



Climate and Environmental Justice Conference

**Faith-based, community-based, and academic collaboration for action
April 27-29, 2023**

Program & Post Event Summary

**Organized by Santa Clara University's Environmental and Justice and
Common Good Initiative**

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Climate and Environmental Justice Conference

Faith-based, community-based, and academic collaboration for action
Santa Clara University, April 27-29, 2023

Summary

Over 420 faculty and students, community organizers, advocates, policymakers, social ministry leaders, and funders joined us at SCU and online for our Climate and Environmental Justice Conference on April 27-29. Together, we advanced the work of organizing community-university alliances and partnerships to promote climate and environmental justice in Northern California, across Latin America, and throughout Jesuit higher education. We had over 50 presenters, 30 posters, 12 workshops and networking sessions, a Youth Summit, an interfaith dinner, and Ballet Folklórico. We are grateful for the new ideas, people met, and collaborations imagined.

Highlights across the three-day event included powerful opening panels featuring Monica V. Arellano, who shared the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe's land acknowledgment, their work creating the Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Foundation, and the Tribe's story of persistence and continued struggle for Federal recognition. Chairman Val Lopez spoke about the history of violence against his tribe and other native people residing in California, the recovery and use of indigenous ecological knowledge, and the creation of the Amah Mutsun Land Trust. He called upon us to "teach the truth", reconcile with the past, learn from each other, and heal together. The invitation to a deep reflection continued with a panel focused on race and class dynamics in the struggle for environmental justice, and third one listening to youth voices.

Keynotes from Fr. Michael Garanzini, President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) and Veronica Eady, Senior Deputy Executive Officer of Policy & Equity for the Bay Area's Air Quality Management District. Eady offered inspiration and advice for advancing the environmental justice movement, and Fr. Garanzini recognized Santa Clara University's leadership in community-engaged research for environmental justice, and explored collaborative work across a global network of 200 Jesuit Universities interested in these themes.

A series of panels examined the findings and lessons learned from more than 15 long-term university-community partnerships conducting participatory research with local residents, cooperatives, social ministry organizations, government agencies and others to advance climate and environmental justice. These panels explored evidence-based and place-based strategies to deepen understanding and network models to scale-up the research, learning, and institutional change. The thematically organized panels drew on the Environmental Justice and Common Good's faculty expertise to address water rights, food systems change, decolonization, indigenous stewardship, law, and proposals for transforming education. Keynote presenters in topical sessions included Laurel Firestone, CA State Water Board Member and Community-Water Center Co-founder, speaking on pathways to water justice, racial equity, and the human right to water through Tribal and community advocacy and UC Santa Cruz Assistant Professor Maywa Montenegro and co-founder of The Agroecology Research-Action Collective (ARC) speaking on how abolitionist agroecology could offer a transformative response to the pandemic, racial injustice and hunger.

A series of workshops focused on training to produce actionable knowledge including sessions about intergenerational community organizing, using geographic information systems for justice, making changes in higher education, and better understanding the California Environmental Quality Act. Participants also listened to Indigenous water stewards, and engaged faith-based

strategies to change ourselves and care for “our common home.” Networking sessions included the inaugural meeting of the AJCU Laudato Si’ Commission, and follow-up meetings of the Northern California EJ Network, and South Bay Food Justice Collaborative. The participants also represented the diversity of environmental justice issues and communities through the presentation of 30 posters involving seven universities, four international global networks and multiple non-profit organizations and communities.

On Saturday, a group of higher education leaders, non-profit directors, K-12 educators, and foundation officers explored strategies to make universities better partners with marginal communities, strengthen faith-based and community-based collaborations, and sustain the meaning and move the money to make this happen. Simultaneously, students organized a youth-led environmental justice summit to present their research and explore opportunities for action.

While it’s impossible to sum up these three intense days and the many ideas and engagements that brought it alive, several key insights from this conference included:

1. The compelling testimonies and proposals for personal and collective change from the conference’s opening panels and dialogue throughout the three days reaffirmed our strategy of centering Indigeneity, race, class, and youth voices in efforts to partner with the frontline of environmental justice communities. This includes deepening solidarities and becoming more effective allies for this long-term work.
2. The panels and breakout sessions highlighted examples of long-term university-community partnerships that have advanced science and social change, as presenters shared strategies for co-producing actionable knowledge. These partnerships are rooted in trust and relationships that recognize individual and institutional differences. They can be scaled with additional support to for networking and reciprocal capacity building.
3. Presenters shared best practices and practical strategies to advance the much-needed transformation in higher education, and explained how cross institutional networks can simultaneously deepen and accelerate these vital change processes.
4. There are powerful possibilities that arise from integrating faith-based and secular approaches grounded in mutual respect and commitments to justice and care for “our common home” at the local, regional, national, and global scales.

