions Even Closer to Home

Room Q, 3:10-5:30PM

Maurice Carter (Co-Founder & Past President, Sustainable Newton)

Theodosia Wade (Vice President & Co-Founder, Sustainable Newton)

Sara Vinson (Co-Founder & Past Vice President, Sustainable Newton)

Nancy Schulz (President, Sustainable Newton)

Don Moreland (Director & Past Chair, Georgia Solar Energy Association)

Mark Beatty (Director of Planning and Government Services, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission)

John Devin (Executive Director, Georgia Bikes, Grace Tuschak, Planning Manager, Georgia Bikes)

As a grass-roots non-profit, Sustainable Newton is approached by activists seeking a similar climate action organization in their community. In this interactive session, we'll share lessons learned and discuss programs implemented to help households, governments, and businesses take meaningful action. We'll explain how the Drawdown Georgia framework has guided us. We'll introduce you to people who've helped us and facilitate breakout sessions to explore how they can help you too.

From Field to Fork to Field, How to Realize Georgia's Regenerative Circular Economy: A Workshop with Compost Now and Better Earth

Room R, 3:10-5:30PM

David Paull (Chief Impact Officer, CompostNow)

Blair Michal (Partner Advocate, Better Earth)

In this interactive and dynamic session, local Georgia businesses CompostNow and Better Earth will elaborate on how they're partnering to transform the traditional industries they operate within – think: agriculture, foodservice, waste management – into closed loop, circular systems that foster transformative environmental and social change. Audience members will then apply what they learned from this case study to explore how other local industries and systems can participate in a regenerative, circular economy in a small group setting.

Carbon and Climate Simulators

Room F/G, 3:10-5:30PM

Laura Iyer (CEO and Founder, Southern Sustainability Institute)

Peter Whitehouse (Graduate Researcher, Drawdown Georgia/Georgia Tech School of City and Regional Planning)

En-ROADS is a freely accessible global climate simulator that harnesses active learning to simulate high-leverage, equitable climate solutions, encouraging users to explore the impact of policies on reducing emissions.

The Drawdown Georgia Emissions Tracker visualizes monthly emissions across sectors at the Georgia county level. This session will demo the both the En-ROADS and Drawdown Georgia Emissions Tracker tools, and lead into a conversation on using these tools for action.

Georgia
Climate
Conference



Flowing Traditions: De Gullah/Geechee Ocean and Sea Legacy

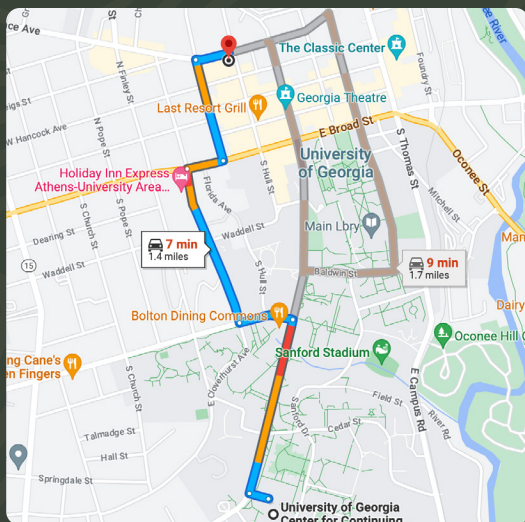
Closing Celebration with Queen Quet at Live Wire, Wednesday, 6:00-8:00PM

The closing celebration co-sponsored by Georgia Climate Project and Blue Carbon Law Symposium will take place at Live Wire with featured guest, Queen Quet, Chieftess and Head-of-State, Gullah/Geechee Nation.

Queen Quet is a published author, computer scientist, historian, preservationist, and environmental justice advocate. Queen Quet was selected, elected, and enstooled by her people to be the first Queen Mother, “head pun de bodee,” and official spokesperson for the Gullah/Geechee Nation. As a result, she is respectfully referred to as “Queen Quet, Chieftess and Head-of-State for the Gullah/Geechee Nation.” She is the founder of the premiere advocacy organization for the continuation of Gullah/Geechee culture, the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition.



Queen Quet
Chieftess and Head-of-State,
Gullah/Geechee Nation



Directions to Live Wire,
227 W Dougherty St, Athens, GA

