



"Thanks again for making me a part of MomentUs. It was an outstanding summit, possibly the best I've been involved with. I'm very excited about the prospects for progress that this effort promises, and look forward to remaining involved and helping the effort in any way I can."

Michael Mann, Earth System Science Center, Pennsylvania State University

Last week, 140 leaders from the health, business, higher education, faith, communities and stewardship sectors got together in Chicago at the **“Path to Positive – MomentUs 2014 Leadership Summit”** to share thoughts and collaborate on moving America forward on climate solutions. The enthusiasm and thoughtful participation of the group generated great ideas, new opportunities, real inspiration, a sense of hope, and a yearning for more collaboration. You can see the full agenda and participants at momentusleadershipsummit.org, but we wanted to share highlights with you in advance of the full summit report coming out in June.



“Bob, what a fantastic experience. Thank you for including me in this amazing effort. This is a tremendous opportunity to turn the tide and I would love to help you beef up the business presence.”

Leah Seligmann, NRG

The Summit started with a celebratory dinner on Wednesday night, featuring a whole room discussion around the topic “Why are You Here?” Over 40 participants grabbed the mic and talked about their passion, their successes and their needs as they work to solve climate challenge.



“Just a word of praise and gratitude to you and your team. The Leadership Summit was a huge success in my view, and my two guests were enormously grateful to be included and connected with the array of committed, gifted people you assembled. I look forward to working together as we roll this out in the months ahead.”

Jim Antal, United Church of Christ

The Summit meeting itself started with introductory comments by Bob Perkowitz of ecoAmerica. He told his “conversion story” that resulted in a shift of his life’s work toward climate solutions, and about available technological and policy solutions awaiting public support and political will for implementation. He urged participants to think bigger and bolder on the “Path to Positive.”



"Thank you for a great day. Looking forward to what's next in demonstrating that 'America Knows How' (I like that!). Shine on."
Danny Kennedy, Sungevity

David Yarnold, President of the National Audubon Society, introduced Session I: **We Can Do It: Climate and Solutions**. Panelists Dr. Jane Lubchenco, former Administrator of NOAA; Danny Kennedy, Co-Founder and Senior Vice President at Sungevity; Dr. Michael Mann, Director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University; and Geof Rochester, Managing Director of The Nature Conservancy all talked about their work and tangible successes on climate solutions. Their very different strategies ranged from building the residential solar industry, to engaging Harley Davidson owners in conservation. The presentations were followed by table discussions where ideas from all the participants were gathered and displayed in real time.



"Thanks for putting this together and moving it forward. I think everyone left with a new perspective on the urgency and importance of our work around sustainability and MomentUs. "
Dr. Jerry Weber, College of Lake County

The second session, **A Challenge For All Of Us: Climate and Society**, featured Dr. Antonio Flores, President of the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities; Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association; Kathy Gerwig, Vice President of Employee Safety, Health and Wellness and Environmental Stewardship Officer at Kaiser Permanente; Steve Nicholas, VP for US Programs at the Institute for Sustainable Communities; and Rev. Gabriel Salguero, President of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition. They engaged in a panel discussion about the impacts of climate change on their sector, and what their organizations were doing to make a difference.



"Really loved the event and came back glowing. Mike asked me what I thought was best about it I didn't hesitate: it was the combination of an incredible network of people (and the diversity of that network) with the deep and thought-provoking messaging research."

Jesse Simmons, The Sierra Club

Session III: **Building Momentum For Change - Our Time Is Now** recognized the fact that our nation makes progress on substantial issues when powerful American institutions lead. Introduced by ecoAmerica Director Lisa Renstrom, Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson, Moderator of the Metropolitan Community Church talked about the success factors of the marriage equality movement. Rev. Jim Wallis, Founder and CEO of Sojourners, discussed about lessons in immigration reform from the faith perspective. Gary Cohen, Founder and President of Health Care Without Harm covered the health care access movement. Rounding out the group, Harold Swimmer, President and CEO of the American Lung Association explained the challenges and victories of the stop smoking movement.



“It was as if the ecoAmerica event was a gathering of tribal leaders, like in feudal times, where the leaders would come together and form a council, put aside their differences, and join together to fight against a threat that was too great to be fought alone.”

Josie Plout, Institute for the Built Environment at Colorado State University

Tracy Russ and Meighen Speiser from ecoAmerica then led Session IV: **Empowered For Action - Prepared and Ready**. They described Path to Positive vision, principles and commitment, and reviewed the new Blessed Tomorrow program designed to engage leaders within the faith community to lead by example and engage others to do the same.

ecoAmerica “starts with people,” and at the MomentUs Leadership Summit, it ended with them too. All of the participants are accomplished leaders and could have been on stage telling their story. In the end, as Bob commented, it’s up to us. We need to refresh and renew ourselves, think bigger and bolder, and collaborate more powerfully. Our biggest task is to move society toward supporting effective solutions as quickly as possible, and whatever part of the climate solution you’re working on, it needs to include building public support and political will.

We’re planning the 2015 Summit now and welcome your ideas. If you want to spread the word on MomentUs now, please ask people to sign up for updates at momentus.org. And be sure to share blessedtomorrow.org in your network too!





"What a great event you hosted last week. It was a bit like Christmas - all the people I wanted to talk to all in one room! If we had been trapped there by an ice storm for a week I don't think we would have run out of conversations to have. "

Katharine Hayhoe, Director, Climate Science Center, Texas Tech University

Thanks to all from the ecoAmerica Team:

Alec Zimmerman, Andrea Putman, Andrew Campbell, Bob Perkowitz, Caroline Hodge, Dan Berry, Ashley Fisher-Paggio, Deb Mindel, Dirk Kincannon, Gabriel Harp, Nickie Kluge, Kirra Krygsman, Jennifer Tabola, Lyle Morton, Meighen Speiser, Raymond Boney, Suzy Johnson, Tim Fink, and Tracy Russ.