The Environmental Justice and Common Good Initiative and conference participants generated multiple avenues to follow-up: stay by joining our mailing list, explore and expand collaborations with our food, water, climate, youth, and legal justice programs keep an eye out for future training workshops, join the Northern California Environmental Justice Network, and explore connections with academic partners at your local College or University to engage them in partnerships for climate and environmental justice.

We are grateful to the Association of Jesuit Universities and Colleges for co-sponsoring the conference, our Premier Partner, SCU’s Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education; Plenary Session Sponsors, Stanford University’s Haas Center for Public Service and the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship; Workshop Sponsors, SCU’s Inclusive Excellence Division and Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Bay Area Quality Management District, California Rural Legal Assistance, Valley Water; Roundtable Sponsor, Center for Food Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and our many additional sponsors and partners.

Climate and Environmental Justice Conference 2023
Faith-based, community-based, and academic collaboration for action
April 27 - 29, 2023, Santa Clara University

Concept Note

Calls for transformational change in response to human and ecological suffering associated with systemic injustices and the accelerating impacts of climate change are rising. We believe that universities can do more to partner with faith-based and secular institutions to co-produce actionable knowledge and social change with frontline communities.

The conference advanced the work of organizing community-university alliances and partnerships to promote climate and environmental justice in Northern California, across Latin America, and throughout Jesuit higher education.

Faculty and students, community organizers and advocates, policymakers, social ministry leaders, and funders participated in dialogues, keynotes, panels, a poster session, and workshops and networking sessions.

Together, we aimed to:

- Build stronger partnerships among grassroots environmental justice organizations, social ministry organizations, Catholic universities, and rights and interfaith faith-based approaches to climate justice.
- Spread a community-driven, participatory approach to research, teaching, and advocacy for climate justice and the common good among Northern California and global Catholic higher education.
- Create opportunities for Catholic philanthropy to fund collaborative programs between Catholic practitioner organizations and to advance Environmental Justice and the Common Good.

The conference developed strategies for advancing community-driven research for climate and environmental justice by:

- Centering race, Indigeneity, and income - Listening to the voices from those individuals and organizational leads in the frontline of climate justice movements.
- Networking for capacity building and collective action - Building trust and relationships across differences to strengthen organizations and support collective action.
- Co-producing actionable knowledge - Collaborating to develop and share guides, training modules, playbooks, etc. for volunteers and paid staff in the ecosystem.
- Educating and training for transformation - Sharing professional development opportunities and curriculum to support personal and collective transformation.

Organized in affiliation with the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, the conference built bridges among a broad range of participants from higher education, community-based groups, secular organizations, and government agencies.

Conference Sponsors and Endorsers

Sponsors

Premier Partner



Plenary Session Sponsors



Workshop Sponsors



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Endorsers



Conference Program



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE CONFERENCE

ASSOCIATION of
JESUIT COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES
AJCU

[All April 27-28 Session Recordings](#)

Day 1: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Centering Race, Indigeneity and Income in Community-University Collaborations for Climate and Environmental Justice in the West

9:00 - 9:15 am - Opening Reflections, Prayer, and Welcome - [Recording](#)

[Christopher Bacon](#), [Jesica S. Fernández](#), [Chad Raphael](#), [Iris Stewart-Frey](#),
[Tseming Yang](#) - Conference Organizing Committee

[Julie Sullivan](#) - President of Santa Clara University

[Daniel Press](#) - Dean of the College of Arts Sciences

9:15 - 10:30 am - Panel 1: Indigenous Voices in Collaborations for Climate and Environmental Justice - [Recording](#)

Moderator: [Lee Panich](#) - Associate Professor of Anthropology, SCU

[Monica V. Arellano](#) - Vice-Chairwoman, Muwekma Ohlone

[Valentin Lopez](#) - Chairman, Amah Mutsun

10:30 - 10:45 am - Break

10:45 - 12:00 pm - Panel 2: Engaging Race and Class in Collaborations for Environmental Justice - [Recording](#)

Moderator: [Margaret Russell](#), Associate Professor of Law, SCU

[Kamillah Ealom](#) - Bayview Hunters Point Community Organizer/Program Coordinator, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

[Roberto Gil](#) - Director of Self-Sufficiency Programs, Sacred Heart Community Service

[Matt Holmes](#) - Environmental Justice Outreach Coordinator, Little Manila Rising

12 - 12:45 pm - Lunch

Co-Producing Actionable Knowledge for Climate and Environmental Justice in the Americas

12:45 - 1:45 pm - Panel 3: Centering Youth Voices in Collaborations - [Recording](#)

Moderator: [Jessica S. Fernández](#), Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies, SCU

[Keala Uchôa](#) - Richmond Youth Organizer, Communities for a Better Environment- [Janina Turner](#) - Co-director of Environmental Justice, HOPE Collaborative; [Elizabeth Esparza](#) - Co-director of Food Justice, HOPE Collaborative

