

Global Futures: Now



Welcome to the Spring 2025 semester

As we move into the new year, the call for decisive action to protect our communities and our shared future has never been more urgent. Recent devastation, such as what the world has seen with the wildfires in Los Angeles, serves as a stark reminder of how swiftly environmental pressures can upend lives and strain resilience. These events underscore the need to accelerate progress toward our climate goals while remaining adaptive to an ever-changing landscape. We will be focusing directly on this very issue with the first [Global Futures Conversation](#) of 2025 on Jan. 27.

The months ahead are also filled with opportunities for engagement:

ASU Open Door in February,

World Water Day in March, and

Earth Day in April are just a few highlights. To keep you informed and connected, we're introducing a dedicated events-only edition of the Global Futures: Now newsletter, arriving at the start of each month. The mid-month edition will continue to spotlight the groundbreaking work and achievements of our Global Futures Scientists and Scholars.

Here's to a thriving new year!



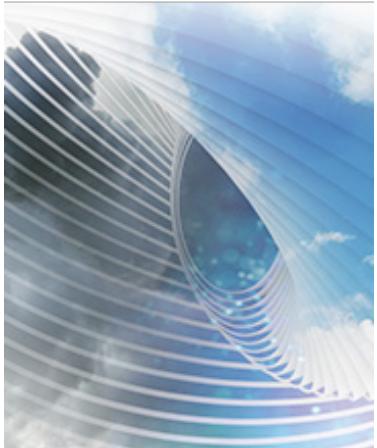
Futurecast

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

News



U.S. Department of Energy taps ASU to lead new regional Direct Air Capture Hub

Behind \$22.4 million in new funding from the DOE and project partners, the ASU-led program will establish the foundation for a multisite hub in the Four Corners region.

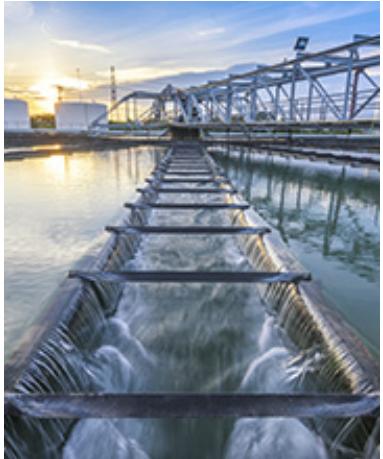
[Read more](#)



New study helps define Atlantic water flow rates in the Arctic Ocean

In a study published in December outlines 27-years of data tracking flow paths and spreading velocities of Atlantic waters across the Arctic. The study, led by Peter Schlosser and Angelica Pasqualini with support from the Lamont-Doheny Observatory at Columbia University, confirms that the Atlantic layer functions as a boundary current.

[Read more](#)



US municipal wastewater facilities prove to be major contributors to PFAS in drinking water

In a new multi-institutional report published to PNAS, a study of eight large wastewater treatment facilities show that wastewater PFAS discharges impair drinking water for more than 20million Americans. ASU's Paul Westerhoff and Minhazul Islam are among a team of 11 co-authors.

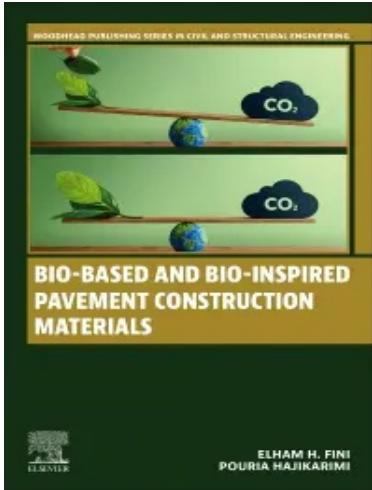
[Read more](#)



Poor condition lakes and reservoirs becoming key climate change contributor

Scientists from the [Sustainable Phosphorus Alliance](#), a member-based collaborative based at the Global Futures Laboratory, suggest in a new article published in *Nature Sustainability* that eutrophication in natural lakes and reservoirs are becoming a contributor to climate change.

