

Global Futures: **Now**



As the impacts of climate change become more palpable each day, [COP29](#) stood as a pivotal opportunity for the international community to chart a clear and actionable course toward a sustainable future. Taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to November 22, COP29 was another chance for world leaders, scientists, activists and innovators to confront the reality of a warming planet together, and decide on tangible, binding commitments that prioritize action over promises.

One primary focus of the conference was the critical need for [climate finance](#) to support vulnerable nations bearing the brunt of climate change. Developing countries called for increased funding to adapt to and recover from climate-driven disasters. COP29 aimed to restructure these financial [funding pledges](#). Exploring innovative financial solutions such as [debt-for-climate swaps](#) and green investment models, [ensures no country](#) faces the crisis alone.

COP29 also presented an opportunity to build on the momentum of [green technologies](#). Solar, wind, hydrogen and battery storage have reached unprecedented levels of innovation and affordability, yet the global transition to renewables needs to be faster and clearer. Countries were expected to discuss accelerated timelines for phasing out fossil fuels, share successes in renewable deployment and set benchmarks for clean energy accessibility worldwide.

A key focal point was the topic of tackling emissions from sectors like agriculture, manufacturing and transportation, with the conference serving as a platform for advancing agreements on sustainable practices and carbon-neutral technologies. Advancing green technologies remains paramount to the mission of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory.

On October 15th, four leaders of esteemed academic institutions convened to promote the Southwest Sustainability Innovation Engine (SWSIE) launch. Funded by the National Science Foundation, SWSIE is a regional program combining the strength of Arizona, Nevada and Utah university partners to equitably transform water security, renewable energy and net carbon emissions through sustainable economic growth in the southwest region. The launch highlighted SWSIE's progress through panel discussions, networking and entrepreneurship. SWSIE is just one of many collaborative initiatives at the Julie

Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory.

COP29 reminded us of the power of collective action. When people unite across sectors, disciplines and borders, they can create opportunities for more robust, effective climate policies to drive meaningful impact. The world is watching, demanding leaders transform words into actions and turn this summit into an instrument for meaningful progress.



Peter Schlosser

Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures



Energy Forward: ASU's portal for energy research and solutions

The Global Futures Laboratory, in collaboration with the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, launched Energy Forward on Nov. 14. This new transdisciplinary ecosystem unites energy-focused project, ideas and working groups across ASU.

[Learn more](#)

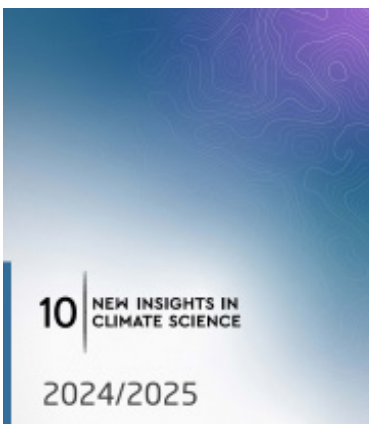
News



Michael Crow first university president to be named in TIME100 Climate list

On Nov. 12, [Time named Michael Crow](#), university president and a Distinguished Global Futures Scientist, among the top global leaders and innovators driving real climate action. He is joined on the list by World Bank President Ajay Banga; Claudia Sheinbaum, president of Mexico; Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex; Bill Gates, founder of Breakthrough Energy and TerraPower, among other enterprises; Jennifer Granholm, secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; and Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

[Read more](#)



‘10 New Insights in Climate Science’ report draws policy implications from recent climate research

“10 New Insights in Climate Science” published Oct. 28 as a tool to be used in climate policy negotiations around the world, including the international climate

conference COP29, provides input on recent advances in climate change research and key opportunities for impactful climate action. The report — jointly produced by Future Earth, The Earth League and the World Climate Research Programme — highlights the policy implications that can inform climate negotiations and policy through 2025 and beyond.

[Read more](#)



Read “Ethical Framework Principles for Climate Intervention Research”

The American Geophysical Union, the world’s largest association of Earth and space scientists, facilitated the development of a new report on ethical climate intervention research. [Peter Schlosser](#), vice president and vice provost of Global Futures and the director of the Global Futures Laboratory, served on the advisory board that guided this project. The report aims to help society make informed, just decisions about climate intervention research, including indoor and outdoor experimentation and potential policy deployment.

[Read more](#)

Nathan Johnson on “Curious by Nature” podcast



Newswise, an online resource meant to connect journalists to experts in science and technology, recently shared a podcast episode featuring Senior Global Futures Scientist [Nathan Johnson](#). Johnson shared his insights into a clean energy transition on the “Curious by Nature” podcast, produced by Newswise. The episode is available for listening on both Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

[Read more](#)



SWSIE event showcases a united front for sustainability and the economy

On Oct. 15, leaders from around the Southwest met at ASU for the National Science Foundation’s Southwest Sustainability Innovation Engine (SWSIE)’s unity event. The purpose of the gathering was to bring all partners together for a discussion of their regional challenges. The event also offered an update to SWSIE’s progress since its inception in January of this year, in addition to panel discussions on energy and entrepreneurship.