[Marilu Zepeda](#) - Member of Air Quality Movement Building, Latinos United for a New America (LUNA); Cesar Navarro - Community Organizer, Latinos United for a New America (LUNA)

[Alec Castellano](#) - San Joaquin Program Coordinator, Environmental Justice, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton; [Evelyn Vega Gonzalez](#) - Program Specialist, Environmental Justice, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton

[Najjha Al Asmar](#) - Education Program Manager, Climate Resilient Communities

1:45 - 2:00 pm - Break

2:00 - 3:30 pm - Panel 4: Creating Change for Water and Climate Justice in California and Central America - [Recording](#)

Moderators: [Iris Stewart-Frey](#) - Professor of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU and [Clare Pace](#) - Postdoctoral Researcher, Water Equity Science Shop, University of California, Berkeley

The Clear Lake Hitch - How Tribal members Have Led the Fight to Protect a Native Minnow Found Only in Clear Lake

[Laurel Firestone](#) - Founder, Community Water Center, State Water Resources Control Board

Does CV-Salts Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities Affected by Nitrate Contamination in the Central Valley?

[Marisol Aguilar](#) - Deputy Director, California Rural Legal Assistance; [Iris Stewart-Frey](#) - Professor of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU; [Nicholas Jensen](#),

California Rural Legal Assistance; [Thalea Gastelum](#), California Rural Legal Assistance

Advancing Karuk Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination through Water Quality

[Ron Reed](#) - Karuk tribal member, dipnet fisherman, and cultural biologist for the Karuk Tribe of California; [Sibyl Diver](#) - Lecturer, Earth Systems Program and co-lead for the Stanford Environmental Justice Working Group, Stanford University

Reforming the Water Rights System Rooted in Systematic Discrimination, Exclusion, and Violence against Indigenous Peoples and Communities of Color to More Effectively and Equitably Control the State's Water Resources

[Cintia Cortez](#) - Policy Analyst, Restore the Delta; [Kasil Willie](#), staff attorney, Save California Salmon, and enrolled member of the Paiute Tribe, [Stephanie Safdi](#) Clinical Supervising Attorney and Lecturer in Law, Stanford Environmental Law Clinic

Supporting the Human Right to Water to Advance Water Justice in California's Central Valley and Central Coast

[Mikel Irigoyen](#) - Community Solutions Coordinator, Community Water Center; [Mayra Hernandez](#) - Community Solutions Advocate, Community Water Center; [Clare Pace](#), UC Berkeley, Water Equity Science Shop

Climate Forecasts for Community-Based Climate Change Adaptation in Smallholder Communities

[Raul Diaz](#) - Director, Asociación de Desarrollo Social de Nicaragua (ASDENIC); [Allan Baez Morales](#) - Director of Programs and Partnerships, Frugal Innovation Hub, SCU; [Iris Stewart-Frey](#) - Professor of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU; [Ed Maurer](#) - Professor of Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering, SCU

3:30 - 3:45 pm - Break

3:45 - 5:15 pm - Panel 5: Diversifying and Decolonizing Food Systems for Climate Resilience in California and Central America - [Recording](#)

Moderator: [Christopher Bacon](#) - Associate Professor of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU

Agroecology, Abolitionism and What Grows from a Pandemic

[Maywa Montenegro](#) - Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, University of California Santa Cruz

Farmers Learning Diversification for Food Security, Sovereignty and Resilience

[Christopher Bacon](#) - Associate Professor of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU; [William Sundstrom](#) - Professor of Economics, SCU; [Raul Diaz](#) - Director, Asociación de Desarrollo Social de Nicaragua (ASDENIC)

Connecting Food Pantries and Organized Gardeners for Food Justice in San Jose

[Fernando Fernandez Leiva](#) - Organizing Manager, La Mesa Verde; [Sofia Rocha](#) - Essential Services Director, Sacred Heart Community Service

Addressing Disparities in Student Food Security and Basic Needs on Campus

[Antonio Amore Rojas](#) - Environmental Studies and Management, SCU '23; [Madeline Pugh](#), Environmental Studies, SCU '23

Discussant: [Pedro Walpole](#) - Director, Apu Palamguwan; Director for Research, Environmental Science for Social Change; Coordinator, Ecojesuit

5:15 - 5:30 pm - Closing Session

5:30 - 6:30 pm - [Poster Session, Networking, and Refreshments](#)

6:30 - 7:00 pm - [tUrn Laudato Si' Under a Tree Discussion](#)

Under the tree by the Walsh Administration Building near the Mission Church

Day 2: Friday, April 28, 2023

Training for Transformation: Community-Engaged Research and Learning for Climate and Environmental Justice

9:00 - 10:15 am - Panel 6: Transformational Examples of Community-Engaged Learning and Research - [Recording](#)

Sponsored by [Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship - SCU](#)

