2023

NC BREATHE

Climate Justice: Our Path to Healthier Communities

CONFERENCE

APRIL 6, 2023
CHARLOTTE / HYBRID
THE 658 CENTER
This year's conference will emphasize communities and voices from the frontlines of the climate crisis, highlighting the various efforts and initiatives community leaders have undertaken to pursue solutions. We also want to explore how we can utilize publicly available tools and resources that collect environmental health and equity data to lay out a roadmap for inclusion, engagement, and ultimately change. We'll discover how organizations and communities are partnering to build climate resilience across our beautiful state, to ensure a future where all people and communities can thrive. Finally, we'll listen to the strategies and experiences of our most important stakeholders, our youth, who are working to safeguard their future through their academic endeavors and beyond.

Each NC BREATHE conference aims to open new opportunities for learning and fellowship. This year we welcome new sponsor partners Atrium Health and Wells Fargo, along with a host of exhibitor organizations joining us to enhance the experience, foster learning, and infuse the conference with the work others are doing to address climate change, health equity, and community engagement. We will wrap the day with a networking event to facilitate further discussion and encourage partnership building.

Thank you for participating in the 2023 NC BREATHE, and enjoy your day!
Dear NC BREATHE Guests,

Welcome to the eighth annual NC BREATHE conference. This conference represents a tradition of bringing together health professionals, civic leaders, community activists, advocates, students, and researchers from across the state and the country, sharing strategies and solutions for climate justice.

We look forward to exploring conversations about how climate change affects health and equity in North Carolina, and how we can work together to find common themes and create positive outcomes.

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We also want to explore how we can utilize publicly available tools and resources that collect environmental health and equity data to lay out a roadmap for inclusion, engagement, and ultimately change. We’ll discover how organizations and communities are partnering to build climate resilience across our beautiful state, to ensure a future where all people and communities can thrive. Finally, we’ll listen to the strategies and experiences of our most important stakeholders, our youth, who are working to safeguard their future through their academic endeavors and beyond.

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Jeffrey Robbins
Executive Director
CleanAIRE NC
JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

#NCBREATHE23

Tag us on social! @cleanairenc

Free WiFi @ 658_Guest
Password is available at registration

Zoom Events
This year we are excited to offer a hybrid conference experience with Zoom Events. Create your profile and engage in the online discussion at the link below:

cleanairenc.org/ncbreathe23-virtual
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**KEYNOTE:** Climate Health on the Frontlines: From Classroom to Clinic  

**PANEL DISCUSSION:** Health Equity  

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  

**KEYNOTE:** From Surviving to Thriving: Charting a Path to Restoration  

**PANEL DISCUSSION:** Voices From the Frontline  

### THE NEXT CLIMATE LEADERS  

**PANEL DISCUSSION:** Future Climate Justice Leaders  

### POSTER ABSTRACTS  

### CLOSING REMARKS  

### NEXT STEPS: CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP  

### PLANNING COMMITTEE  

### EXHIBITORS  

### NOTES
8:00 AM  ●  REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

9:00 AM  ●  WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
Jeffrey Robbins, CleanAIRE NC

9:05 AM  ●  LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Dr. Crystal Cavalier-Keck, 7 Directions of Service

9:10 AM  ●  CLIMATE HEALTH ON THE FRONTLINES: FROM CLASSROOM TO CLINIC
Dr. Aaron Levy, Atrium Health

9:50 AM  ●  BREAK

10:00 AM  ●  HEALTH EQUITY: PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderator: Crystal Dixon, Wake Forest University
Panelist: Dr. Arlinda Ellison, Alamance County Health Department
Panelist: Dr. Chris Heaney, Johns Hopkins University
Panelist: Dr. Virginia Guidry, NC Department of Health and Human Services

11:00 AM  ●  BREAK

11:10 AM  ●  FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING: CHARTING A PATH TO RESTORATION
Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali, The National Wildlife Federation

12:00 PM  ●  LUNCH & STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1:05 PM  ●  BREAK

1:10 PM  ●  VOICES FROM THE FRONTLINES: PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderator: Sherri White-Williamson, NC Conservation Network
Panelist: Dr. Crystal Cavalier-Keck, 7 Directions of Service
Panelist: Omega Wilson, West End Revitalization Association
Panelist: Ana Flores Dolbow, Toxic Free NC

2:10 PM  ●  BREAK

2:20 PM  ●  FUTURE CLIMATE JUSTICE LEADERS: PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderator: Yancey Fouché, Davidson College
Panelist: Bailey Scarlett, Davidson College
Panelist: Shruti Agrawal, New Normal X
Panelist: Harmony Mason, Catawba College

3:20 PM  ●  BREAK

3:30 PM  ●  CLOSING REMARKS
Lisa Sorg, NC Policy Watch

4:00 PM  ●  NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR
Pediatrician Dr. Aaron Levy has a firsthand perspective on how climate change and air pollution impacts our most vulnerable population—including environmental justice communities and children struggling with asthma. In his opening address, Dr. Levy will explore the role of healthcare providers to lead on this public health issue through education and patient care. He will then turn toward the role medical institutions play in driving the climate crisis, and how the healthcare industry can take steps to reduce its footprint.

