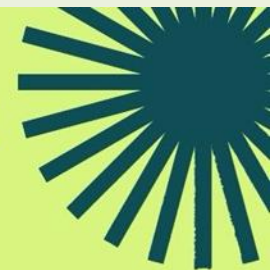




# COP29 Side Event: Youth Capacity-Building at COP29: Mobilizing *Intergenerational Partnerships* through Higher Education



Tuesday, 19 Nov. | 13:15-14:45 | Room: SIDE EVENT 3

## Panelists



Havalin Haskell  
Colorado College, USA



Dylan Tan Steer  
U Conn, USA



Jaime Harvie  
Colorado College, USA



Naiiya Ashok Patel  
U Conn, USA



Basmallah Rawash  
British U, Egypt



Emma Daily, PhD  
student, Boston  
University



Kaaviyan Pathmasiri  
Monash University



Corey Husic  
CalTech Fellow,  
USA



Pamela Templer  
BU faculty member, USA

## Moderators



Sarah Hautzinger  
Colorado College, USA



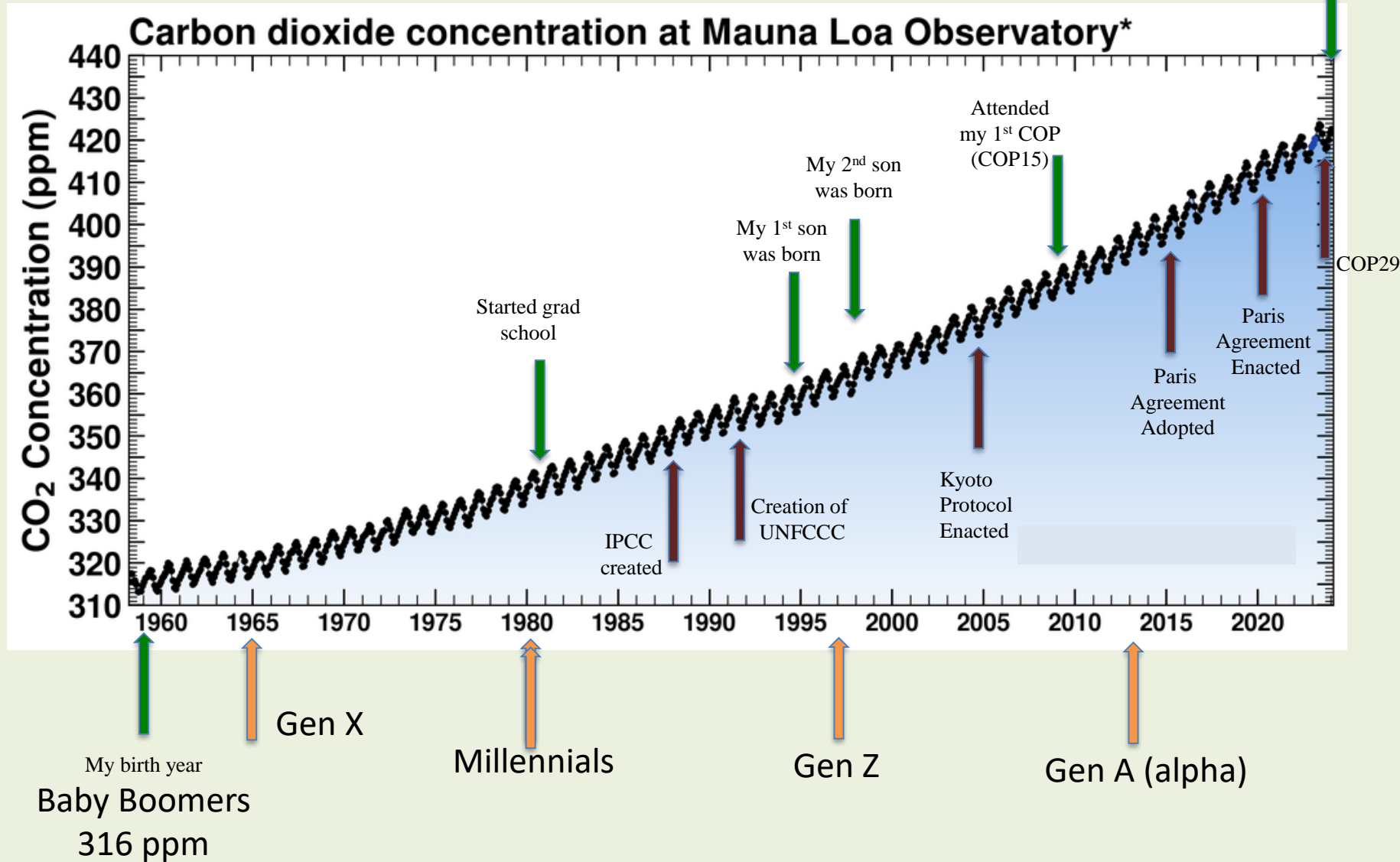
Diane Husic  
St. Lawrence U, USA



Tanvi Oza,  
ClimateWorks, Australia

# The Keeling Curve and Generational Timeline

11 Nov 2024:  
424 ppm



# The climate wrecking ball striking food supply



Ayurella Horn-Muller

Axios.com

The New York Times

## *Climate Change Is Speeding Toward Catastrophe. The Next Decade Is Crucial, U.N. Panel Says.*



By Brad Plumer

Published March 20, 2023 Updated Sept. 13, 2023

## 'Off-the-charts records': has humanity finally broken the climate?

Extreme weather is 'smacking us in the face' with worse to come, but a 'tiny window' of hope remains, say leading climate scientists

● Dramatic climate action needed to curtail 'crazy' extreme weather

by Damian Carrington, Nina Lakhani, Oliver Milman, Adam Morton, Ajit Niranjana and Jonathan Watts

*We live in an era in which **terms like eco-anxiety and climate grief have entered the lexicon**, and the psychological and physical health impacts of this psychological stress are the subject of current research. **Many members of Gen Z and Millennial cohorts not only worry about their own futures but are increasingly reluctant to have children out of fear of the pending impacts of climate change.***

*This evidence should provide sufficient rationale for higher education institutions to have a strong focus on sustainability and to be working with communities to collectively solve problems and build resilience. If not, then campus discussions about student success and wellbeing ring hollow.*

Husic, D. W., Sustainable Earth Reviews 7(5) 2024

Husic Sustainable Earth Reviews (2024) 7:5  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s42055-024-00076-9>

Sustainable Earth Reviews

ANALYSIS

Open Access

