

2022 VIRTUAL GREEN NETWORKING SERIES



JOIN US THURSDAY, MARCH 3, AT 12 PM ET FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SOCIAL EQUITY PANEL FEATURING:



Laila Atalla (16C), *Sustainability Analyst, City of Sacramento*:

Laila Atalla serves the City of Sacramento as an analyst in the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability. Their projects span climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, including both community-focused initiatives and internal coordination to make City operations more sustainable. Current priorities include the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan update, building decarbonization, air quality monitoring, and capacity-building for collaborative governance. Previously, Laila worked at the California Air Resources Board, where they created greenhouse gas and economic modeling tools to guide investments in affordable housing, transportation, and workforce development. After studying Environmental Sciences and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Emory, Laila attended the University of St Andrews as a Bobby Jones Scholar, earning an MSc in Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics.

EVENT CO-HOSTS:



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Djuan Coleon (MDiv), *Executive Director, Project Urban Renewable Energy (PURE):*

Djuan Coleon is the Executive Director and Board Chair of PURE where he oversees the day-to-day operations of the organization. Coleon launched PURE in 2014 with the mission to build partnerships, coalitions and strategies that will educate communities on energy efficiency, urban renewal, green technology and environmental justice issues to assist in the facilitation of building collaborative sustainable communities across America.

Prior to founding PURE, Coleon served as the Director of Marketing and Digital Strategy for The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (“The King Center”) where he directed marketing, digital and customer experience initiatives across the King Center platforms. Coleon also served as the Director of Constituent Relations with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ).

Coleon spent seven years in engineering and construction as a project manager with the City of Atlanta where he identified and communicated best-practice guidelines for managing the surcharge events associated with state water utilities and ensured that facilities were able to meet existing E.P.A. regulatory guidelines. Coleon has a B.S. in Marketing and minor in Accounting from Alabama A&M University and is pursuing a Master's of Divinity at Emory.

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Aidan Fife (170x, 19C), *Assistant Communications Lead, Office of Environmental Justice, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):*

Aidan Fife studied Spanish and Environmental Science at Emory, where he was an Environmental Policy TA and research assistant. His ecology research was focused on the effects of climate change on plant-pollinator relationships and was based in Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Gothic, Colorado. After

graduating, Aidan joined the Peace Corps as a Youth Development Volunteer in Peru. Since returning to the US, he started work at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC. Recently, he joined the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) as an Assistant Communications Lead, helping develop website content in coordination with each EPA region, highlighting environmental justice work in action around the US. The Office, which has recently received more funding and political support in its short 20-year history than ever before, has been expanding its workforce, grants, and other outreach - many of these being featured in Aidan's recent communications projects. In his spare time, Aidan helps out on a small-scale farm and homestead in western North Carolina where he lives and works remotely.

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Alex Ko (10C), *Engagement Planning Manager, Sound Transit:*

Alex Ko is a Seattleite born and raised currently working at Sound Transit as the Engagement Planning Manager. Sound Transit is the regional transit authority that plans, builds, and operates light rail, heavy rail, and commuter bus service throughout the Puget Sound region. Sound Transit is currently undertaking a massive expansion of the light rail network, adding over 100 miles of track connecting numerous cities and regional job centers. In his role, Ko oversees the engagement on all projects in the planning phase, working with communities and jurisdictions across three counties. Ko's focus has

been and continues to be on how Sound Transit ensures that everyone who lives, works, and plays in any of the communities in which they work have the opportunities to engage and provide input that helps shape the final project that Sound Transit builds. A large part of this work is to highlight voices that traditionally have been underrepresented, removing barriers by providing information in accessible ways, meeting the community where they are. While this may seem like a departure from Ko's degree in environmental science, Ko sees a connection developing durable, sustainable transportation options that are better for the environment and bring people together.

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Naomi Maisel (16C), *Manager of Community Partnerships & Food Justice Advocacy, La Cocina:*

Naomi grew up in San Diego but moved to Atlanta to study Cultural Anthropology at Emory University with a focus on the intersections of health, culture and food. While at Emory she founded a food waste recollection nonprofit, now called Emory Food Chain, served on Emory's Sustainable Food Committee, and worked on numerous community gardens and farms.

Since graduating Naomi has worked on challenges of food insecurity and homelessness and has pursued a Master's in Gastronomy. Currently Naomi works as Community & Advocacy Manager at La Cocina, a nonprofit business incubator in San Francisco that works with women of color and immigrant women to grow and formalize food businesses. Naomi helps manage the country's first women-led foodhall as part of a pilot project on anti-gentrification development. She engages with community partners and residents to ensure the space serves the local neighborhood, as well as pursues programs and projects related to increased food security.

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DON'T MISS THE OTHER PANELS IN THE 2022 EMORY GREEN NETWORKING SERIES:

- **Monday, February 28, at 7 pm ET: Public Health & Conservation**
- **Thursday, March 3, at 3 pm ET: Climate Action & Environmental Protection**



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