Moderator: [Chad Raphael](#), Professor of Communication, SCU

Assessing Extreme Heat Vulnerability for the Unhoused in San Jose

[CJ Gabbe](#) - Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences, SCU; [Jamie Chang](#), Assistant Professor, Public Health, SCU; and [David Seo](#) - Environmental Science and Public Health, SCU '23

Emergency Preparedness Intervention for People with Mobility Disabilities in the Face of Climate Disaster

[Molly King](#) - Assistant Professor of Sociology, SCU; [Jocelyn Anaya Galvan](#) - Psychology and Sociology, SCU '23

Research-Practice Partnership with Beginning STEM Teachers and their Students in East San Jose Communities

[Won Jung Kim](#) - Assistant Professor of Education, SCU; [Kathleen Jablon Stoehr](#) - Associate Professor and Chair of Education, SCU

Addressing Threats to Electronics Industry Workers and Communities
[Ted Smith](#) - Coordinator, International Campaign for Responsible Technology;
[Chad Raphael](#) - Professor of Communication, SCU; [Iris Stewart-Frey](#) - Professor
of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU

Undergraduate Action Research with Social Enterprises for Social Justice
[Jennifer Merritt](#) - Senior Director of Academics, Miller Center for Social
Entrepreneurship, SCU; [Andy Lieberman](#) - Senior Director of Efficiency and
Learning, Miller Center; Judith Li, Student Fellow '23

Assessing climate change and residential displacement risks among low-income
households in Coastal California

[Ryan Anderson](#) - Assistant Professor of Anthropology, SCU; [Grace Urbinato](#) -
Anthropology and Religious Studies, SCU '25

10:15 - 10:30 am - Break

**10:30 - 11:45 am - Panel 7: Community-University Networks for Learning,
Research, and Collective Action across Institutions- [Recording](#)**

Sponsored by [Haas Center for Public Service - Stanford University](#)

Moderator: [Esther Conrad](#) - Research Manager, Bill Lane Center for the
American West, Stanford University

Effective collaboration between universities and community organizations and
leaders can enable powerful contributions in addressing climate and
environmental justice. In this panel, representatives of two university-community
partnerships, and of two networks of multiple universities and their partners, will
explore how existing models have sustained productive relationships between
community partners and universities. Panelists will also consider how we can
deepen and expand this work. How can networks on different levels engage with
each other to leverage EJ work? What more can networks do to further
community-based environmental justice work?

University-Community Partnerships

[CommUniversity at San Jose State University](#)

[Katherine Cushing](#) - Professor of Environmental Studies, San José State
University

[Partnerships for Climate Justice in the Bay Area](#) (PCJ in the Bay), Stanford
University

[Alex Wheeler](#) - Program Associate for Environmental Sustainability, Haas Center
for Public Service, Stanford University; [Caroline Beckman](#), Resilient Homes
Program Manager, Climate Resilient Communities

Multi-University-Partner Networks

[Northern California Environmental Justice Network for Community-University Partnerships in Teaching and Research](#)

[Iris Stewart-Frey](#) - Professor of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU; [Esther Conrad](#) - Research Manager, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University; [Clare Pace](#) - Postdoctoral Researcher, Water Equity Science Shop, University of California, Berkeley; [Sibyl Diver](#) - Lecturer, Earth Systems Program and co-lead for the Stanford Environmental Justice Working Group, Stanford University; [Katherine Cushing](#) - Professor of Environmental Studies, San José State University

[Laudato Si' Action Planning for Transformation](#)

[Anna Johnson](#) - Senior Programs Manager, North America Laudato Si' Movement

11:45 - 12:30 pm - Lunch and [tUrn's Good Market](#)

Strengthening Partnerships for Restorative Climate and Environmental Justice: Networking, Capacity Building and Collective Action

12:30 - 1:00 pm - Keynote - Working with Our Global Jesuit Partners

[Recording](#)

[Rev. Michael Garanzini, SJ](#) - President, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

1:00 1:30 pm - Keynote - From the Inside: Advancing EJ from within the Government - [Recording](#)

[Veronica Eady](#) - Senior Deputy Executive Officer of Policy & Equity, Bay Area Air Quality Management District; Adjunct Professor of Law, University of California Berkeley School of Law

1:30 - 1:45 pm - Previews of Afternoon Sessions

[Christopher Bacon](#), [Iris Stewart-Frey](#), and [Tseming Yang](#) - Conference Organizing Committee

1:45 - 3:00 pm - Workshops and Training Sessions

Sponsored by Bay Area Air Quality Management District, SCU Inclusive Excellence Division, SCU Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Valley Water, and the Windward Environmental Justice Data Fund

The California Drinking Water Tool: Using a GIS-based MappingTool to Inform Advocacy for Safe Drinking Water

Lead: [Clare Pace](#), UC Berkeley, Water Equity Science Shop; Co-Presenter: [Tien Tran](#), Policy Advocate, Community Water Center

Location: [Heafey Computing Labs 202](#)

This workshop will engage the participants in the mapping capabilities of the [Drinking Water Tool](#). Participants will learn how GIS visualization tools can leverage environmental data to inform policy, and support self-advocacy in impacted communities to improve drinking water quality. Learn how different types of water systems, disadvantaged communities, and contamination line up in the communities of California. This workshop is hands-on and may be attended by people without prior GIS knowledge.

