ACLS 2020

AMERICAN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

AMBITION · RESTORATION · JUSTICE

LIVE ONLINE Thursdays, August 6-27, 2020 | 2pm ET

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

EJF PHILANTHROPIES

Camalotte Foundation

HARTFIELD FOUNDATION

SAMUEL FREEMAN CHARITABLE TRUST

Audubon

BONWOOD SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

Outrider Foundation

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

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#ClimateRestoration, #ClimateJustice

Welcome Climate Leaders,

Our time together over the month of August is precious — this may be the most important year to act on climate. The individual and collective ideas generated among us here at **ACLS 2020 LIVE ONLINE** could meaningfully help to **raise climate ambition, restoration and justice in America**.

So dive in, be present, connect and collaborate with other attendees, and join us in committing to do all you can to bring forward equitable and ambitious climate solutions. Be sure to explore all that ACLS 2020 LIVE ONLINE has to offer, from the **20+ live sessions with audience Q+A, to an engaging lineup of climate leaders and industry experts, chat and other functionality to engage with speakers and each other, and free resources to deepen and catalyze climate advocacy — all within an immersive and dynamic streaming website**.

On behalf of everyone at ecoAmerica and our partners, we'd like to thank you for all you do to lead on climate — particularly amidst our compounding crises — and for joining us at the **American Climate Leadership Summit LIVE ONLINE**, the largest and most diverse gathering of leaders dedicated to expanding American public support and political resolve for climate solutions. We look forward to an inspiring month together!

Sincerely,

Bob Perkowitz

President
ecoAmerica

Meighen Speiser

Executive Director
ecoAmerica

Ashley Lane

Events Director
ecoAmerica

ACLS 2020 Sponsors

ecoAmerica would like to thank our ACLS 2020 sponsors, who contributed their intellectual and financial support to bring this event to life.

Eat the Change

Climate change is real. So is our power to act. Our choices about what we eat represent our single biggest opportunity to change our environmental footprint. Eat the Change combines marketplace solutions with education and activism to empower consumers to make dietary choices aligned with their concerns around climate and health.

The National Audubon Society

Two-thirds of America's birds are threatened with extinction from climate change, if we act fast we can help up to 76 percent of them. Enter your zip-code in our Climate Visualizer to see the impacts of climate change.

Outrider Foundation

Outrider Foundation is an educational nonprofit committed to making the world safer and more secure. We use digital media to provide accessible information about how we can build a brighter future together by eliminating the threats of climate change and nuclear war.

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Under the leadership of Bishop Staccato Powell, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) Church is involved in several national initiatives that focuses on people of faith's environmental responsibility and obligation to care for, respect and protect God's creation. In collaboration with ecoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow program, the AMEZ Church is supporting congregations and clergy to act and advocate on climate solutions, rooted in scripture and our authentic voice.

The Nature Conservancy

The Playbook for Climate Action from The Nature Conservancy showcases five innovative pathways for reducing emissions and climate impacts. A comprehensive suite of science-based solutions, the playbook presents actions governments and companies can deploy — and scale — today. The solutions are here, the time is now.

American Public Health Association

APHA's Center for Climate, Health and Equity leads public health efforts to inspire action on climate and health, advance policy and galvanize the field to address climate change. With a long-standing commitment to climate as a health issue, APHA's center applies a health equity lens to help shape climate policy, engagement and action to justly address the needs of all communities regardless of age, geography, race, income, gender and more. APHA is the leading voice on the connection between climate and public health. Dual Disaster Handbook (in partnership with American Flood Coalition) — https://floodcoalition.org. Energy Justice and Climate Change: Key Concepts for Public Health found here.

Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health

The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health empowers and activates America's doctors, in partnership with fellow health professionals, to mobilize support for climate solutions that protect and promote health, equity, and resilience for all Americans. Since our launch in 2017, we have grown to 29 member medical societies representing 60% of U.S. physicians, and 47 affiliates representing millions of health professionals. Last year, working with several partner organizations, we developed and released a U.S. Policy Action Agenda on Climate, Health and Equity to establish principles for equitable and effective health-focused climate solutions. Currently endorsed by more than 150 physician, nursing and public health professional societies and academic institutions, and 500 hospitals, the Agenda provides ten key policy priorities to address climate change and promote the health of all Americans. Report: Medical Alert! Climate Change Is Harming Our Health.

African Methodist Episcopal Church

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has played an active role in navigating social issues since its establishment in 1816. Ministering to the 'spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed,' AME's leadership has helped foster climate solutions among its nearly 300 churches, with 33 Bishops managing an estimated membership of over 7,500,00. The AME Bishops of the Church have become a foundational component of spiritual council to Presidential Administrations and The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

American Baptist Churches General Fund

In 2016, the ABC Creation Justice Network, a Taskforce of the ABCUSA Board of General Ministries, was formed to encourage individuals and congregations to engage in this critical witness and work of the Gospel. American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) has long heard God's call to tend, love and care for God's creation and all people. We have understood that ecological care and human justice are one, two sides of the same coin. The ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary has partnered with the ABC Creation Justice Network, Creation Justice Ministries and ecoAmerica to galvanize the creation justice ministry work that congregations have embodied through the Creation Justice Congregations program as they serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the world. The ABC Creation Justice Network will host a four session webinar series entitled "Praying with Creation: Sabbath, Lament, Restoration/Resiliency, and Resurrection," will meet weekly from July 23, 2020 to August 13, 2020 at 12:00pm EDT/9:00am PDT. Learn more and register here.

American Psychological Association

Mental Health and Our Changing Climate: Impacts, Implications, and Guidance. This guide chronicles the impacts of climate change on Americans' health and psychological well-being, including increases in stress and anxiety, loss of community identity, heightened aggression and violence, and many others. It builds from our 2014 Beyond Storms and Droughts research, and is intended to further inform and empower health and medical professionals, community and elected leaders, and the public.

ACLS 2020 Sponsors

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Out of our call to "do justice" (Micah 6:8), we strive to demonstrate the fullness of God's shalom through living out our faith by caring for God's creation. In keeping with this demonstration, a resolution concerning carbon neutrality was passed at the 2017 General Assembly, in which the Christian Church (DOC) committed to reducing our carbon pollution with the goal to become carbon neutral by the year 2030 and climate positive by 2035. From Hawaii and Washington to Ontario and Florida, and everywhere in between, Disciples congregations are caring for creation in unique and inspiring ways. Learn more about how to become a Green Chalice Ministry at greenchalice.org.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands.," the ELCA sees caring for the Earth as central to our holy calling to treasure the Earth and to care for it as our common home, fully integrating creation-care into our love of God and neighbor. We gladly accept this monumental assignment by refocusing, renewing and raising our efforts as we embrace our role as stewards of creation and look with hope and promise toward years to come. Please see the Prepared to Care Congregational Study Resources and learn more about how to get involved with Caring for Creation.

National Environmental Health Association

The National Environmental Health Association's 6,700 members protect and promote the nation's health in governmental, academic, uniformed services and the private sectors in the U.S. and its insular areas. Our climate change webpage showcases the Association's climate change position statement, research, and resources germane to environmental health professionals, who comprise the 2nd largest segment of the professional public health workforce. A new position statement, Role of Environmental Health in Addressing Racism as an Environmental Health Issue, tenders recommendations to address structural and systemic racism that hinder the delivery of essential environmental health services to vulnerable populations.

Planetary Health Alliance

2020 brings the publication of two key planetary health education resources presented by the Planetary Health Alliance: a free collection of case studies from around the world, Planetary Health Case Studies: An Anthology of Solutions, and a seminal book for the field, Planetary Health: Protecting Nature to Protect Ourselves. Both resources serve as comprehensive guides to the study, pedagogy, and practice of planetary health: a transdisciplinary field focused on characterizing and addressing the human health impacts of global environmental change. The PHA encourages readers and educators to use the case study anthology and their complementary teaching guides in tandem with the Planetary Health book to provide a well-rounded understanding of planetary health. Explore and download the free anthology of case studies and teaching guides here, and pre-order your book here using the discount code PLANET.

