Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory™
Arizona State University

Global Futures: Now

The end of another academic year falls into a time of significant turbulence across our globe. We are experiencing the rewriting of the world order, coinciding with increasing signs of human activities' impacts on our planet's life-supporting systems. These signs of distress, increasingly visible in many forms of extreme events require responses at a level of urgency never experienced before.

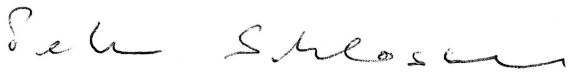
But it also signals the beginning of a new chapter—one filled with possibility, purpose, and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact. For the 2024-2025 academic year, the College of Global Futures awarded over 350 degrees across its undergraduate and graduate programs, a milestone that reflects ASU's commitment to shaping a more sustainable world. These graduates represent a growing community of changemakers driven by the conviction to lead and the determination to turn knowledge into action. As they step into their future, they carry more than a degree. They carry the skills and values to advance technologies, inform policy, and shape a future where people and the planet thrive together.

The same spirit of purpose was displayed last month when ASU welcomed over 850 environmental journalists at the 34th annual Society of Environmental Journalists Conference , hosted for the first time in the desert Southwest. Over the course of four days, participants engaged in field tours, panel discussions, and keynote sessions that included 27 Global Futures Scientists and Scholars and explored the intersections of global change, environmental justice, and regional innovation. It was our privilege to kick off this influential conference here at the Walton Center and showcase a great number of our programs and experts to these journalists. The conference served as a catalyst for stronger collaboration among those working to advance environmental understanding and action, and has already led to 68 articles published in news outlets nationally.

Earlier that same week, the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory hosted Earth Day 2025, our annual event uniting students, faculty, and community members to reaffirm our shared commitment to the health of our planet. This year's celebration included a youth leadership panel, the annual State of Global Futures address, and an Earth Day edition of the Global Futures Conversation series (beginning at the 1:11:45 mark), among other activities. As with every Earth Day, this year's celebration reminded us that we are part of nature and renewed our collective sense of responsibility to safeguard the systems that sustain all life on our planet.

Together, these milestones reflect the mission that defines the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory—to design solutions that sustain global habitability and improve human well-being. As we look ahead, we do so with confidence in our graduates, faculty, researchers, leaders, and staff who each day carry this mission into a future where a healthy planet is no longer an aspiration but a lived reality.

Thank you for another successful academic year, and congratulations to the Class of 2025!



Peter Schlosser
Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures

News

Study finds older individuals experiencing homelessness at heightened risk to environmental hazards

The paper, co-authored by School of Sustainability PhD candidate Zachary Van Tol, Senior Global Futures Scientists Ariane Middel and Jennifer Vanos and School of Social Work professor Kristin Ferguson and published in GeoHealth, established older adults and individuals with preexisting health conditions who are unsheltered were highly vulnerable to hazardous urban conditions such as extreme heat and air pollution.

Read the study

Study determines U.S. aquatic food system has lower energy, GHGe and blue water impacts than beef, comparable to poultry

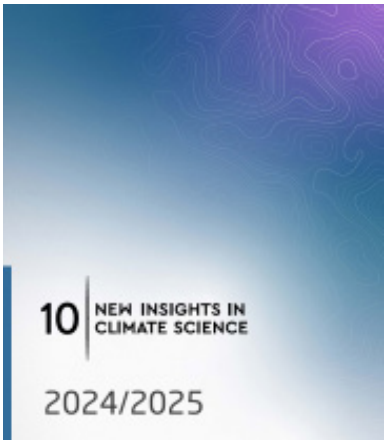
The new report, co-authored by Senior Global Futures Scientist Lekelia Jenkins, found that the diversity of aquatic foods led to a wide variety of environmental impacts, with forms of sockeye salmon and canned tuna having the lowest, and 22-24% of energy, greenhouse gas and blue water use going to food waste.

Read the study

Workshop re-defines "ecology for a social revolution"

School of Sustainability assistant professor Rebecca Kariuki joined The 2024 ANdiNA workshop where the group published a report in the journal Rio that framed the evolving responsibilities of ecologists and environmental scientists in the face of ongoing climate and biodiversity crises globally.

Read the report

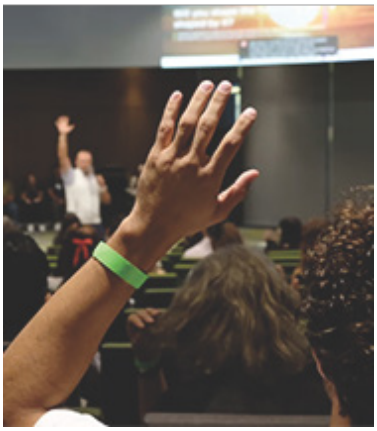


Final 2024 Ten New Insights in Climate Science published to One Earth

The annual report from the Earth League, Future Earth and the World Climate Research Programme published their peer-reviewed article on May 7. The comprehensive report on which this article is based was originally shared with global policy leaders at COP29 in Azerbaijan.

Read the article

New Climate Futures course



expands sustainability options for ASU General Studies Gold credit

To provide students with a knowledge base around climate systems, ranging from the causes to the practical solutions, ASU developed CGF 194: Introduction to Climate Futures. The course will be taught in fall 2025 session C by faculty from the College of Global Futures.

Read more

ASU Leonardo fellows program using touch to drive storytelling

The Touch Aesthetics Fellowship, launched in partnership between ASU Leonardo and ASU's Haptics for Inclusion Lab, presented four creatives who will engage in the three-month initiative based at the ASU California Center in Los Angeles.

Read more

Sara Meerow discusses impacts of nature-based infrastructure

The Senior Global Futures Scientist talked with ASU News about her initial motivations to dig into "green infrastructure" and what kind of impacts it actually had on our built environments as urban centers like Phoenix increasingly encounter extreme conditions.

Read more

ASU News launches new Earth Week page

As a showcase for the great number of stories recently published in support of Earth Day and the Society of Environmental Journalists conference held that week in Tempe, ASU News has launched a new centralized page for news items relating to oceans and water futures, climate change, renewable energy, environment and sustainability and heat.

Learn more

Upcoming Events

Falling Walls Lab Arizona Info Sessions

Recurring, beginning May 30
3:30 (MST)
Free online webinar

Learn more

Carbon Summit

Thursday, October 23-24
ASU Student Pavilion

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

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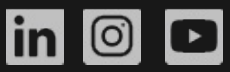

Don't miss any future news

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

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