

## Global Futures: Now



Last month, the United Nations Climate Conference (COP29) in Baku concluded with some progress, including an agreement to triple climate financing and finalize rules for international carbon markets. Yet, the outcomes also highlighted the persistent gap between ambition and implementation. While these global discussions lay important groundwork, translating them into meaningful action remains the defining challenge of our time — a challenge the Global Futures Laboratory is uniquely equipped to address.

At the Global Futures Laboratory, we are not only responding to this challenge but empowering the next generation to lead. This year, we celebrate the graduation of 134 students from the College of Global Futures. These aren't just graduates – they are problem solvers who understand that everything is connected. Climate, equity, technology, humans, oceans, heat, industry and more – they can not be looked at in isolation. Whether addressing climate change, advancing social equity or driving technological innovation, we must see them holistically when shaping a better future.

We know the science, we understand the systems and we know what to do. Now is the time to accelerate the implementation of solutions. But we have a narrow window for transformative action.

Through the work of our students, graduates, faculty, staff and global partners, meaningful, positive change is possible when scientific understanding combines with bold, innovative systemic solutions.

Thank you for being part of this critical work to secure our planet's and its people's long-term vitality. As we look ahead to 2025, I am excited to build on this momentum together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Schlosser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Peter" on the first line and "Schlosser" on the second line.

Peter Schlosser

Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures

## News

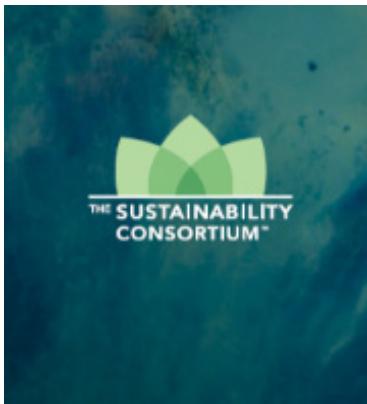
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## Global Futures Laboratory to host new Global Coordination Hub

In a new partnership between the global research network Future Earth and ASU, the Global Futures Laboratory will house a new hub to coordinate research to underpin global sustainability transformation efforts. The partnership, announced Nov. 26, is a significant stride toward strengthening global collaboration on research for sustainable development.

[Read more](#)



## CommodityMap empowers companies during supply chain disruptions

The CommodityMap tool from The Sustainability Consortium empowers companies to maintain sustainability while navigating supply chain disruptions. CommodityMap launched in May 2024, and has since proven to be an indispensable resource for companies navigating the complex landscape of supply chain sustainability.

[Read more](#)



## College of Global Futures offers new project-based courses for upcoming semester

The College of Global Futures has added FIS 494: Future17, Global Innovation Challenge to its varied project-based learning coursework for the upcoming spring 2025 semester. This course builds upon the college's current project-based and immersive offerings. A summary of these opportunities can be read on ASU News.

[Read more](#)



## ASU research and solutions building local and global circular waste economy

The seventh story [in a series exploring how ASU is changing the way the world solves problems](#) highlights solutions around plastic. Across ASU, faculty and staff members are addressing the challenges of waste, including plastics, across the entire product life cycle — from developing new materials to understanding consumer behavior to partnering with businesses and exploring policy options.

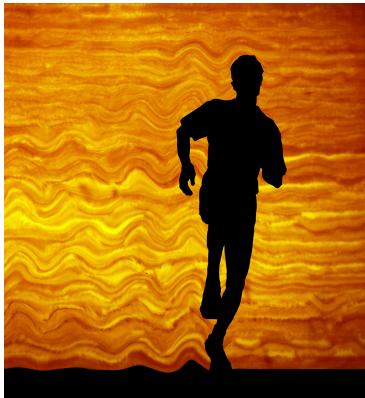
[Read more](#)



## Jennifer Vanos talks cool pavement on KJZZ

[Jennifer Vanos](#), an associate professor in the School of Sustainability, discusses the recent data released from the Cool Pavement Pilot Program. This program was a partnership with the city of Phoenix and has resulted in a coating on more than 100 miles of roads since it started its program in 2020. Vanos describes the successes and tradeoffs learned from the project so far.