Society for Public Health Education

The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) is a nonprofit, independent professional association that represents a diverse membership of nearly 4,000 health education professionals and students in the United States and 25 international countries. SOPHE members work in schools, universities, voluntary organization, health care settings, worksites, and in local, state and federal government agencies. Read their Resolution on Addressing the Health Impacts of Climate Change. SOPHE's 2020 Annual Advocacy Summit live streaming on Tuesday, October 13 and Wednesday, October 14, 2020, from 12:00 - 5:30 pm ET each day. Register now!

The Episcopal Church

Episcopal Covenant to Care of Creation Putting it into Practice. In Jesus, God so loved the whole world. We follow Jesus, so we love the world God loves. Concerned about the global climate emergency, drawing from a range of approaches for our diverse contexts, we commit to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation.

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Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Lung Association.

Asian Highway 1

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

Catholic Climate Covenant

Climate Resolve

Health Care Without Harm

Healthy Babies Bright Futures

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

Local Government Commission

NHMA National Hispanic Medical Association

National Indian Health Board

NLC National League of Cities Sustainable Cities Institute

National Religious Coalition on Creation Care

PSR

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Presbyterian Mission

Rachel's Network

Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation

Second Nature

small PLANET INSTITUTE

The Trust for Public Land

Trust for America's Health

USDN urban sustainability directors network

Utah Clean Energy

August 6, 2020

2:00 - 2:20 PM ET

Grounding Ourselves: Our Times, Our Call to Action

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
General Minister + President
United Church of Christ

Vanessa Hauc
Senior Correspondent
Noticiero Telemundo

Bob Perkowitz
Founder + President
ecoAmerica

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica

2:20 - 2:50 PM ET

Session I: Setting the Stage: Where We're At, Where We Need to Go on Climate

Our attention is necessarily focused on COVID-19, economic downturn and job loss, structural racism, and so many issues currently facing our country, but we must not lose sight of the urgency for climate action. People are still disrupting planetary systems with our climate pollution, and the planet is in turn disrupting us with wildfires, severe weather, flooding, pestilence and more. We are rapidly developing and deploying new clean energy and energy storage technologies, but scientists say it's not enough. And there's the 2020 elections. What's our best path forward now?

Bob Perkowitz
Founder + President
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Naomi Oreskes
Professor of the History of Science
Harvard University

2:50 - 3:30 PM ET

Session II: Start with People: Americans + Climate Culture, Ambition, Politics, Ethics

COVID-19 has demonstrated that we can address big problems with solutions of scale, quickly. We have the technology, policies, and financial resources to effectively reverse climate change in the next few years. But, how do we build public support and political will with a sense of responsibility for all people in ways that are transformational vs. incremental?

Geof Rochester
Founder
GRC Advising
*moderator

Seth Goldman
Founder + Chief Change Agent
Eat the Change

Katharine Hayhoe
Professor
Texas Tech University

Bishop Staccato Powell
President of the Board of Bishops
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

3:35 - 4:15 PM ET

Session III: Uncharted Waters: Climate Justice Amidst Compound Crises

Structural inequities in America have been systematically ignored for too long, with the pandemic as the latest tragic example. Life in a changing climate could look even worse. Additionally, the same financiers and business people who profited from pollution stand to be the biggest profiteers in climate solutions. We must face our growing challenges together and examine the need for justice to address income disparities, health disparities, rural communities, workers and more.