[Read more](#)



Elham Fini co-authors book on bio-based construction materials

Global Futures Scientist and associate professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, Elham Fini and her co-author Pouria Hajikarimi (Amirkabir University of Technology) recently released a new textbook on how bio-based and bio-inspired materials can be used in pavements to solve sustainability-related problems while enhancing structural performance. The book was published in November by Elsevier.

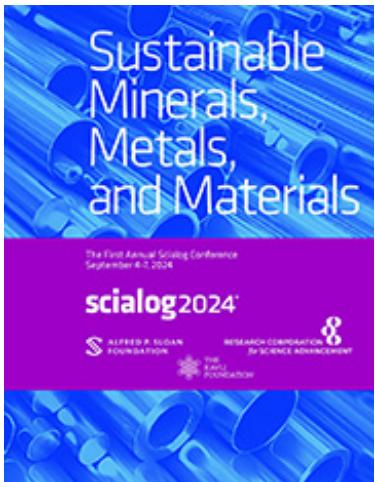
[Learn more](#)



Stephanie Pfirman joins Yale's Terry Forum to discuss dynamic between climate change and liberal arts

Pfirman, a Senior Global Futures Scientist and deputy director and professor in the School of Ocean Futures, joined a distinguished panel of educators who have demonstrated a commitment to liberal arts teaching and engagement with learners beyond the traditional classroom. In this conversation, the cohort shared ideas and approaches to how liberal arts education remains necessary in a world facing climate change.

[Read more](#)



Rolston recognized for research in identifying material value in "waste"

Nicholas Rolston, Senior Global Futures Scientist and assistant professor in the School of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering, has been selected by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement's Scialog series, which includes grant funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, for its upcoming event focusing on "Sustainable Materials, Metals and Materials."

[Read more](#)



Center for Science, Policy and Outcomes celebrates 25 years of steering science to "build a better society"

The Washington, D.C.-based center convened a who's-who of scientists, policy makers and innovative thinkers to honor and, of course, analyze the center's quarter-century of work. The celebration included ASU president Michael M. Crow, CSPO's director emeritus Dan Sarewitz, current center director Arthur Daemmrich and ASU associate vice provost for Discovery, Engagement and Outcomes David Guston.

[Read more](#)



Popular YouTube channel SciShow features School of Ocean Futures "weird" work to preserve corals

SciShow, a YouTube channel founded by brothers Hank and John Green that focuses on different perspectives and approached to science to engage younger audiences, is home to 8.1 million subscribers. Its episode on Dec. 18 highlighted work by School of Ocean Futures faculty Yvonne Sawall, Greg Asner and Liza Roger.

[Watch now](#)

Upcoming Events



Global Futures Conversation: Adaptation in Action



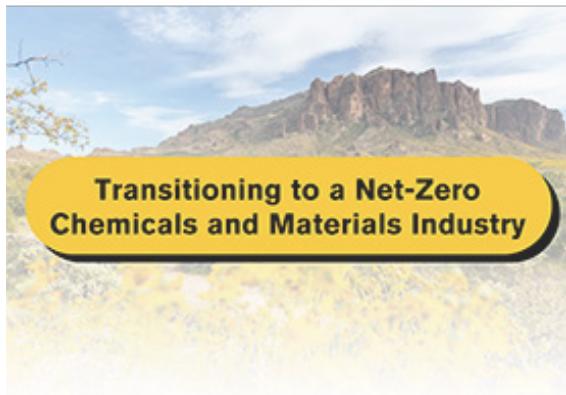
Naresh Devineni: Multilevel Bayesian Methods for Water and Climate Predictions

Monday, Jan. 27
4-5 p.m. (MST)
ASU Tempe Campus
WCPH Auditorium

Wednesday, Feb. 19
Noon-1:15 p.m. (MST)
ASU Tempe Campus
WCPH Room 460

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)



Transitioning to a Net-Zero Chemicals and Materials Industry

Feb. 19-21
ASU Tempe Campus
Biodesign B Auditorium

[Learn more](#)

ASU Open Door at the Walton Center for Planetary Health

Saturday, Feb. 22
1-5 p.m. (MST)
ASU Tempe Campus
WCPH

[Learn 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](#)

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](#)



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

Don't miss any future news

Be sure to receive this newsletter as well as other journals and updates including our biannual journal, Futurecast.

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