

Community Conversations: Emory Talks Climate Action

Open conversations to support Emory's climate action planning

HIGHLIGHTS

Emory University is undergoing a climate action planning and resilience assessment process led by the [Emory Climate Action Task Force](#). To ensure the Task Force's work is informed by the entire Emory community, Emory will host six Community Conversations this academic year to connect students, faculty, and staff across Emory University and Oxford College campuses to share climate action planning priorities. These Conversations will be hosted in various locations and at different times to enhance physical accessibility to the sessions.

These sessions are a key part of the University continuing progress toward pre-existing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals - 50% by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050, using a 2010 baseline - and upholding new commitments made [by signing Second Nature's Climate Commitment and by joining the United Nation's Race to Zero campaign](#). Sign up to join a conversation using this registration [link](#).



President Fenves signing climate commitments with student leaders

Emory is committed to creating a climate action plan that inspires action at all levels; integrates equity in process and solutions; accounts for the latest science; and addresses Emory's unique assets, opportunities, history, and context. To do this, we need everyone's help! All Emory community members, no matter your familiarity with Emory's sustainability initiatives, are encouraged to [register to join any of the upcoming Community Conversations](#).

Conversations that have passed:

- **Friday, November 18th:**
1:00-2:30 pm Emory Student Center N102-N103
- **Friday, December 2nd:**
10:00-11:30 am Oxford College Dean's Dining Room
- **Wednesday, January 25th: 11:00 am-12:30 pm** Grace Crum Rollins building, 8th floor Rita Ann Rollins Room (room 860)
- **Wednesday, March 1st:**
4:30-6:00 pm Campus Services, Building B, Training Room B
- **Friday, March 24th: 10:00-11:30 am** Virtual session ([registration required](#))
- **Thursday, April 6th: 2:00-3:30 pm** Goizueta Foundation Center W525

BENEFITS

As stated in the Second Nature [Climate Commitment](#) Emory University signed:

“We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by providing the knowledge, research, practice, and informed graduates to create a positive and sustainable future. Along with other aspects of sustainability, campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and by integrating resilience into their curriculum, research, and campus operations will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a vital, ethical, and prosperous civil society.”

HOW IT WORKS

Climate Conversations are a piece of a broader process. The Conversations will be facilitated by Ed Lee, III, Senior Director of Inclusivity for Emory College of Arts and Sciences. Learn more about Lee here:

**Community Conversations Facilitator,
Ed Lee III, EdD**

This October, the Emory Climate Action Task Force convened for a parallel process to help fulfill [Second Nature's Climate Commitment](#). The Task Force will continue to meet monthly through August 2023 and is charged with creating Emory's climate action plan and a resilience assessment. Input from the Conversations will be assessed and used by the Task Force as its members create Emory's plan and assessment. The Task Force members are:

Student Groups

Staff

1. **Energy Manager:** Justin Thomas
2. **Engineering Services:** Chris Fox
3. **Office of Government and Community Affairs:** Brandon Gardner
4. **Office of Sustainability Initiatives:** Ciannat Howett, Taylor Spicer, Sofie diTommaso, Zoe Price, and Lydia Stubbs
5. **Oxford College Farm:** Daniel Parson
6. **Planning, Design & Construction:** Lucy Williams
7. **President's Office:** Anjulet Tucker
8. **Procurement:** Wade Sanner
9. **Provost's Office:** Nancy Bliwise
10. **Transportation:** Walter Kolis

Faculty

11. **Emory College:** Carrie Keogh, Eri Saikawa, and Emily Burchfield
12. **Goizueta Business School:** Wes Longhofer
13. **Rollins School of Public Health:** Yang Liu
14. **School of Medicine:** Rebecca Philipsborn
15. **School of Law:** Mindy Goldstein

Community Members

17. **City of Atlanta:** Michelle Midanier
18. **Interface:** Joey Shea
19. **Second Nature:** Blythe Coleman-Mumford
20. **Sierra Club:** Elayne Elliott
21. **Southface:** Laura Case

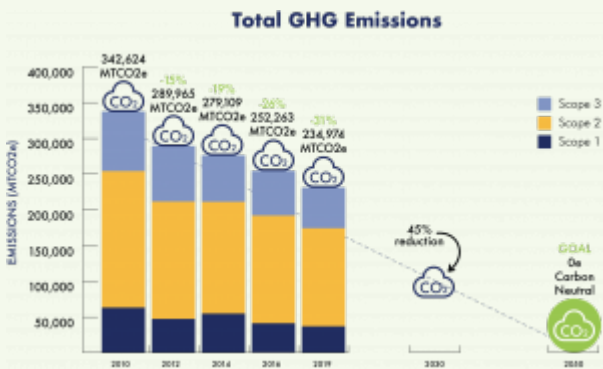
LEARN MORE

By signing the [Second Nature Climate Commitment](#) in October 2021, Emory University has committed to:

- Within one year of signing, completing a [greenhouse gas emissions inventory](#), creating a [campus community task force](#) to guide climate action and resilience planning, and [reporting progress annually](#);
- Within two years of signing, completing an initial campus-community resilience assessment; and
- Within three years of signing, completing a climate action plan.

By joining the [United Nations Race to Zero campaign](#), Emory University has also committed to urgently work toward our greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of 50% reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Learn more about Emory's current climate solutions strategies [here](#).

Since 2010, Emory lowered overall emissions in FY21 by 40.5%. Since 2019, Emory lowered overall FY21 emissions by 16.25%; however, emissions in FY21 were impacted by COVID-19 protocols, making a direct comparison to previous years difficult.



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