Tia Nelson
Climate Change Program Director
Outrider Foundation
*moderator

Vanessa Hauc
Senior Correspondent
Noticiero Telemundo

Nicole Horseherder
Executive Director
Tó Nizhóní Ání

Sacoby Wilson, Ph.D., M.S.
Assoc Professor
Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH)
Univ of MD-College Park

4:20 - 5:00 PM ET

Session IV: Climate Scholars: Reporting From The Front Lines

We typically know and focus on the big environmental organizations to move America forward on climate action, but local climate leadership is where the action is. We need to ensure that we support local groups, engage a diversity of Americans, and move toward a united front for climate solutions. Hear from ACLS 2020 Climate Scholars on how to make that happen. **This session includes dedicated breakouts with Faith, Health and Communities Climate Scholars.*

Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome
Senior Program Officer
Environment
The Kresge Foundation

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica

August 13, 2020

2:00 - 2:05 PM ET

Opening Remarks + Honoring the Land

Vanessa Hauc
Senior Correspondent
Noticiero Telemundo

Nicole Horseherder
Executive Director
Tó Nizhóní Ání

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica

2:05 - 2:20 PM ET

Session V: Multi-Solving: Pandemic, Economy, Racism, Climate Change

COVID-19 has crushed the economy, and politicians have responded with rapid infusions of money. Unlike the 2008-9 recession, the current solutions are short-sighted and narrow minded. Among other shortfalls, there is the urgent need to dismantle racism. As we approach the 2020 elections and the next administration, how can we ensure solutions benefit the institutions, people and a future that will reduce inequities and build a thriving, healthy nation?

Vanessa Hauc
Senior Correspondent
Noticiero Telemundo
*moderator

Bill McKibben
Founder
350.org

2:20 - 3:00 PM ET

Session VI: Driving Change: Health

Understanding climate impacts as personal and community health issues — longer allergy seasons, heat waves, more frequent and severe storms and wildfires, mental trauma — motivates people to act on climate. As one of our panelists, Dr. Georges Benjamin, has often said, “My hope is that we can make climate change a kitchen-table issue” so the average citizen is invested, understands the impacts, and understands that we have the tools for solutions now. During this session, join health leaders from their kitchen tables for insights on having a conversation on climate and health to drive change with peers, policymakers, and community.

Rebecca Rehr
Director, Climate for Health
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.
Executive Director
American Public Health Association

V. Fan Tait, M.D., FAAP
Chief Medical Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics

Sacoby Wilson, Ph.D., M.S.
Assoc Professor, Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH)
Univ of MD-College Park

3:00 - 3:40 PM ET

Session VII: Driving Change: Our Resilience + Faith

Faith communities exist in every community of our nation. Faith leaders have an ear to the hopes and struggles of those they serve and are acutely aware of the inequities and systems of injustice they face. Faith communities are critical partners in not only advancing solutions but also in serving as a source of hope and resiliency for impacted communities and those fighting for justice. In this session, hear their stories, their invitation to partner, and their guidance for building personal resilience on the path to ambition, restoration and climate justice.

Anita Fête Crews
Director, Blessed Tomorrow
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
General Minister + President
United Church of Christ

Rev. Michael Malcom, MDiv MBA
Founder, Executive Director
The People's Justice Council

Leah D. Schade
Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship
Lexington Theological Seminary

3:40 - 4:20 PM ET

Session VIII: Driving Change: Communities

Local communities are where we experience life, including pandemics, economic crises, climate impacts and solutions. State and local governments can support or hinder local solutions, but our mayors and city councils are where the local laws/resources make their way to people. Hear what communities are doing to drive climate ambition, restoration and justice in the midst of multiple challenges, and learn how constituents can most effectively add their voices and ideas to these actions and solutions — in an inclusive way.

Hon. Jennifer Roberts
58th Mayor Charlotte, NC; Director, P2PC, ecoAmerica
*moderator

Hon. Jackie Biskupski
35th Mayor
Salt Lake City, Utah

Hon. Errick Simmons
Mayor
Greenville, Mississippi

Sarita Turner
VP U.S. Programs
Institute for Sustainable Communities

4:20 - 5:00 PM ET

Session IX: Driving Change: Youth

Our nation's youth know that they have the most to lose from a changing climate. They are clamoring for more and quicker climate action, yet our governments, businesses and citizens remain relatively sluggish and apathetic. What is next for the youth climate movement, and how can we support and ally with them?

