

## Global Futures: Now

# Celebrating Earth Day



Each April, the world comes together to celebrate our home planet on Earth Day, first recognized on April 22, 1970.

This year, the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory's celebration was filled with conversations and presentations highlighting the brilliant thought and work of our young and emerging scholars, scientists and researcher and partners from around the world:

- **Youth Leadership: Conversations on Impact**

This panel featured [College of Global Futures Impact Scholars](#) **Cecilia Billingsley, Miguel Arteaga and Paige Hebert** and was moderated by **Laura McGahey**. The group discussed what Earth Day means to them, why they were inspired to study at the College of Global Futures and how they hope to use their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to drive a better world.

- **State of Global Futures Address**

Vice president and vice provost of Global Futures **Peter Schlosser** provided a comprehensive overview of the many programs and advancements made across the Global Futures Laboratory in the past year.

- **Global Futures Conversation**

Our world constantly faces a number of dynamic challenges and questions. This panel, featuring **Karen Bradshaw** (ASU College of Law), **Michael Dorsey** (ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Service), **Katie Spreitzer** (College of Global Futures masters student) and journalist **Lisa Palmer**, placed the history of Earth Day as both a movement and a celebration within the context of today's societal challenges and looked ahead 10 years to give their vision of what they hope is yet to come.

- **Sounds of Belonging**

Project director and professor of Indigenous sustainability **Melissa Nelson** shared how soundscapes can help people share their stories about a beloved place that gives them a sense of belonging to society and on this planet, Earth.

- **Citizen Science Month**

April is also [Citizen Science Month](#) and students, faculty and staff were encouraged to join in to get involved in hands-on projects that impact our world. No experience needed—just curiosity! Connect with the world and make a meaningful impact.

- **LEED Dedication**

This year, the

[Walton Center for Planetary Health](#) became ASU's latest facility to be certified with LEED Platinum status, marking it as attaining the highest sustainable building standards. USGBC's Anitra Pickett (SOS MSUS '22) honored the work done to design and construct our home facility, recognized with LEED's highest Platinum certification, as well as provided a look at what's ahead for other buildings hoping to attain LEED certification.

[Watch Part 1](#)[Watch Part 2](#)

Includes the Celebration welcome and the Youth Leadership panel.

Includes the Citizen Science Month, State of Global Futures address, Sounds of Belonging, Global Futures Conversation and LEED presentations.

## Serving our world like every day is Earth Day



### A new university prototype for a thriving world

Boldly addressing some of the most important, complex problems of our time, the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory is ASU's response to the growing awareness that conventional approaches to sustainability, responsible innovation, conservation and planetary wellness are not adequate.

[Read more](#)

### Creating a road map to a balanced planet

By mapping the biodiversity and placing a focus on the meaning of the future of conservation of our Earth, the Global Futures Laboratory is helping identify how to stem the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

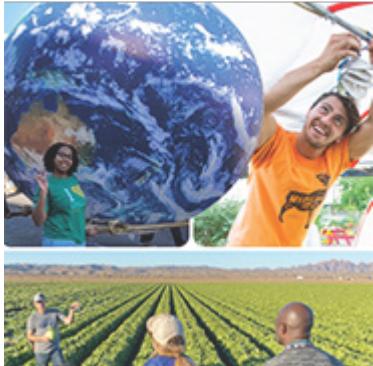
[Read more](#)



## A sea change regarding our ocean

Our seas offer soothing scenes for millions of vacationers. They provide seafood for our tables. They are a conduit for global logistics — from the screens we scroll to the cars we drive. So, addressing current crises related to wildfires, floods and hurricanes demands better stewardship of the waters that make up most of our world.

[Read more](#)



## From K–12 to corporate upskilling, guiding learners of all ages to design a thriving future

“Sustainability is not just about environmental sustainability. It’s about longevity and how we can last in the best way possible for our environment and our future and our kids.” That’s the drive of BA in Sustainability senior Kennedy Gourdine. The College of Global Futures is about designing the future we want. Sustainability is an important part of that. But it also means preparing for future challenges and ensuring that new technologies benefit rather than harm society.

[Read more](#)



## Saving the environment to save ourselves

From water insecurity to wildfire awareness to cleaning pollutants in urban fishing waterways, ASU is tackling problems to not only keep our Earth clean but improve the lives of everyone living on the planet. Here's a look at some of the ways ASU is making the world a better place for animals and people to thrive.

[Read more](#)

## News

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## Study shows strong correlation between trust and economic stability, community health and addressing global challenges

Senior Global Futures Scientist Marty Anderies coauthored a new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that indicates governed market economies are prone to several factors that undermine the trust that they depend on: the intrinsic tendency for inequality to arise, modern media's inclination to incite reactions by amplifying perceived inequalities and the incentive to gain financial reward at the expense of others.