[Read more](#)

8 ways to protect wildlife

The [sixth story in a series](#) exploring how ASU is changing the way the world solves problems highlights biodiversity efforts at ASU. The story



provides eight recommendations to humanity to ensure a thriving, biodiverse ecosystem on our planet: Persevere with policy; restore land as we work it; make coral stronger; use DNA to monitor wildlife; tend to the nature around us; share our city spaces; listen to the environment and remember that conservation works.

[Read more](#)



Sustainability program empowers K–12 educators to combat food waste

The Walton Sustainability Teachers Academies partnered with Incite, the World Wildlife Fund and Mill to launch the Food Waste Futures Fellowship Program. The program contains an inaugural cohort of 10 K–12 educators from five schools across the Phoenix metropolitan area. The yearlong fellowship program, which started in July, includes training sessions, site visits to schools, lesson plans, proposals and experiential learning activities with partnering organizations that incorporate food systems sustainability and food waste reduction.

[Read more](#)

New partnership ASU Farm combines food security efforts, community and environmental



connection

The new ASU Farm program launched this fall to promote sustainable, local food growth in the valley and includes faculty from the College of Global Futures, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Health Solutions. [Tyler DesRoches](#), associate professor of sustainability and human well-being at the School of Sustainability, is the founding director of ASU Farm. The faculty behind ASU Farm are collaborating with the Humanities Lab to offer courses to students beginning in the Fall 2025 semester.

[Read more](#)



SolarSPELL now providing solar-powered library devices to help health care workers, crisis responders in Arizona

Global humanitarian project SolarSPELL's digital library mimics an online experience by generating its own offline WiFi hotspot to which any WiFi-capable device can connect to freely, and safely surf the library's tens of thousands of open access resources. SolarSPELL recently started working with health care providers on the Hopi reservation in northern Arizona and with the Phoenix Fire Department's Community Assistance Program. The two projects are the first time SolarSPELL has been utilized domestically.

[Read more](#)



Green job demand translates to high employability for ASU sustainability grads

According to ASU employment data, 90% of graduates from the College of Global Futures with a bachelor's degree are employed in a degree-related field or go on to graduate school. ASU News spoke with [Christopher Boone](#), a professor with ASU's School of Sustainability and former dean of the College of Global Futures, about the evolution of the sustainability field. He also provides insights on salary ranges, graduate employment data and the value of sustainability thinking across all fields.

[Read more](#)



Carbon Summit demonstrated collaboration, sustainability, student investment in climate solutions

A student-led initiative brought government officials, entrepreneurs and nongovernmental organizations under one roof to discuss sustainable carbon solutions. The annual Carbon Summit — the second of its kind at Arizona State University — took place from Oct. 24–25 at the Student Pavilion. Jason Marmon, a graduate student in the School of School

of Sustainability, directed the event. Speakers at the Carbon Summit presented on a variety of carbon-related themes: food transitions, energy transitions, circular economies, climate adaptation and sustainability.

[Read more](#)



Founder of the School of Sustainability, faces a new adventure: retirement

[Charles Redman](#) celebrated the close of his 41-year career at ASU on Oct. 22. As the founding director of the Global Institute of Sustainability in 2004, soon followed by the launch of the School of Sustainability in 2006, Redman was instrumental in creating the blueprint for a quality sustainability education. The school was the first of its kind in the world and set an important precedent for the role of higher education in tackling our world's greatest challenges.

[Read more](#)



ASU first-gen college student Mauricio Juarez Leon leads sustainability, social justice efforts

Mauricio Juarez Leon considers himself a statistical anomaly — and he is correct. According to FirstGen

Forward, only around 24% of first-generation college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years. Juarez Leon is a senior sustainability student in the School of Sustainability and is a community leader advocating for a sustainable, equitable future through policy and community engagement.

[Read more](#)



SFIS student Jalen McClellan pioneers changes in footwear industry

Jalen McClellan, a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, is working on a new app Kickin' Kicks. The app, which is currently under development, is a tool to help repurpose, buy and sell second-hand shoes. Kickin' Kicks is an extension of his existing start-up, UndeateadJ, an upcycled project that extends the lifespan of footwear globally by repurposing, redesigning and customizing each collection to prevent waste.

[Read more](#)

October marked Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and Katina Michael warns that your DNA data may be more accessible than you think



[Katina Michael](#), a professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and the School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence, said our biometric data is collected, stored and utilized every day. This data includes voice samples, finger and palm prints, facial scans and DNA — the popularization of facial recognition software means that approximately 80% of businesses use biometric tools and authentication. In an ASU News article, Michael said an international consensus must be formed to protect this sensitive data.

[Read more](#)



Sophia Vallejera contributes to campus culture of sustainability through Eco Reps program

Sophia Vallejera, a second-year College of Global Futures student double majoring in sustainability and urban planning, serves as an Eco Rep to share sustainability education with her peers through weekly interactive activities and events. Vallejera said her experience as an Eco Rep has taught her to create engaging events and how to talk to people about sustainability.

[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](#)

ASU 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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