Rebecca Rehr
Director, CfH ecoAmerica
*moderator

Piper Christian
Student
University of Utah

Katie Eder
Executive Director
Future Coalition

Daniela Fernandez
Founder + CEO
Sustainable Ocean Alliance

Sofia Gilani
Climate Action Advocate
Green Muslims

August 20, 2020

2:00 - 2:05 PM ET

Opening Remarks

Vanessa Hauc
Senior Correspondent
Noticiero Telemundo

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica

2:05 - 2:35 PM ET

Session X: Getting to Global Restoration, Challenging the Assumptions

Climate Restoration is the concept of reversing environmental and climate damage to our natural systems by removing CO_2 from the atmosphere and oceans, restoring our degraded land and waters to thriving pre-industrial status, and reversing the melting polar sea ice and permafrost. Some people think climate restoration is a real possibility. Others think it's wishful thinking. This session will paint a vision of the future we want, and provide answers.

Bob Perkowitz
Founder + President
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Julio Friedmann, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scholar
Columbia University's
Center on Global
Energy Policy

Jennifer Wilcox
Professor of Chemical
Engineering
Worcester Polytechnic
Institute

2:35 - 3:15 PM ET

Session XI: Manifesting Ambitious Vision

Getting to a just and healthy future requires raising our ambition for equitable climate action in 2020 and beyond, making effective solutions, not just incremental progress, our goal. Our work is bigger than just mitigation. As Jonathan Franzen famously said "any movement toward a more just and civil society can now be considered a meaningful climate action." Hear guidance on manifesting ambitious climate vision amidst our compounded crises from known changemakers with a track record of success.

Bob Perkowitz
Founder + President
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Chris Anderson
Head of Ted
TED

Christiana Figueres
Founding Partner
Global Optimism
Former Executive Secretary
UNFCCC

3:20 - 4:10 PM ET

Session XII: Restoring Our Urban, Oceans, Forests, Farms

How do we, ourselves, restore the planet? Putting climate solutions in a broader perspective provides some keen insights. Some actions have much more impact than others. Some are much easier than others. In this session we'll look specifically at some big factors in our climate, and how to get them all moving toward rapid climate solutions.

Lisa Renstrom
Director
Bonwood Social Investments
*moderator

Bronson Griscom, Ph.D
Senior Director of
Natural Climate Solutions
Conservation International

Anne Merwin
Vice President for
Conservation
Ocean Conservancy

Matt Russell
Executive Director
Iowa Interfaith
Power + Light

4:15 - 5:00 PM ET

Session XIII: Getting to a Just Future: Addressing Climate Disparities

There are a myriad of solutions that address climate pollution, some more equitable than others. In this session we'll look at how health, wealth, race, gender, and age disparities are — and must — be considered in various climate solutions. Our goals — to ensure that our solutions reverse climate change and create a fair, more just and humane society, to learn what each of us do to support equitable and ambitious solutions, and to open invitation to the live audience to participate in tangible initiatives.

Vanessa Hauc
Senior Correspondent
Noticiero Telemundo
*moderator

Carlton Waterhouse
Professor of Law
Howard Univeristy

JC Woodley, BS, MS
President
JAPRI.org

August 27, 2020

2:00 - 2:05 PM ET

Opening Remarks + Grounding

Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas
Missioner for Creation Care
Episcopal Diocese United Church of Christ

Vanessa Hauc
Senior Correspondent
Noticiero Telemundo

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica

2:05 - 2:35 PM ET

Session XIV: The Politics of Climate Change

As the need for urgent, effective climate action grows, the U.S. federal administration is going the opposite direction. No meaningful proposals to address climate change, while rolling back over 100 existing environmental regulations. What can we do to ensure that just and equitable climate solutions are a priority issue during and after the next election.