Introduction to GIS Applications for Environmental & Climate Justice, Session I

Lead: [Jake Dialessandro](#), Environmental Studies and Sciences, SCU

Location: [Heafey Computing Labs 214](#)

This workshop will introduce the participants to the potential of GIS tools in applications for Environmental Justice. Examples include extreme heat, flooding, water quality and food access, and their impacts on disadvantaged communities. Relevant spatial data from California government agencies and NGOs will be used as case studies to demonstrate the capacity of GIS to be used as a tool for community advocacy. This hands-on workshop is geared toward people without prior GIS knowledge and given in two sessions. If you register for this workshop by April 15, the organizers will contact you about your organization's particular GIS needs. Session II will build on Session I.

Pilot Training Workshop on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and California Code 11135

Leads: [Tseming Yang](#), Professor of Law, SCU; [Stephanie Safdi](#), Environmental Law Clinic, Stanford University

Presenters: [Garrett Clark](#), [Isabel Harris](#), [Max Jones](#), SCU Law School; [Rica Garcia](#), [Kiran Chawla](#), [Jacqueline Maldonado](#), Stanford Law School

Location: [Benson Parlors B and C](#)

This workshop will explore and pilot potential options for how Santa Clara University's Environmental Justice Initiative can assist communities with effective interventions in the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process and under California Government Code 11135. Presentations will outline effective interventions in the CEQA process and opportunities under CA Government code 11135, and discuss how to engage effectively with communities and regulators.

Intergenerational Organizing for Environmental Justice

Leads: [Gustavo Aguirre](#), Center on Race Poverty and the Environment; [Gustavo Aguirre Jr.](#), Central California Asthma Network

Location: [Benson Center - California Mission Room](#)

In this session, you will learn basic organizing concepts and the importance of transferring the lifetime knowledge to new leaders that are continuing to empower communities and helping them have a voice in the decision-making process in defining our future. Learn strategies from a leader that has organized farm workers with Cesar Chavez and co-founded frontline environmental justice groups.

Wholemakers: Empowering Young Adults for Creation Care

Lead: [Teresa Rojo Tsosie](#), St. Jude Parish and Navajo Nation, Catholic Climate Covenant and Laudato Si' Movement

Location: [Benson Center - Williman Room](#)

Youth and young adults are concerned about a future threatened by a changing climate and long for a spirituality and ethic of nonviolence that lives in harmony with all members of God's creation. This workshop will sample the [Wholemakers](#) curriculum, a resource for social action directors, parish youth and young adult leaders and others to engage high school youth and young adults college aged and older in Catholic social teaching on climate action. The curriculum includes videos, readings, reflections, prayer, and action steps to mobilize climate action at the local level.

The AJCU Laudato Si' Commission Inaugural Meeting

Leads: [Christopher Bacon](#), SCU; [Michael Schuck](#), Loyola University Chicago

Location: [SCDI 2311](#)

In preparation for the 2024 Justice Assembly in Chicago (July 16-19), the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities is convening a 'Laudato Si' Commission', asking how Jesuit higher education can redouble its response to the environmental and social crisis in alignment with the vision of Pope Francis and his 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology. This Commission is charged with developing concrete university-based action proposals that could be taken up by all Jesuit universities in the U.S. This inaugural in-person and online meeting will allow Commission members to meet one another and begin planning work for the upcoming year. People who register for the Zoom option will receive a special Zoom link via email by Noon Pacific time on the day of this session.

3:00 - 3:15 pm - Break

3:15 - 4:30 pm - Networking Sessions

Introduction to GIS Applications for Environmental & Climate Justice, Session II

Lead: [Jake Dialessandro](#), Environmental Studies and Sciences, SCU

Location: [Heafey Computing Labs 214](#)

This workshop will introduce the participants to the potential of GIS tools in applications for Environmental Justice. Examples include extreme heat, flooding, water quality and food access, and their impacts on disadvantaged communities. Relevant spatial data from California government agencies and NGOs will be used as case studies to demonstrate the capacity of GIS to be used as a tool for community advocacy. This hands-on workshop is geared toward people without prior GIS knowledge and given in two sessions. If you register for this workshop by April 15, the organizers will contact you about your organization's particular GIS needs. Session II will build on Session I.

Alliances for Ethical Sourcing on Campus

Lead: [Grace Adams](#) - Catholic Ethical Purchasing Alliance Coordinator, Ignatian Solidarity Network

Location: [Benson Center - Mission Room](#)

Learn more about ethical purchasing and how it relates to your campus and community with the Catholic Ethical Purchasing Alliance (CEPA). The CEPA program, through the Ignatian Solidarity Network and Ethix Merch, provides engagement and educational tools on ethical purchasing and how to bring these practices to your campus and change the way universities purchase. Join us today to discuss how universities have worked to bring ethically-sourced clothing, food, and other policies to their campus and how social entrepreneurship can be used to support the sustainability of our earth and the protection of workers.

