

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & CLIMATE PROTECTION

—  CONFERENCE  —
JUNE 15, 2023

Our second annual Environmental Justice and Climate Protection Conference brings together community leaders, concerned citizens, elected officials, academics, and industry experts. Together we will break silos through information sharing focused on identifying solutions to heal and improve the environmental health of all Georgians.



*What can be done **right now** to work with communities to move the needle on addressing environmental impacts on health? How can we measure success so that these immediate actions are sustained?*



SCHEDULE

TIME	SESSIONS
9:00-10:00am	Welcome + Call to Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change and Child Health: Becca Philipsborn The Intersection of Environmental Justice & Climate Protection: Treva Gear
10:00-10:10	Break
10:10-10:30	Resources and Tools to Empower Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHARTER (Center for Children’s Health Assessment, Research Translation, and Combating Environmental Racism): Grace Ahn
10:30-10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA: Tami Thomas-Burton
10:50-11:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry): Sue Casteel
11:10-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HERCULES: Melanie Pearson
11:30-11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Justice Mapping Tool: Amy Sharma
11:45-12:15pm	Tabling
12:15-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00-1:15	Tabling during Break
1:15-2:40	Coalition Building: a panel discussion featuring successful community partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogwood Alliance Center for Black Women’s Wellness Greenlink Analytics Georgia WAND
2:40-2:55	Break
2:55-4:25	Coalition Building Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgia Interfaith Power and Light: Beth Remmes
4:25-4:30	Closing
4:30 ++	Networking at Schoolhouse Brewing

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Welcome and Call to Action

Climate Change and Child Health

Becca Philipsborn

Climate change has many implications for child health and wellness. Nature also offers many child health benefits. This presentation is an overview of climate change and child health from the perspective of a pediatrician and climate advocate.

The Intersection of Environmental Justice & Climate Protection

Treva Gear

People often discuss environmental justice and climate protection as if they're separate. However, you can't achieve one without the other. This session focuses on how the impact of climate action creates protection for people everywhere. And that includes communities where environmental injustices are prevalent.

Resources and Tools to Empower Action

We must combine the will to act with resources to take action. This session features a series of rapid-talks, showcasing available tools, knowledge, funding, and programs that can create change.

Tools Available from CHARTER

Sun Joo (Grace) Ahn, Professor,
Grady College of Journalism & Mass
Communication, University of Georgia

Resources Available to Create Change

Tami Thomas-Burton, Region 4 Environmental
Justice Regional Coordinator, Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA)

Community Services

Sue Casteel, Health Education and
Community Involvement Coordinator,
Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease
Registry (ATSDR)

Environmental Justice Mapping Tool

Amy Sharma, Executive Director, Science
for Georgia

Examples of Effective Coalitions

This panel focuses on the power of collaboration in our advocacy for environmental justice and climate protection. The presenters will share how they've worked in coalition to create environmental change in their communities.

- **Center for Black Women's Wellness:** **Morgan Barnes**, Wellness Program Coordinator
- **Dogwood Alliance:** **Treva Gear**, Georgia Campaign Manager
- **Georgia WAND:** **Andrea Young Jones**, Government Relations Public Policy Director
- **Greenlink Analytics:** **Kavin Manickaraj**, Chief Data Scientist

Coalition Building Workshop

Building Strong Collaborations

Beth Remmes

This is an interactive workshop discussing the converging environmental, economic, and social crises. Then we will identify ways to cultivate cooperative relationships. We will understand our strengths and how we can work together to create coalitions greater than the sum of their parts.

OUR PRESENTERS



Sun Joo (Grace) Ahn, PhD

Professor, Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Georgia

Sun Joo (Grace) Ahn is the director of the Center for Advanced Computer-Human Ecosystems and editor-in-chief of Media Psychology. She investigates how immersive technologies and virtual experiences shape the way people think, feel, and behave.



Morgan Barnes, MPH

Wellness Program Coordinator, Center for Black Women's Wellness

Morgan Barnes collaborates on the Black Women's Environmental Health Project. She has worked in Atlanta nonprofits for eight years, passionately advocating for underserved communities. She received her Masters of Public Health from Nova Southeastern University.



Sue Casteel, MS

Health Education & Community Involvement Coordinator, ATSDR

For 20+ years, Sue Casteel has educated communities about the health effects of harmful chemical exposure. She works with communities to protect them until contaminated sites can be cleaned up. Sue has a masters in Occupational and Environmental Health.



Treva Gear, EdD

Georgia Campaign Manager, Dogwood Alliance

Dr. Treva Gear is the founder and chair of the Concerned Citizens of Cook County, a grassroots community organization in Adel, GA. She's an army veteran, educator, and community organizer. She has a doctorate in Adult & Career Education from Valdosta State University.



Kavin Manickaraj, MSME

Chief Data Scientist, Greenlink Analytics

Kavin Manickaraj develops and implements modeling techniques for energy grid forecasting and equity-based data research. He works on renewable energy and energy efficiency. He holds a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.



Melanie Pearson, PhD

Director of Community Engagement, HERCULES Exposome Research Center & Michigan PBB Research Registry

Dr. Melanie Pearson works with people and government on health disparities and environmental justice. She's facilitated research partnerships on EPA Superfund Remediation. She collaborates with Michigan farmers and residents suffering from industrial contamination of food.

OUR PRESENTERS



Becca Philipsborn, MD MPA FAAP

Assistant Professor, Emory University
School of Medicine & Children's
Healthcare of Atlanta Pediatrician,
Hughes Spalding Primary Care Center

In addition to her teaching and leadership work at Emory, Dr. Becca Philipsborn is on the faculty for the Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) and on the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health & Climate Change.



Beth Remmes, MS

Facilitator, The Work That Reconnects
& Gaia Education

Beth Remmes is a facilitator for The Work That Reconnects and Gaia Education. She's in the Biomimicry Masters program at Arizona State University. She's on the Board of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light and on the Unity Worldwide Ministry Earthcare Team.



Amy Sharma, PhD BSE

Executive Director, Science for Georgia

Dr. Amy Sharma has worked in start-ups, academia, and government. She was an AAAS S&T Policy Fellow. She has a PhD and BSE in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University.



Tami Thomas-Burton, BS MPH

Region 4 Environmental Justice
Regional Coordinator, EPA

Tami Thomas-Burton is an Environmental Scientist. She's worked with the EPA for 25 yrs. She has a BS in Biology and Chemistry from Northern Illinois University and a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Illinois.



Andrea Young Jones, MPA

Government Relations Public Policy
Director, Georgia WAND

Andrea Young Jones has 15+ years' experience in civil rights and anti-discrimination policy and legislation. She works on pollution and health disparities in Georgia's rural communities. She has a Masters in Public Administration from Clark Atlanta University.