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Hon. Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator (D-HI)
United States Senate

Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator (D-RI)
United States Senate

2:40 - 3:10 PM ET

Session XV: Climate as a Voting Issue

How are Americans thinking about and responding to climate change? Find out how the issue is influencing their November voting intentions, which groups of voters are more likely to vote for pro-climate action candidates, and how we can reach and activate them. Learn from climate political and communications experts on how to be most effective in building public support and political resolve for climate action.

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Celinda Lake
President
Lake Research Partners

Nathaniel Stinnett
Founder + Executive Director
Environmental Voter Project

3:15 - 3:45 PM ET

Session XVI: Advocacy in Action: ACLA Celebration

These 10 organizations rose to the top of 200 of their peers and shared in $155,000 in awards at the America's Climate Leadership Awards 2020 for helping build the public support and political will we need for climate solutions. We can all learn from them and from how they are adjusting to climate advocacy in the era of social distancing. Join us as we honor their work to help accelerate and expand the transition to a just, thriving and sustainable world.

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Nancy Faulstich
Executive Director
Regeneración-
Pajaro Valley
Climate Action

Kat Lockwood
Organizing Director
CALPIRG Students

3:50 - 4:35 PM ET

Session XVII: The Next 60 Days

The ACLS 2020 closing session may be the most important of all. The next 60 days could well determine the fate of our nation, our climate and our world. We'll share and discuss the latest prospects for November, and what we can do to persuade voters and get out the vote for climate action before and right after the elections.

Phil Sharp
Board Chair
ecoAmerica
*moderator

Lindsay Harper
National Core Support
Team Coordinator
Arm in Arm

Kathleen Welch
Principal
Corridor Partners

4:35 - 5:00 PM ET

Summit Closing

Meighen Speiser
Executive Director
ecoAmerica

Bob Perkowitz
Founder + President
ecoAmerica

AMERICAN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Communities, organizations, and individuals all across America are helping to build public support and political will for climate solutions. We can all learn from their examples, and model their success to achieve even greater impact.

We are excited to recognize and reward efforts that achieved demonstrated success in mobilizing public support and political will for climate action while also ensuring their efforts are just, inclusive and replicable. The finalists share $155,000 in awards in recognition of their work, including $25,000 for Regeneración as runner up and $50,000 for CALPIRG Students as the winner! You can watch the virtual awards ceremony on demand here!

Congratulations to the winner, **CALPIRG Students**, who worked on eight University of California campuses to win a UC-wide commitment to 100% renewable energy by 2025. Congratulations too, to runner up, **Regeneración**, a Pajaro Valley, CA based non-profit that co-creates relevant and relatable climate solutions with the people most at risk in the region, primarily the Mexican-heritage farmworker community.

Prestigious American Climate Leadership Awards Committee

Thank you to our esteemed judges who lent their intelligence, experience and time to review applications and select finalists. The committee is comprised of these climate luminaries:

Gina McCarthy
**Awards Committee Chair*
President + Chief
Executive Officer, NRDC

Dr. Georges Benjamin
Executive Director
American Public
Health Association

Hon. Jackie Biskupski
35th Mayor
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dr. Antonio Flores
President
Hispanic Association of
Colleges and Universities

Nicole Horseherder
Executive Director
Tó Nizhóní Ání

Jamie Margolin
Founder
Zero Hour

Bishop Vashti McKenzie
117th Elected + Consecrated Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Margaret Klein Salamon
Executive Director
The Climate Mobilization

Gus Speth
Professor of Law
Vermont Law School

Meet Our ACLA Finalists

CALPIRG Students *Winner

Climate Leadership

Working on eight University of California campuses, CALPIRG Students ran and won a campaign for a UC-wide commitment to 100% renewable electricity. With 238,000 students across 10 campuses, UC's new plan to run completely on electricity from renewable energy by 2025 is the farthest-reaching with more higher ed campuses involved than any prior commitments in the nation. See finalist video here.

CivicSpark

Local Government Commission

CivicSpark, a program of the state Local Government Commission in partnership with the State of California, has accelerated climate action through two interactive paths: helping communities start and complete climate projects, and launching the next generation of climate leaders in cities and towns. CivicSpark was born out of the premise that climate leadership starts at the local level. See finalist video here.