[Read the study](#)

[Read more in ASU News](#)



## Rethinking Water West convenes experts to examine challenges

The Water Institute recently hosted Rethinking Water West, a national conference at Arizona State University to explore actionable solutions to water challenges in the American West — and around the world. "Rethinking Water's mission is to ensure water security: access to safe, reliable water for all, protection from floods and droughts, and clean water for people and ecosystems."

[Read more](#)



## Student bridges communities with solar canoe project

Elizabeth Swanson Andi, a member of the Venecia Derecha Amazonian Kichwa community in Ecuador, is a graduate student in the School of Sustainability. Her path was partly traveled in support of the Solar Canoes Against Deforestation project run by professors Melissa Nelson, David Manuel Navarete and Janna Goebel.

[Read more](#)



## Global Futures Impact Scholars are making their mark as changemakers

The inaugural cohort of Global Futures Impact Scholars, who receive mentorship and up to \$5,000 to fund a student-led experience, includes 20 students from across the four schools within the College of Global Futures. From environmental storytelling to hydroponics, a few Global Futures Impact Scholars have been empowered to take steps of their own to bring their ideas to life.

[Read more](#)



## **Sustainability Teachers Academy adds online course to increase access**

Held in person from 2015 to 2019, and in synchronous online format during the pandemic in 2020, the Walton Sustainability Teachers Academy provided an opportunity for educators across the country to learn about sustainability education and implement projects in their schools. Now, the new 100% self-paced online course will allow educators to apply for Learning Labs, which emphasize cohort-based, hands-on project implementation.

[Read more](#)



## **Susanne Neuer and Kiki Jenkins elected as AAAS Fellows**

Senior Global Futures scientists Susanne Neuer and Lekelia “Kiki” Jenkins are being honored this spring for their career contributions to science, innovation or socially distinguished efforts to advance science and its applications. They are among the latest class composed of 471 scientists, engineers and innovators across 24 AAAS disciplinary sections.

[Read more](#)



## **Matt Green named senior member of National Academy of Inventors**

Green is one of four ASU faculty recently named to the prestigious organization, whose ASU chapter is led by Sally Morton, executive VP of ASU Knowledge Enterprise. Green was elected for developing impactful technologies that revolutionize how to tackle the environmental impact of the planet's rising temperatures.

[Read more](#)



## **Sir Jonathan Bate honored as 2025 Guggenheim Fellow**

The Regents Professor and Distinguished Global Futures Scholar was one of two ASU faculty to receive the recognition based on prior career achievement and exceptional promise. Bate was awarded in the category of literary criticism.

[Read more](#)

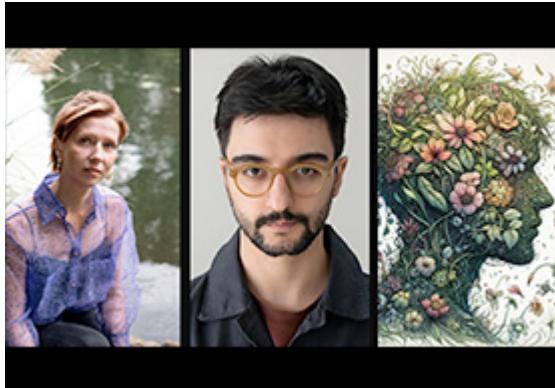


## AAAS 2026 Annual Meeting accepting panel sessions and workshop proposals

The annual event, which will be held February 12-14 in Phoenix with the theme Science @ Scale, currently is accepting proposals for panels and workshops. The deadline for submitting is Tuesday, May 6.

[Submit a proposal](#)

## Upcoming Events



### Water in the West: An Interdisciplinary Reflection

Thursday, May 1  
4:30-6 p.m. (MST)  
Free online webinar

[Register](#)

### The Art of Listening: Interspecies Stories, Sensory Worlds, and Radical Kinship

Thursday, May 8  
11 a.m.-Noon (MST)  
Zoom

[Register](#)

## Futurecast

### Edition 7 | Winter 2025

"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 features ASU experts discussing efforts around water-security, how climate change could increase global locust outbreaks and how working with local communities may be the best, most immediate demonstration of impact.

[Read now](#)

## Arizona State University Sustainability Impact Review

### Volume 1 | 2023-2024

"Arizona State University: Sustainability Impact Review" highlights the wide range of ASU's recent sustainability efforts throughout the last year. Securing a thriving future requires commitment from all parties, including higher education officials. From

coral conservation to the expansion of electric vehicle use, this inaugural issue demonstrates ASU's commitment to meeting the challenge.

[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](#)

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



**Repeatedly ranked #1**

**innovation**

ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford  
—U.S. News & World Report, 2016–24

**sustainability**

ASU ahead of Stanford and UC Berkeley  
—Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, 2023

**global impact**

ASU ahead of MIT and Penn State  
—Times Higher Education, 2020–23

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