NATIONAL ACADEMIES *Sciences Engineering Medicine*

Higher Education's Path to Sustainability and Resilience

A Workshop

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Purpose

- Highlight the critical role of leadership in advancing sustainability initiatives across higher education institutions.
- Explore strategies to integrate retrofitting aging infrastructure with innovative sustainable construction practices to promote decarbonization and resiliency on campuses.
- Examine how workforce development programs and curriculum design can collaboratively create a pipeline of sustainability professionals, aligning training with industry and community resilience needs.
- Identify actionable strategies to build trust and partnerships between higher education institutions and communities, leveraging innovation hubs as catalysts for sustainability-focused research and implementation.

9:00–9:15 **Opening and Welcome**
- Amanda Staudt – Climate Crossroads Initiative
- Gillian Bowser – Colorado State University

9:15–9:45 **Framing the Challenge: Setting the Stage for Change**

This session will provide an overview of the workshop's goals, highlighting the interconnectivity of key themes such as decarbonization, curriculum transformation, workforce development, research and community engagement.

Moderator: Gillian Bowser – Colorado State University

Speakers:

- David Orr – Arizona State University
- Maya Tolstoy – University of Washington

9:45–9:55 **Break**

9:55–10:55 **Catalysts for Change – Leadership in Sustainability**

This session will explore the critical role of leadership in advancing sustainability initiatives across higher education institutions.

Moderator: Daniel Wildcat – Haskell Indian Nations University

Panelists:

- Meghan Chapple – Odwaga **(virtual)**
- Matt St. Clair – University of California Office of the President
- Elizabeth Drake – Swarthmore College
- John B. King, Jr. – State University of New York **(virtual)**

10:55–11:20   **Networking Break**

11:20–12:20   **Decarbonization and Resiliency in Infrastructure**

This session will explore strategies to integrate retrofitting aging infrastructure with innovative sustainable construction practices. It will focus on fostering comprehensive approaches to decarbonization and resiliency on higher education campuses.

Moderator: Meghan Fay Zahniser – Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

Panelists:

- Lana Crouse – U.S. Green Building Council
- Carol Dollard – Colorado State University **(virtual)**
- Marcus Ollom – Truckee Meadows Community College **(virtual)**
- Andrea Trimble – University of Virginia

12:20–12:30   **Reflections from Morning Discussions**

12:30–1:30   **Networking Lunch Break**

1:30–2:30   **Building the Sustainability Workforce**

This session will examine how workforce development programs and curriculum design can collaboratively build a pipeline of sustainability professionals, aligning vocational training and academic education with the evolving needs of industry and community resilience

Moderator: Bryan Alexander – Georgetown University

Panelists:

- Jay Antle – Johnson County Community College
- Leah Dundon – Vanderbilt University
- Krista Hiser – Sustainability Education Accreditation Commission **(virtual)**
- Jianwei Li – Tennessee State University **(virtual)**

2:30–2:55   **Networking Break**

2:55–4:15   **Community Engagement and Innovation Hubs**

This session will focus on identifying actionable strategies to build trust and foster partnerships between higher education institutions and communities, leveraging innovation hubs as catalysts for sustainability-focused research, development, and implementation.

Spotlight Presentation Accelerating Community Engagement

- Cassi Pittman Claytor – Case Western Reserve University

Moderator: Gillian Bowser – Colorado State University

Panelists:

- Jason Cryan – Natural History Museum of Utah **(virtual)**
- Neil Leary – Dickinson College
- Katy Mike Smaistrla Lampe – University of Missouri–St. Louis
- Jo Tavares – California Center for Climate Change Education at West Los Angeles College

4:15–4:40   **Networking Break**

4:40–5:00   **Closing Reflections**

Adjourn