Don Sampson

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Climate Change Project

Since 2014, the Affiliate Tribes of Northwest Indians Climate Change Project has focused on building public and political support for climate solutions with its 57 Tribes. Don Sampson is known as a man who "gets it done", leading the effort to share ATNI's example with other tribes and First Nations throughout the U.S. and Canada in supporting their climate change efforts to undertake climate vulnerability assessments and develop adaptation plans. See finalist video here.

Future Coalition

Youth Climate Strike

Future Coalition — a network of youth-led organizations and youth organizers across the country — has been fostering community amongst young people making change and provides resources traditionally only available to adult-led organizing. Future Coalition coordinated the US Youth Climate Strike Coalition, the group of the nine leading national youth-led climate organizations that led the (Fridays for the Future) climate strikes in the US. See finalist video here.

Green Teams

Faith in Place Initiative

Faith in Place empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth. Their key partners are Green Teams — three or more members of a house of worship who provide cooperative leadership to educate, connect, and advocate for environmental programs in churches and to build consciousness within their faith community's unique culture, context, and theological practices. They energize faith involvement in the Illinois environmental movement's annual Advocacy Day; since 2015, a total 1,463 people of faith, especially people of color, have participated. Green Teams were also crucial in educating and engaging state legislators to pass the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) in 2016. See finalist video here.

Keep LA Cool

Climate Resolve

Climate Resolve's Keep LA Cool initiative connects members of vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in Los Angeles with resources to help them keep cool in the face of more extreme heat days. It informs community members and community based organizations on how to advocate and participate effectively in civic processes; it advises policymakers and government agencies on climate-positive legislation and policies; and it convenes academic researchers, nonprofits and community-based organizations, and government actors to ensure varied viewpoints are heard. See finalist video here.

Piper Christian

Utah Concurrent Resolution on Environmental and Economic Stewardship

After attending the COP21 UNFCCC Paris Climate Conference as a youth journalist, Piper returned to Utah and founded the Logan Environmental Action Force within her high school. Their first project was passing a resolution in statehouse, legislation resulting in action to address climate change. The group later introduced and led the statewide campaign for HCR 7. Piper was lead student organizer and the public spokesperson, allowing for success from start to finish of this remarkable advocacy campaign. See finalist video here.

Portland Clean Energy Fund Initiative

Portland Clean Energy Fund is the first climate initiative in Oregon to be created and led by low-income people and people of color (frontline communities) and supported by a cross-sectional coalition to create green jobs, fund improvements to homes through renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, and support local businesses. The fund generates funding via a 1% surcharge on billion-dollar corporations. See finalist video here.

Regeneración *Runner Up

Pajaro Valley Climate Action

A place-based grassroots organization on the California coast, Regeneración works to protect farmworkers from climate change. Regeneración serves the primarily Mexican heritage farmworker community of the Pájaro Valley to help realize a shared vision of a just, thriving and resilient community by co-creating relevant and relatable climate solutions with the people most at risk of adverse effects. Regeneración engages leaders across a spectrum of health, social service, educational, and government agencies to explore how climate change is a threat to their successful mission delivery, catalyzes them to co-create and lead on solutions and follows the lead of local tribal bands. See finalist video here.

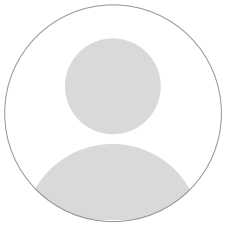
Sunrise Movement

Since launching in 2017, Sunrise Movement has grown from a handful of young adults to a movement that has helped mobilize hundreds of thousands of people to the streets and turned the Green New Deal from a fringe idea into the leading solution that meets the climate crisis at scale. This initiative garnered tremendous media attention in 2019 when activists staged sit-ins in lawmaker's offices on Capitol Hill. See finalist video here.