Dr. Aaron Levy is currently a pediatrician at Atrium Health’s Levine Children’s Hospital in Charlotte, NC. Born and raised in Nashville, Dr. Levy completed his undergraduate education at Emory University in Atlanta before earning an osteopathic medical degree at Lincoln Memorial University- DCOM in Harrogate, Tennessee.

Dr. Levy has a strong interest in how climate change and air quality impact health, particularly children’s health. He is currently the healthcare representative on the Mecklenburg Air Quality Commission, an Advisory Board member for CleanAIRE NC, a member of the North Carolina Clinicians for Climate Action, and an American Academy of Pediatric Climate Advocate for North Carolina. He teaches medical trainees and others about the relationship between climate and health in hopes that they can help their patients and community.

In his free time, Dr. Levy enjoys exploring the outdoors with his wife, Jessie, and their 2 year old daughter, Josie. (And their dog, Jack.)
HEALTH EQUITY
Panel Discussion

OVERVIEW
Health professionals are partnering with environmental justice communities across the Carolinas to spark community-driven research and innovative solutions. This coalition is improving health equity through environmental health data collection and advocacy.

PANELISTS
Dr. Arlinda Ellison, DHSc, MS, HHC
Alamance County Health Department
Dr. Ellison is a public and holistic health educator, coach, researcher, and facilitator. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Legacy Holistic Health Institute. She has 20 years of experience in public health education and community-engaged research.

Dr. Chris Heaney, PhD, MS
Johns Hopkins University
Dr. Heaney’s research focuses on the impacts of community land use, waste management, and food production practices on health and well-being. He is the founding director of the Community Science and Innovation for Environmental Justice Initiative at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

Dr. Virginia Guidry, PhD, MPH
NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS)
Dr. Guidry is the NC DHHS Environmental Justice Lead and the director of the NC Wastewater Monitoring Network. She has worked on environmental health and justice issues in North Carolina since 2003, including experience in community-based research, communications, and applied epidemiology.

MODERATOR
Crystal Dixon, MPH, MCHES, NBC-HWC
Wake Forest University
Dixon’s research explores the intersection of environmental racism, sustainability, and public health. Her current focus is on disaster resilience, climate change, and public health in the Caribbean, and she was one of the earliest voices calling for the oversight of healthcare waste as an environmental justice concern.
This is what life is supposed to feel like. When you aren't held back. When you have a health partner that doesn’t just treat part of you – they care for all of you. That’s why more people prefer Atrium Health, with the most complete care that lets you get back to the moments that matter. That’s what it’s like to live fully.
This is what life is supposed to feel like. When you aren't held back. When you have a health partner that doesn’t just treat part of you – they care for all of you. That’s why more people prefer Atrium Health, with the most complete care that lets you get back to the moments that matter. That’s what it’s like to live fully.
DESCRIPTION
As a thought leader and strategist, Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali is focused on propelling our most vulnerable communities toward economic and environmental justice. In his address Dr. Ali will discuss his decades of experience in the environmental justice movement. He’ll also look at the role we all play in achieving a truly equitable future, offering guidance on partnering with environmental justice communities and sharing tools for community-driven projects.

Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali is the Executive Vice President of Conservation & Justice for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the founder of Revitalization Strategies, a business focused on moving our most vulnerable communities from “surviving to thriving.” He began working on social justice at age 16 and joined the US EPA as a student, becoming a founding member of its Office of Environmental Justice. Dr. Ali has worked with over a thousand domestic and international communities to secure environmental, health, and economic justice.

He currently works with a number of Fortune 500 companies on integrating justice and equity into their respective programs, policies, and activities. In late 2020 he launched the Clean Economy of Color Coalition to better prepare and educate entrepreneurs, frontline organizations, and local officials of color for the new sets of opportunities that the clean economy provides.

Dr. Ali co-designed and co-moderated the first Presidential Forum on Environmental Justice with Amy Goodman (host of Democracy Now). He has interviewed some of America’s most influential leaders in politics, hip hop, civil rights, and social justice. Dr. Ali has been featured or cited in over 300 news publications and has been a guest lecturer at over 100 colleges and universities.
OVERVIEW
Community leaders are working on the frontline of the climate crisis to address its impacts in their communities. Their discussion will speak to the human factor of climate change, exploring current efforts in policy, education, research, and beyond.

PANELISTS
Dr. Crystal Cavalier-Keck, PhD
7 Directions of Service
Dr. Cavalier-Keck is a citizen of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation in Burlington, NC. Her current projects focus on missing or murdered Indigenous women, health disparities among American Indians in frontline communities, and inequities in our food system.