Organizing for Ecological Justice in the Catholic Church: Laudato Si Animators

Lead: [Anna Johnson](#), Senior Programs Manager, North America, Laudato Si Movement

Location: [Benson Parlors B and C](#)

Are you curious about how our Catholic Church can help us organize towards ecological justice and sustainability? Are you a Laudato Si Animator? Have you been considering becoming one? Join us for this strategic networking session where we will get to know each other, share our community realities, learn from each other and about the opportunities laid out by *Laudato Si* and the Pope's initiatives, and brainstorm collaborative opportunities and solutions. After all, we know, "Injustice is not invincible" (*Laudato Si*, 74).

Equity in Water Flows in California for Tribal Communities and Communities of Color: Paths to Meaningful Engagement

Moderators: [Clare Pace](#) - Postdoctoral Researcher, Water Equity Science Shop, University of California, Berkeley; [Iris Stewart-Frey](#) - Professor of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU; [Edgar Garibay](#), Central Valley Program Director, Tuolumne River Trust

Location: [Benson Center - Williman Room](#)

Keynote Presentations:

[Ron Reed](#) - Karuk tribal member, dipnet fisherman, and cultural biologist for the Karuk Tribe of California; [Sibyl Diver](#) - Lecturer, Earth Systems Program and co-lead for the Stanford Environmental Justice Working Group, Stanford University

[Kasil Willie](#), staff attorney, Save California Salmon, and enrolled member of the Paiute Tribe, [Cintia Cortez](#) - Policy Analyst, Restore the Delta; [Sydney Speizman](#), J.D. candidate, Stanford Law School, [Stephanie Safdi](#) - Clinical Supervising Attorney and Lecturer in Law, Stanford Environmental Law Clinic

We will have two presentations from tribal community leaders and allies on efforts to advocate for water justice and maintain tribal culture, ceremony, and identity in the face of tribal dispossession, and on reforming the water rights system rooted in systematic discrimination and exclusion of Indigenous peoples and communities of color to a system of equity and justice. People who register for the Zoom option will receive a special Zoom link via email by Noon Pacific time on the day of this session.

From Ambition to Action: Mobilizing Food Systems Coalitions for Change

Facilitators: [Andie Sobrepeña](#), Farming Hope; [Elias Berbari](#), Fresh Approach

Location: [Locatelli Student Activity Center](#)

Conveners: South Bay Food Justice Collaborative; [Lucy Diekmann](#), UC Cooperative Extension; [Christopher Bacon](#), Environmental Studies and Sciences, SCU

Are you interested in strengthening calls to action with your food justice allies? First, Andie Sobrepeña will introduce the Food and Agriculture Action Coalition Toward Sovereignty's (FAACTS) work in San Francisco, highlighting lessons learned in mobilizing multiple organizations to avoid municipal government cuts to food security funding and strategies for coalition management. Next, we will explore what can be applied to the collective work of the South Bay Food Justice Collaborative. Attendees will do a brief asset mapping exercise to identify strengths and needs, creating an excellent opportunity to discover new

cooperative opportunities and deepen existing relationships. People who register for the Zoom option will receive a special Zoom link via email by Noon Pacific time on the day of this session.

Making Change in Higher Education to Advance Sustainability and Justice

Lead: [Nancy Tuchman](#) - Founding Dean, School of Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago

Location: [SCDI 4010](#)

This session will be organized as a dialogue and an opportunity to share experiences, and strategies. Nancy Tuchman will start as she shares her experiences as a founding Dean for Loyola University Chicago's School of Environmental Sustainability as well as her support for partnerships to confront the climate emergency and advance justice and sustainability across Catholic higher education. What are the key obstacles and opportunities for higher ed institutional change at this current moment? How do the experiences in public and private higher differ? What is the potential for cross institutional collaboration to accelerate change?

4:30 - 5:00 pm - Closing - [Locatelli Student Activity Center](#)

Ballet Folklórico de SCU

5:00 - 8:30 pm - Optional Social Event: [tUrn Barnless Barn Dance](#)

[The Forge Garden, 1051 Sherman St](#)

Day 3: Saturday, April 29, 2023

A workshop to strengthen faith-based and community-based collaboration to advance environmental and climate justice

[Benson Center - Williman Room](#)

8:30 - 9:00 am - Opening Prayer and Goal Setting

Welcome

[Christopher Bacon](#), [Jesica S. Fernández](#), [Chad Raphael](#), [Iris Stewart-Frey](#), [Tseming Yang](#) - Conference Organizing Committee

[Pedro Walpole](#) - Director, Apu Palamguwan; Director for Research, Environmental Science for Social Change; Coordinator, Ecojesuit

9:00 - 10:30 am - Roundtable: How Can We Implement Laudato Si' across Universities?

