

April  
2024

**ASU** Julie Ann Wrigley  
Global Futures Laboratory™  
Arizona State University

## Global Futures: **Now**



Even as we find ourselves more than half a century removed from the first Earth Day, the questions we asked ourselves in 1970 remain relevant today. How can we relieve the pressures upon our planetary systems that we have created for ourselves — and how can we envision a future that doesn't narrow the options for those generations who will inhabit this world after us?

When we look back to the origins of Earth Day, we see today that we are widening that gap between issues threatening our social and environmental systems and the immediate action required. In some ways, humankind is in a more precarious situation today than in the 1970s. The urgency to act is still growing, and Earth Day is an annual reminder that we need to rethink our trajectory. That very need is what inspired the creation of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory.

The Global Futures Laboratory was established in 2019 to unite Arizona State University's future-driven efforts and further catalyze our efforts. This has already proven to be successful: our cross-cutting focus areas of energy, food systems, water security, oceans, and education, among others, have led to impactful partnerships and initiatives that are building a more sustainable future.

I point to the recent launch of the National Science Foundation-supported Southwest Innovation Sustainability Engine as a recent example. It aims to transform the water and energy systems, take advantage of the capacity to capture carbon from the atmosphere and develop the workforce in the Southwest of the United States through technology and policy innovation as well as job creation. It presents great transformational potential with economic benefits for our region.

Our Earth Day celebration on April 22 was a time to listen to students' voices and to reflect on what we learned from last summer's extreme heat outcomes. Conversations like these are what inspired the creation of Earth Day years ago, and they will continue to drive progress as we move forward.

At our event, a question was asked inquiring about what Earth Day would look like in the future. "Would there come a time when the day would no longer be needed?" I hope that we never stop celebrating our planet and that we can transform Earth Day into a celebration of progress. We have the knowledge to address most of the challenges we are facing today, but we need to drive that knowledge into action. We cannot afford to sleep through another 50 years; our future is up to us.

We face a window of opportunity, and the Global Futures Laboratory is firmly

committed to seizing this moment.



Peter Schlosser

Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures

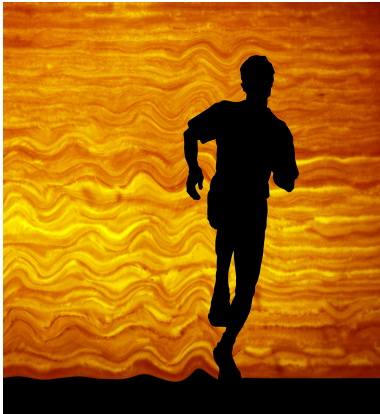


## Clearing the air: ASU takes on the carbon problem

In the latest addition in a series on how ASU tackles complex problems to help transform entire systems for the better, this ASU News story demonstrates university efforts to reduce and better manage carbon emissions. The story highlights multiple Global Futures Laboratory researchers and efforts, in addition to explaining why excess carbon is a problem for humanity and the cost of going green.

[Read more](#)

## Research and reports



### **KER provides extreme heat preparedness recommendations report to the Governor's office**

During a record breaking summer, Governor Katie Hobbs signed an executive order to better coordinate future government heat responses statewide. On October 4, the Governor's Office of Resiliency requested Knowledge Exchange for Resilience (KER) to execute a Request for Information process on behalf of the Governor's Interagency Resiliency Forum. The effort resulted in a report of recommendations. "There are many longtime stakeholders that have been working on this issue for years. KER was excited to make sure the information that we assembled from this diverse array of sources was available to the Governor's Office of Resiliency as they have been preparing their plan," said [Patricia Solís](#), executive director of KER.

[Read more](#)

### **Forging just ecologies: 25 years of urban long-term ecological research collaboration**

"Forging just ecologies: 25 years of urban long-term



ecological research collaboration” asks how environmental justice and urban ecology have influenced one another over the past 25 years in the context of the US Long-Term Ecological Research program and Baltimore Ecosystem Study project. [Christopher Boone](#), the founding dean and a professor in the School of Sustainability, was an author in the study.

[Read more](#)



## Balancing protection and production in ocean conservation

[John Kittinger](#), a research professor and affiliate Global Futures Scholar, was an author in a new study published in the scientific journal Nature. The study identifies the science necessary to bring together ocean protection and economically-driven production. According to the authors, scientific divide and knowledge gaps have created challenges for those looking to reconcile protection and production approaches. The study outlines the vital science necessary to bring together the “twin pillars” of protection and production.

[Read more](#)

## Three new strategies for improving biosecurity and invasive species management to



## build resilience in Pacific Islands

The inaugural Pacific Ecological Security Conference, held in October 2022, confirmed that invasive species are a major threat to building and maintaining climate resilience and adaptability of Pacific Island ecosystems. Study authors, including Senior Global Futures Scientist [Laura Brewington](#), describe the background, planning and engagement process for three action plans focused on the topics of invasive ants, coconut rhinoceros beetle and the use of biological control as a pest and weed management tool.

[Read more](#)



## Arizona Water Innovation Initiative releases 2023 year in review

2023 proved to be a significant year of impact for the team behind the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative. The recently-published report details the initiative's strategic priorities and highlights from the initiative's year-long "innovation sprint" period.

[Read more](#)

## Annual report: Center for Science and the Imagination

This last year marked a decade of the Center for



Science and the Imagination's collective imagination for better futures. The report highlights the center's vision and standout projects, initiatives and contributions.