## Reframing sustainability initiatives in higher education

Diane White Husic<sup>1\*</sup>

**Abstract**

Amidst the ever-changing and increasingly complex challenges facing the planet and humanity, there is a growing need to educate the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders who are global citizens with sustainability mindsets. Universities have come a long way in developing sustainability programs – both in the curriculum and in terms of campus operations. Many research universities are highly focused on cutting-edge science and technology to address global challenges, and funders are looking for that innovation and entrepreneurialism. These are noteworthy efforts, but do they give students what they need or want? Has the commercialization and corporatization of college campuses led to a shift away from the notion that higher education is a public good that benefits society, not just individuals? Beyond the technical expertise, 21st century challenges demand that the workforce be diverse and capable of recognizing and tackling ethical, cultural, and equity issues for a sustainable and just future. An ethics-driven and interdisciplinary curriculum framed around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), civic engagement, and experiential learning that allows students to put their knowledge into action is needed to prepare individuals for such a workforce. This paper provides both a critique of areas in which higher education is falling short of its responsibilities and some translatable models and opportunities for improvements in reframing sustainability initiatives on campus, including in the curriculum.

**Policy and Practice Recommendations**

- Campus leaders and faculty should take note of surveys of younger generations, especially Gen Z and Gen alpha, as they provide valuable insights into what youth are focused on and what knowledge and set of skills they desire to become innovative problem solvers and builders of more resilient communities.
- To prepare the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders, high impact practices that move knowledge to action are needed.
- Sustainability topics should be incorporated across the curriculum on campuses, not just in certain majors.
- Higher education needs to re-embrace the notion of service to the public good and work collaboratively across institutions and sectors to address complex societal challenges.