Climate Scholars

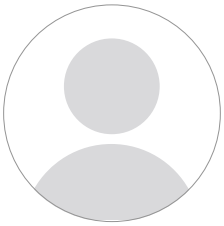
ACLS 2020, with generous support from The Kresge Foundation, is pleased to offer 31 scholarships for a second year to rising leaders in the climate movement. These impressive individuals champion equitable and inclusive frontline and national climate action, and join us from a diversity of cultures, regions, and backgrounds. Join us in "Reporting from the Front Lines" session on August 6th for the opportunity to interact directly with the ACLS 2020 Climate Scholars.

Huda Alkaff
Founder + Director
Wisconsin Green Muslims

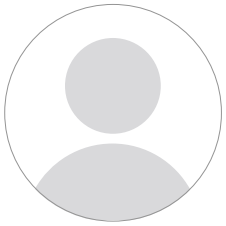


Mary Banner
Student Northwest
Indian College

Gloria E. Barrera, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN
Public Health Nurse +
Adjunct Professor
ANHE Member



Kellon Bubb
Climate Health
Communication
Howard University

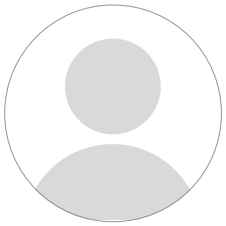


Maliha Choudhury
Regulatory Health
Project Manager
U.S. Food and
Drug Administration

Caetano de Campos Lopes
Director of Climate
Policy Community Climate
Collaborative (C3)

Elise Dela Cruz-Talbert
Epidemiologist, Ph.D.
Student, Community
Advocate, University of
Hawaii at Mānoa

Termaine Edmo
Climate Change
Coordinator Blackfeet
Environmental Office



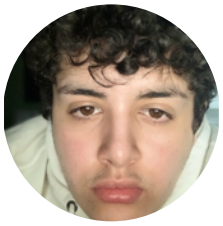
Monica Huertas
Racial +
Environmental
Justice Committee

Claire Kaelin
International Affairs
+ French Student
Western Kentucky
University

Oluwatosin Kolawole
Organizing Associate
GreenFaith

Rev. Earl Koteen
Ecological Justice Minister
Green the Church

Jennifer M. Lopez
Iglesia Cristina Jehova-Nisi

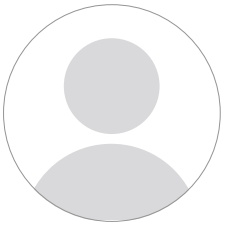


Jorge Lopez
Iglesia Cristina Jehova-Nisi

Rev Michael Malcom, MDiv MBA
Executive Director
The People's Justice
Council

Sarah Matthews
Centre College

Jorge L. Nina Espinosa
Graduate Research Assistant
University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus



Ehret Nottingham
Loveland Colorado High School senior + Youth Demonstration Organizer

Mariah Norwood
Research Coordinator + EHR Support Specialist
Lower Sioux Indian Community

Atieno Ochilo
College student
Disciples of Christ

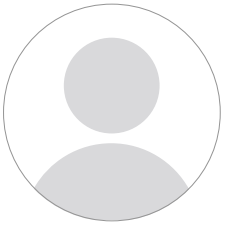
Lissette Palestro
Grant Coordinator Upstate Region of the New York State Children's Environmental Health Centers

Robert Payne
Providence Christian Church

Ron Ross
AirKeeper
Clean Air Carolina

Laura Schmidt
CoFounder + Director
Good Grief Network

Colby A. Shock
Business Administration
University of Lynchburg
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Youth Council



Vatic Tayari Kuumba
REJ Project Team
Racial Environmental Justice Committee of Providence

Kayla Urquhart
Community Engagement VISTA
Philadelphia Parks + Recreation Youth Council

Leon F. Vinci
Board of Director, Virginia Environmental Health Association

Gerald Wagner
Environmental Director
Blackfeet Tribe

Jules Wetchi, MD, MPH
President
French Speaking African Catholic Community, VT

Rev. Erica Williams
Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

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