Moderator: [Chad Raphael](#) - Professor of Communication, SCU

Creating a Consultative Laudato Si' Action Plan

[Lindsey Kalkbrenner](#) - Director, SCU Center for Sustainability; [Alison M. Benders](#)

- Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Santa Clara University

[Yolanda Cieters](#) - Sustainability Manager, Seattle University; [Jeanette Rodriguez](#)

- Director of the Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture, Seattle University

[Alice Kaswan](#) - University of San Francisco

Faculty Development and Research Support

[Chad Raphael](#) - Professor of Communication; Environmental Justice & the Common Good Initiative; and Center for Sustainability, SCU

Organizing Faculty-Staff Working Groups for Curricular and Institutional Change

[Sibyl Diver](#) - Lecturer, Earth Systems Program and co-lead for the Stanford

Environmental Justice Working Group, Stanford University; [Esther Conrad](#) -

Research Manager, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University

Social Entrepreneurship and Action Research

[Karen Runde](#) - Program Director, Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship, SCU

Creating university-social ministry collaborations

[Ector Olivares](#) - Program Manager, Environmental Justice Program, Catholic

Charities Stockton

Founding a School of Sustainability

[Dr. Nancy Tuchman](#) - Founding Dean, School of Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago

Creating Global Partnerships in Jesuit Higher Education

[Michael Schuck](#) - Professor, Department of Theology and The Institute of Environmental Sustainability; Co-Director, International Jesuit Ecology Project, Loyola University Chicago; Laudato Si' University Pathways

10:30 - 10:45 am - Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm - Roundtable: Strengthening Partnerships for Action across K-12 Education, Universities, and Social Ministry for Climate Justice

Moderator: [Christopher Bacon](#) - Associate Professor of Environmental Studies & Sciences, SCU

[Michael Downs](#) - Director of Justice and Kinship, Bishop O'Dowd High School

[Diana Marin](#) - Program Manager, Young Adult Mobilization, Catholic Climate Covenant

[Grace Adams](#) - Coordinator, Catholic Ethical Purchasing Alliance, Ignatian Solidarity Network

[Anna Johnson](#) - Senior Programs Manager, North America Laudato Si' Movement

[Pedro Walpole](#) - Director, Apu Palamguwan; Director for Research, Environmental Science for Social Change; Coordinator, Ecojesuit

12:15 – 1:15 pm - Lunch

1:15 – 2:30 pm - Sustaining Meaning and Money in Partnerships for Environmental Justice

Moderator: [Tseming Yang](#), Professor of Law, SCU

[Fred Ferrer](#) - Dean's Executive Professor of Public Health, College of Arts and Sciences, SCU

[Megan Fluke](#) - Executive Director, Green Foothills

[Violet Wulf-Saena](#) - Executive Director, Resilient Communities

[Pedro Walpole](#) - Director, Apu Palamguwan; Director for Research, Environmental Science for Social Change; Coordinator, Ecojesuit

[Khanh Russo](#) - VP of Policy and Innovation, San Francisco Foundation

2:30 - 3:00 pm - Closing Reflections

Youth-led Environmental Justice Action Summit

10 AM - 3 PM, April 29, 2023, Santa Clara University
Locatelli Student Activity Center

The summit supported young people's ambition, creativity, and energy to counter the consequences of climate change and drive forward environmental action. Organizers and advocates came together to advance climate justice through student-to-student discussions and networking. SCU students, local university and high school students, and environmental clubs and organizations were invited to join in presentations, dialogue, and action planning to strengthen relationships and promote collaboration around climate and environmental justice, and the common good.

In the spirit of the conference's overall equity framework, environmental and social justice groups on and off SCU's campus were invited to strengthen the Jesuit values of service to others, community and diversity, and engaged learning.

Goals

The summit:

1. Built connections between fellow youth environmental justice groups and the greater Bay Area community
2. Promoted a greater awareness about local opportunities to advocate for climate justice and the common good
3. Provided an opportunity to share and co-produce research and actionable knowledge and social change amongst youth groups
4. Inspired new and creative perspectives for organizing in their own communities

Organizing Committee

The primary organizers were students involved with Santa Clara University's Environmental Justice and Common Good Initiative and the Agroecology, Climate Resilience, and Food Justice Lab, including [Madeline Pugh](#), [Antonio Amore Rojas](#), [Kimber Wood](#), and [Paola Felix](#), as well as [Declan Bernal](#), member of SCU Environmental Action (ENACT).