Omega Wilson
West End Revitalization Association (WERA)
Wilson co-founded WERA with his wife Brenda to support access to basic amenities for people of color and marginalized communities. They’re using citizen science and community engagement to address water quality issues in Mebane. Wilson has also worked with the US EPA on environmental justice.

Ana Flores-Dolbow
Toxic Free NC
Flores-Dolbow spent much of her youth working in the agricultural fields of eastern North Carolina. Growing up with firsthand knowledge of the poor conditions facing immigrant farmworkers, she began working to educate families about environmental justice, the connections between environment and health, and workers’ rights.

MODERATOR
Sherri White-Williamson, JD, MS
NC Conservation Network (NCCN)
White-Williamson leads NCCN’s efforts to connect with decision makers. She previously worked as a program analyst in the EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice, and is the co-founder of the Environmental Justice Community Action Network.
CleanAIRE NC relies on your support as we work to build a healthier North Carolina. Please consider making a gift today to help us make sure all North Carolinians continue to have access to climate solutions.
OVERVIEW

Youth are engaging in the environmental and climate justice movement to foster an intergenerational coalition that promotes healthier communities and sustainable change. Hear from the next generation of climate leaders discussing the evolution of their strategies and experiences working with their communities.

PANELISTS

Bailey Scarlett
Davidson College
Scarlett is a sophomore at Davidson College majoring in Environmental Studies, and a former CleanAIRE NC intern. Growing up in Raleigh, he developed an interest in environmental justice, civic engagement, and data. At Davidson, Scarlett aims to broaden his experience in sustainability work.

Shruti Agrawal
New Normal X
Agrawal is the founder of New Normal X, an environmental organization dedicated to helping students consciously think about their carbon footprint. She is a certified NC Climate Ambassador, and is the vice president of the Ardrey Kell High School Environmental Club, where she is currently a junior.

Harmony Mason
Catawba College
Originally from Wake Forest, NC, Mason is currently a Senior at Catawba College working toward a bachelor’s degree in Environment and Sustainability. After college she plans to continue her education in climate science and conduct research in environmental justice and advocacy.

MODERATOR

Yancey Fouché, MS
Davidson College
Fouché heads Davidson College’s Sustainability Scholars summer internship program, matching students with a passion for the environment with mentors in the Charlotte area to help them launch impactful careers.
Three student researchers have been selected to give a short lightning talk presentation about their posters during the lunch hour. We encourage conference participants to walk around and review the posters, and ask the student presenters about their research. Written abstracts for all the featured posters can be found at the link below:
cleanairenc.org/nc-breathe-23-posters

WELLS FARGO
Helping to build a more inclusive, sustainable future for all.
DESCRIPTION
Lisa Sorg’s reporting on environmental and community issues gives her a unique perspective on the ways people are addressing environmental justice in North Carolina. Sorg will close the conference with her thoughts on the issues raised throughout the day, leaving attendees with ideas on some of the tools, maps, and other resources people can use to investigate air quality and pollution in their own communities.

Lisa Sorg
Environmental Reporter
NC Policy Watch

Lisa Sorg is an award-winning environmental investigative reporter with NC Policy Watch, a nonprofit digital media outlet based in Raleigh. A journalist for 28 years, Sorg has a keen interest not only in the environment, but also the social justice impacts of pollution and corporate malfeasance.

She has won dozens of awards for her news, public service, and investigative reporting, including the Henry Weathers Freedom of Information Award for her reporting on government transparency. In 2022, Sorg was a co-winner of the Thomas L. Stokes Award for Best Energy and Environmental Reporting, presented by the National Press Foundation.

Before joining NC Policy Watch, Sorg was the editor of INDY Week in Durham. She has also served as editor of the San Antonio Current, and worked at dailies and an alt-weekly in her home state of Indiana.
LET’S KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING!

Thank you for participating in NC BREATHE 2023! We hope you are feeling inspired and ready to build equitable climate solutions. Now the real work begins. Here are three ways you can keep the conversation going and promote health and environmental justice in North Carolina:

Take Our Post-Conference Survey
Did you enjoy NC BREATHE 2023? Let us know how we did! Your feedback will help us make next year’s conference even better.

survey.monkey.com/r/GX8XKC8

Strengthen Air and Water Protections on Hog Farms
Industrial-scale livestock facilities are heavily concentrated in rural, BIPOC communities in eastern NC, where they leak untreated animal waste into the air or water. Call on your representatives to strengthen community health protections.

cleanairenc.org/cafoprotectios

Join Our Network of Health Professionals
Are you a health professional looking to support climate action? Learn how you can leverage your trusted voice to advocate for equitable solutions that improve health in your community.

cleanairenc.org/health
PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Vidant Health

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CleanAIRE NC

SHERRI WHITE-WILLIAMSON, JD, MS
Environmental Justice Director
NC Conservation Network

MAYA WILSON
Public Health Graduate Student
Duke University
Look Out for our Post-Conference Report

Following the conference we will publish a report highlighting the underlying themes and policy recommendations that arose from today’s proceedings and participant discussions. Look for it this summer and share it with your elected representatives.