**Keywords** Actionable knowledge, Civic engagement, Climate change, Global challenges, Ethics, Experiential learning, Health education, Innovation, Interdisciplinarity, Social entrepreneurship, Sustainability, Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

**Main text**

*At a time when society is faced with tremendous challenges of poverty and growing inequality, global environmental problems, food security, new and emerging diseases, scarcity of resources, and conflict,*

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[husicd@moravian.edu](mailto:husicd@moravian.edu)  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Biological Sciences and Center for Scholarship, Research and Creative Endeavors, Moravian University, 202 Hamilton Hall, 1200 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018, USA

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 **BMC**



## YEAH core faculty:

Dr. Gillian Bowser, Colorado State University (USA)

Dr. Sarah Green, Michigan Technological University (USA)

Dr. Leah Dundon, Vanderbilt University (USA)

Dr. Pamela Templer, Boston University (USA)

Dr. Sarah Hautzinger, Colorado College (USA)

Dr. Susie Ho, Monash University (AUS)


Dr. Mark Urban, University of Connecticut (USA)

Dr. Diane Husic, St. Lawrence University (USA)



Youth Environmental Alliance in  
Higher Education Network

<https://yeah-net.org>



# How can we empower the next generations to build a more sustainable future?

EY and JA Worldwide

**Generational Sustainability Survey 2023**

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24%

Gen Alpha

and

---

17%

Gen Z

are very aware  
or extremely aware of  
global environmental  
practices

**vs.**

---

15% millennial

---

10% Gen X

---

4% baby boomer+

---

Over

80%

Gen Alpha

**and**

---

Over


75%

Gen Z

report that their current (or former)  
education has helped them be more  
sustainable in their own life.


Source: 2023 Generational Sustainability Survey



A thick yellow vertical bar is positioned on the left side of the text box.

**More than 25% of both the younger generations listed schools and teachers as a top source from which they would like to receive more sustainability knowledge.**

Source: 2023 Generational Sustainability Survey



In fact, the survey found  
that only


56%

of Gen Alpha and

45%

of Gen Z were satisfied with  
the sustainability education  
they received in school.

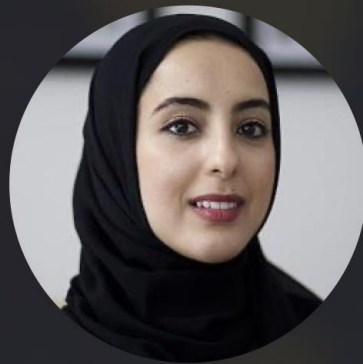
Source: 2023 Generational Sustainability Survey



**Younger generations trust television news more than schools and teachers, begging the question of how education systems can increase their credibility with students as it pertains to sustainability knowledge.**

Source: 2023 Generational Sustainability Survey

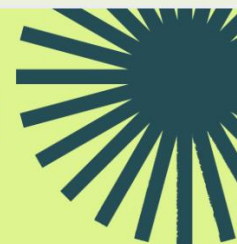
The climate crisis isn't isolated to a singular location, ethnicity or generation. It's an all-encompassing challenge that needs the collective effort of all of humanity to be resolved. The best path forward will be charted by those with a vision to unite us, bringing the best and brightest minds to author a radically hopeful future for our planet.



Her Excellency,  
**Shamma Bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui**  
UAE Minister of Community Development  
and COP28 Youth Climate Champion



# COP29 Side Event: **Youth Capacity-Building at COP29:** **Mobilizing *Intergenerational Partnerships*** through Higher Education



***Audience  
Participation:***

***Your thoughts?  
Questions?***

***Moderator:***



***Tanvi Oza,  
ClimateWorks,  
Australia***





# Thank you!

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<https://sustainableearthreviews.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s42055-024-00076-9>  
(See also entire collection in this series).
- ActNowFilm: Youth Climate Leaders as Agents of Change: <https://www.youtube.com/@actnowfilm3830>