[Read more](#)

## News



### **Liza Roger combines nanotechnology, ocean conservation to restore coral reef biodiversity**

ASBMB Today, a news magazine published by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, featured Assistant Professor and Senior Global Futures Scientist [Liza Roger](#)'s coral reef conservation work in a recent article. Roger has partnered with nanotechnologists to protect and restore the thousands of coral species. "At ASU, we are oriented toward making the world better for future generations," Roger says. "We are all about innovation and bringing multidisciplinary teams together."

[Read more](#)



## Katina Michael on cyber crime trends, protection strategies

[Katina Michael](#), a professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, participated in a Q&A with KJZZ to discuss the evolution of cyber crime. She advises people to utilize tools like two-factor authentication, secure password managers and healthy skepticism to avoid scams. “Consumers are still being duped by people masquerading as members of organizations,” said Michael. “And we need to be privy that it’s almost a two-pronged attack: a technical attack to begin with and then a duping through social engineering.”

[Read more](#)



## “Who is minding our groundwater?” Upmanu Lall talks groundwater management in podcast

[Upmanu Lall](#), director of the Water Institute, discusses tools to map, model, and distribute dwindling groundwater supplies. He engaged in a discussion through a Heritage Radio Network series, the “What Doesn’t Kill You” podcast.

[Read more](#)





## ASU research fellow addressing tribal water policy in Arizona

[Cora Tso](#), a new senior research fellow with the Kyl Center for Water Policy at ASU's Morrison Institute, is particularly well-suited to address tribal water policy issues as both a lawyer specializing in Indian and water law and an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. The Kyl Center is one of the pillars of the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative, a multiyear partnership with the state.

[Read more](#)



## Preparing for the end of the world: Athena Aktipis releases new book

[Athena Aktipis](#), an associate professor at ASU and Senior Global Futures Scientist, authored "A Field Guide to the Apocalypse: A Mostly Serious Guide to Surviving Our Wild Times." The book, which was released in April, serves as a practical, yet humorous guide to survival in uncertain times. One takeaway from the book: duct tape is a multi-use tool — it can be fashioned into a variety of things, including a rope, a foldable cup or even a makeshift bandage.

[Read more](#)

**View insights from ASU's water**



## collaboratory

A wide range of experts in the water space joined ASU experts at the “Global Water Futures: Anticipation and Innovation” event last month at the Walton Center for Planetary Health. These experts contribute their expertise towards a “water collaboratory,” part of the Water Institute. Watch the full compilation of presentations on YouTube.

Watch



## With new general studies curriculum, 'sustainability thinking' to become part of every undergraduate student's education

ASU's recent update to their general studies curriculum further embeds sustainability into the college experience. General Studies Gold is the name of ASU's general studies curriculum, which specifies the requirements for undergraduate students in catalog year 2024-2025 and forward. The College of Global Futures undergraduate majors — ranging from sustainability to innovation in society — directly pull from many of the themes highlighted in the [new General Studies Gold requirements](#). Information about relevant courses currently offered by the College of Global Futures can be read below.

Read more



## Starbucks partnership offers new global experiences for students to study coffee, sustainability in Costa Rica

The School of Sustainability is offering a new study abroad program for students to immerse themselves in rich Costa Rican culture and learn about global coffee sustainability firsthand at Hacienda Alsacia. This international experience runs from Dec. 15–22. The program will be led by [Dave White](#), director of ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation (GIOSI), and [Lauren Bataska](#), GIOSI program manager.

[Read more](#)



## CSPO event fosters conversations on regional innovation in both rural and urban areas

The Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes, or CSPO, gathered several experts in Washington, D.C., in early April to discuss the complexities and challenges in assessing regional innovation hubs and engines. Speakers presented a range of perspectives on the topic — from defining economic development to the “Black tech ecosystem.”

[Read more](#)



## College of Global Futures and Jobs for the Future host '2030 and Beyond: The Future of Green Workforce Development'

"2030 and Beyond: The Future of Green Workforce Development" was held April 3 at the Walton Center for Planetary Health on ASU's Tempe campus. The event attracted in-person and virtual attendees, from college students to community members and sustainability professionals. The full talk and panel discussion are available [on YouTube](#).

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events



## NCA5 Southwest Engagement

# Workshop - CA

Join us for a discussion featuring Dave White, Chapter Lead Author for the Southwest for the Fifth National Climate Assessment. The chapter overview will be followed by an interactive panel. The first event in this series took place on May 2 at the Walton Center for Planetary Health and the next session will occur in California.

**Thursday, May 30, 2024**

**9 a.m. - 11 a.m. (MST)**

**ASU California Center Broadway**

[Learn more](#)



## Futurecast

### Edition 6 | Spring 2024

Global Futures: Futurecast offers a look into our prospective futures through the eyes of the extensive Global Futures Scientists and Scholars Network. Explore what might come in the seconds, days, and years ahead. Our latest issue talks about how we can draw inspiration from the patterns in nature to implement strategic decisions in our built world.

[Read now](#)

# Global Futures Viewbook

**We must rediscover our planet and our relationship with it.**

What does this mean, exactly? For the faculty, students, researchers and global partners of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, it means a commitment to urgently exploring pathways to impactful solutions and decisions that address the challenges we have caused through resource extraction and thoughtless consumption as part of a relentless pursuit of “progress.”

We believe better is possible.

[Learn more](#)

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**#1 in the U.S.  
for global impact**

**-Times Higher Education, 2021**

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