Contact

Contact Madeline Pugh, mpugh@scu.edu, with any questions about this event

Program

10:00 am - 10:15 am - Arrival

10:15 - 10:20 am - Land Acknowledgement

10:20 am - 12:00 pm - Panel: Building connections for action among Bay Area youth environmental justice groups

Moderator

[Antonio Amore Rojas](#), Research Assistant - Agroecology, Climate Resilience and Food Justice Lab, Environmental Studies and Management '23, SCU

Panelists

Divestment Efforts at Santa Clara University

[Emily Pachoud](#), Environmental Studies and Sociology '23, tUrn Climate Crisis Awareness and Action Project, SCU Environmental Action (ENACT).

Climate Justice Education with Younger Participants at an Urban Farm

[Rosa Maria Gordillo](#), Environmental Education Manager, Veggielution

The Relationship between Food Security and National Security

[Jordan Tachibana](#), Political Science '23, Intern for Congressman Ro Khanna

Finding my Place in the EJ Movement

Aanya Dhruv, [EJ Grassroots](#), Nueva School

Addressing Disparities in Student Food Security and Basic Needs on Campus

[Antonio Amore Rojas](#), [Madeline Pugh](#), Environmental Studies, SCU '23; Agroecology, Climate Resilience, and Food Justice Lab Student Research Team

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 - 1:15 pm - Getting to Know One Another: Organization, club, and university leaders introduce themselves and their connection to climate action.

1:15 pm - 2:55 pm - World Cafe: Three rounds of small-group discussions and whole-group plenary to identify patterns, grow collective knowledge, and identify new possibilities for action.

2:55 pm - 3 pm - Closing: Future plans for our organizations to remain connected in future projects and endeavors.

Youth-Led Environmental Justice Summit Report Back

April 29, 2023 | Locatelli Center for Student Involvement, Part of SCU's Environmental Justice and the Common Good Conference

"Maybe I can't do it all, but I can do something." - Regina Jones, World Cafe discussion

Students and community members came together at Santa Clara University's first-ever [Youth-Led Environmental Justice Summit](#) on April 29th, 2023 as an event connected with the [Climate and Environmental Justice Conference](#). The goals were to support young people's ambition, creativity, and energy to counter the consequences of climate change and drive forward environmental action. This event was organized by student researchers with the Environmental Justice and Common Good Initiative and Agroecology, Climate Resilience, and Food Justice Lab, including Madeline Pugh, Antonio Amore Rojas, Kimber Wood, and Paola Felix, as well as Declan Bernal, member of SCU Environmental Action (ENACT).

Organizers and advocates collaborated to advance climate justice through student-to-student discussions and networking. SCU students, local university and high school students, and environmental clubs and organizations were invited to join in presentations, dialogue, and action planning to strengthen relationships and promote collaboration around climate and environmental justice, and the common good.

The summit included a formal panel with topics such as fossil fuel divestment, community gardens and environmental education, global food security, environmental justice grassroots movements, and campus food systems. This panel was followed by a 30-minute interactive Q+A in which members of the audience had the opportunity to come to the stage and present their questions to the panelists.

After a nourishing lunch break, panelists and participants then joined together in a World Cafe discussion for the remainder of the afternoon, which is a methodological workshop that facilitates the sharing of ideas in a relaxed and creative environment with small group discussions. There were three 10-minute rounds, each with a different theme: Motivation, Communication, and Action.

The groups then came together for "Harvest," an opportunity to share takeaways and insights with the whole group in order to identify patterns, grow collective knowledge, and identify new possibilities for action. The group reflected on the event together and left with a collective feeling of community, strategies for better communication, and better confidence in tackling the climate crisis. The image above shows one message that was emphasized multiple times in both of the groups: Radical Hope. There is nothing more important for youth tackling the climate crisis than this.

Radical Hope, coined by philosopher Jonathan Loer, is “*directed toward a future goodness that transcends the current ability to understand what it is.*”

Here is a summary of the main takeaways:

- Be curious
- Support people and things you care about
- Learn from and connect with others
- Be kind and educational, but not condescending
- Emphasize that climate change is an ethical problem that affects everyone
- Don't compare, work together
- Find common ground
- Give entry points and accessible messages
- Be patient
- Figure out what small actions you can easily take
- Build community over individualism
- Respect the process
- Find balance and give yourself flexibility
- Respect students' capacity

The first-ever Youth-Led Environmental Justice Summit at SCU was largely successful, with more than 30 participants joining us on a warm Saturday afternoon. As the organizing committee, we hope that this event will continue in the years to come and incorporate more high school students, students from surrounding universities, and community partners. The summit was successful in meeting its goals to:

1. Build connections between fellow youth environmental justice groups and the greater Bay Area community,
2. Promote greater awareness about local opportunities to advocate for climate justice and the common good,
3. Provide an opportunity to share and co-produce research and actionable knowledge and social change amongst youth groups,
4. Inspire new and creative perspectives for organizing in their own communities.

As this event develops and involvement increases, the impact will become even more significant. We would like to thank all those who participated and supported this important event, and our donors, SCU's Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education and Valley Water.

Summary by: Madeline Pugh