

Global Futures: Now

News



Miki Kittilson appointed dean of College of Global Futures

Kittilson becomes the second dean to lead the college that comprises the School of Sustainability, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, School of Complex Adaptive Systems and School of Ocean Futures. “As we enter this next phase of growth for the College of Global Futures, Dean Kittilson’s vision aligns with ASU’s aspiration to build a new kind of college — one that drives global impact at scale,” said Nancy Gonzales, executive vice president and university provost.

[Read more](#)

[Learn more about the college](#)



New study comparing elite wealth in ancient Rome and modern cities helps define urban inequality

Manfred Laubichler and a group of scholars from the U.S. and Germany recently published in *Nature* how they employed Bayesian models to determine how elite wealth becomes identified in complex urban settings from ancient times as well as in today's metropolitan areas.

[Read the article](#)



SWSIE first round of Innovation Grants funds 8 startups

The NSF Regional Innovation Engine distributed \$1.5 million to 8 companies based in or piloting projects in Arizona, Nevada and Utah that are advancing sustainability-oriented tech while bolstering the region's workforces.

[Read more](#)



Leonardo-ASU announce Planetary Health Research Seed Grants recipients

In support of advancing creative solutions to global challenges while fostering collaboration between the arts, sciences and technology, Leonardo-ASU awarded seed grants to Cybotage, led by ASU visiting assistant professor Zeina Barakeh, and Reservoirs for Water Futures, led by ASU assistant professor Chelsea Haines.

[Learn more](#)



Earth BioGenome Project DNA mapping helping to solve human problems

A collaborative, international effort coordinated at Arizona State University and led by Senior Global Futures Scientist Harris Lewin, the Earth BioGenome Project is on schedule to fully sequence the genetic material of 10,000 species by 2026, potentially leading to the discovery of hundreds of medicines and improved pathways for producing food and sustainable materials.

[Read more](#)



Should there be robots in baseball?

Arthur Daemmrich, director of the Center for Science, Policy and Outcomes and SFIS professor of practice, co-authored a new article in *The Conversation* examining the role and impact of technology may be having on professional sports.

[Watch now](#)



SolarSPELL awarded SXSW top honor

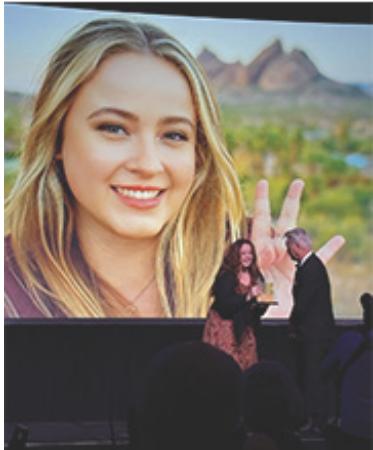
The devices, made of recycled plastic that then create a Wi-Fi hot spot to support a solar-powered library that would fit into a backpack, are at the center of a global humanitarian project. The team won [SXSW Innovation Awards' 'Best in Show'](#) from among 55 finalists.

[Read more](#)



Immersive VR water experiences earn 2025 WateReuse Award for Excellence

The projects, led by Senior Global Futures Scientist Claire Lauer, give Arizonans insights on state-of-the-art water recycling methods. "The goal of this gamified storytelling project is to provide an interesting way for all Arizona residents to understand how this incredibly effective new process of purifying our water works, and why it's safe to drink."

[Read more](#)

Lara Van Lith honored with Rising Sustainability Star Award

The ASU alum and former Global Futures Laboratory staffer who is now working with the city of Phoenix Water Services was honored at the 2025 Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards. Van Lith was a graduate researcher with the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative before moving over to her current post with Phoenix.

[Learn more](#)

ASU hosts second annual International Atmospheric Water Harvesting Summit

More than 150 participants from around the world representing diverse sectors including academia, tech startups, government agencies and nongovernmental organizations gathered to contribute to the development of a 20-year AWH roadmap. Atmospheric Water Harvesting is an emerging technology that has the potential to provide water for a wide range of applications, from agricultural irrigation to cooling data centers that rely on pure water.

[Read more](#)[Read a QA with Paul Westerhoff](#)



Arizona Water Innovation Initiative releases new Year in Review report

As the program funded by the State of Arizona and Virginia G. Piper Institute closes out its second year of operation, AWII reflects how innovation and collaboration are central to this ongoing success, from groundbreaking technological developments and applied research to strategic partnerships and community engagement.

[Learn more](#)

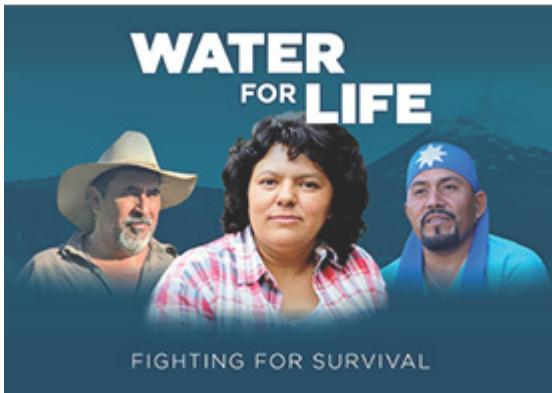


2025 WE Empower UN SDG Challenge now accepting applications

The WE Empower UN SDG Challenge is the first-of-its-kind global competition for social entrepreneurs who are advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and inspiring entire communities to act to create the world we want by 2030. Encourage innovators across your global network to start an application.

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Events



Water for Life Documentary Film Screening

Wednesday, March 26
5-7:30 p.m. (MST)
ASU Tempe Campus
Memorial Union Pima Auditorium

[RSVP](#)

Water in the West: An Interdisciplinary Reflection

Recurring Series
Thursdays
4:30 p.m. (MST)
Zoom

[Learn more](#)

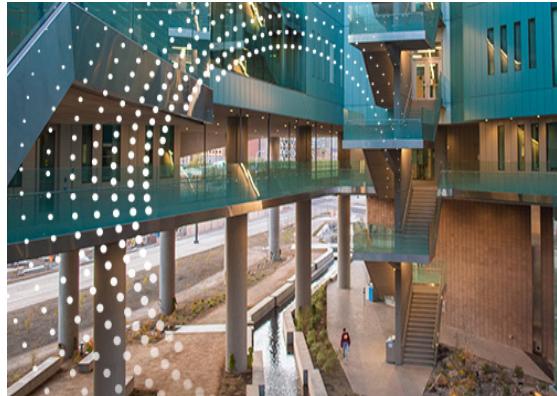


Making Sense of Complexity with Stephanie Arcusa

Wednesday, April 2
Noon-1 p.m. (MST)
ASU Tempe Campus
Engineering Center A-100

Modern AI: Accelerating Impact for Climate and Nature

Thursday, April 3
4-5:30 p.m. (MST)
ASU Tempe Campus
WCPH Auditorium

[Learn more](#)[Learn more](#)

Annals of Environmental Law: A Practitioner's Journey

Wednesday, April 9
1-2 p.m. (MST)
ASU Tempe Campus
ECA 100

[Learn more](#)

Earth Day 2025

Tuesday, April 22
Noon-3 p.m. (MST)
ASU Tempe Campus
WCPH Auditorium

[Learn more](#)

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](#)



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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