[Read more](#)



## Combating extreme heat: David Hondula featured in Forbes

The City of Phoenix has been using data and 3D modeling from the University of California, Los Angeles and Arizona State University to determine optimal shade placement throughout the city. [David Hondula](#), a Senior Global Futures Scientist and the City of Phoenix's director of the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, said the data demonstrates where shade is most lacking throughout Phoenix. Hondula said this information has helped the city to effectively build a version of a 3D shade model of Phoenix.

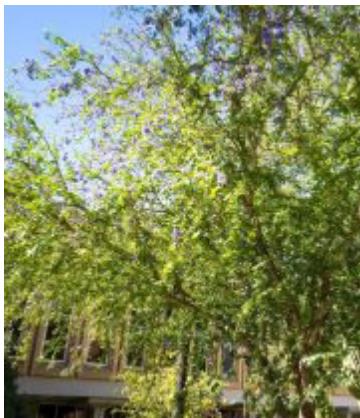
[Read more](#)



## NAU, U of A to join Arizona Water for All network

Arizona Water for All, part of the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative, announced two new partnerships with Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona to support water-insecure communities across the state.

[Read more](#)



## Global Futures Laboratory involved in urban cooling efforts in Tempe

The city of Tempe is working with Senior Global Futures Scientists in its efforts to combat the urban heat island effect and increase cooling efforts. An article from The State Press discusses some of Tempe's efforts and features insights from [Paul Coseo](#) and Jennifer Vanos.

[Read more](#)



## Symposium highlights the importance of community involvement, access in clean energy transition

The Leveraging Decarbonization for Community Benefits in Arizona Symposium was jointly hosted by multiple entities within the Global Futures Laboratory to discuss the Justice40 Initiative. Shalanda H. Baker, the former director of the Office of Energy

Justice and Equity at the U.S. Department of Energy, provided the keynote address on Nov. 8.

[Read more](#)



## Susanne Neuer awarded 31st Peterson Foundation Excellence Professorship

[Susanne Neuer](#), founding director of the School of Ocean Futures, was recognized for her and her team's work on the biological carbon pump, focusing on the role of plankton organisms in the formation of sinking particles. The award comes with funding and a six-week research stay at the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel.

[Read more](#)



## Andrew Maynard and Sean Leahy launch new podcast

[Andrew Maynard](#) and [Sean Leahy](#) of School for the Future of Innovation in Society talk about emerging technologies, society and the future in their new podcast, "[Modem Futura](#)." The two recently [participated in a Q&A with ASU News](#) about the podcast, which first launched in October.

[Read more](#)



Photo courtesy: Madison Davis

## Outstanding Graduate Madison Davis combines sustainability and creativity

Madison Davis is graduating from the School of Sustainability this fall semester with a bachelor's degree in sustainability. Davis is both a theater professional and sustainability leader, believing that sustainable communities should be nurtured through the arts, impactful storytelling and collaboration.

[Read more](#)



Photo courtesy: Lucero Rodriguez Rodriguez

## This graduate seeks to use applied mathematics to create a better world

Lucero Rodriguez Rodriguez, who was recognized by the College of Global Futures as an outstanding graduate, is graduating from the School of Complex Adaptive Systems. She hopes to use her PhD in applied mathematics for the life and social sciences to improve human health and well-being.

[Read more](#)



## Katie Pettinger joins Southwest Sustainability Innovation Engine as CIO

As the new chief innovation officer of NSF Engines: Southwest Sustainability Innovation Engine, [Katie Pettinger](#) is responsible for developing a robust organization to accelerate the solutions and new technologies generated throughout SWSIE to

commercialization. Read her Q&A on ASU News below.

[Read more](#)



## 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](#)



## 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

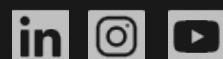
**We must rediscover our planet and our relationship with it.**

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](#)

 **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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