

REGISTERED ATTENDEES

Alan Greenglass Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Climate and Health
Alan Matas Woodlawn Trustees
Alon Abramson Philadelphia Energy Authority
Alyssa Kemp Internal Drexel Folks
Amy Verbofsky DVRPC's Manager of Healthy and Resilient Communities
Andrew Zitcer Internal Drexel Folks
Avani Kavathekar Internal Drexel Folks
Brenda Whitfield Eastwick United
Brian Moore PA Department of Environmental Protection
Carlos Clausell World Wildlife Fund
Carolyn Caton Philly Office of Emergency Management
Chantae' Vinson City of Wilmington
Chitra Kumar Union of Concerned Scientists
Chris DeCardy Heinz Foundation
Chris Linn Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Christana Rosen Temple University
Clem Dinsmore Climate, Energy and Healthcare Policy Advocate
Delfina Vildosola Penn IUR
Diana Nicholas Internal Drexel Folks
Dominic Brennan SEAMAAC
Dora Williams Delaware Concern Residents for Environmental Justice
Dr. Pouné Saberi Philadelphia VAH, Section Chief for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Emergency Management Team
Elizabeth Cerceo, MD, FACP, FHM Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Ellen J. Kohler Water Center at Penn
Erik Leeds PEMA
Fernando Trevino PA Department of Environmental Protection
Gweny Love Mantua Worldwide Community Inc

Jordan Pares Kane City of Philadelphia, Office of Sustainability
Joseph Minott Member of Air Pollution Control Board
Josh Brown Route 9 CDC (New Castle Prevention Coalition) in Delaware
Kasey Cosden Route 9 CDC (New Castle Prevention Coalition) in Delaware
Katherine Baillie Penn Environmental Innovations Initiative
Maria Cabrera Councilwoman
Meghan Mertyr National Low Income Housing Coalition
Melissa Miles New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance
Michael Jackson Nemours Children's Health
Nicolas O'Rourke Councilmember
Nicole Lick EPA Region 3
Noah Palau Philly Office of Emergency Management
Pouné Saberi Veteran Health Administration
Rachel Cleetus Union of Concerned Scientists
Rebecca Piser, RN, MPH Community Engagement and Outreach Manager, PDPH Public Health Preparedness Program
Sabia Afroz SEAMAAC
Salim Ghetts Delaware Emergency Management
Sam Green Green Family Foundation
Samantha Berman ChristianaCare Health System
Sandra Smithers Route 9 CDC (New Castle Prevention Coalition) in Delaware
Skelly Holmbeck WRA of Delaware Basin
Stacey Henry Delaware First Resilience Hub
Stuart Clarke William Penn Foundation
Ted Pickett Eastwick United
Telyse Masaoay Chief of Staff, Philadelphia City Councilmember O'Rourke
Usha Sankar Internal Drexel Folks
Willie Patrick City of Wilmington

2025 Mid-Atlantic Regional Convening

INCREASINGLY SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

CONVENING REPORT

The ultimate vision of this effort is to create an ongoing framework for identifying and advancing actions that will enhance community resilience to climate extremes. Based on this convening, a forthcoming report, Regional Community-Level Climate-Related Severe Weather Preparedness and Recovery, will serve to guide future initiatives, ensuring that vulnerable communities are equipped to not only survive but also thrive in the face of escalating climate impacts. Proposed key areas of focus include assessing local resource adequacy, institutional capacity, and the compounding impacts of disparities, as well as addressing gaps in recovery funding. Through continued cross-sector collaboration, policy recommendations, and resource guides, the report will provide a strategic roadmap for improved community level emergency preparedness and recovery. Ongoing efforts, including a consultation with America Is All In network and presentation at NYC Climate Week, will ensure sustained progress in building community resilience to climate extremes.



THE ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATORY



TEC WEBSITE

The Environmental Collaboratory facilitates the co-creation and implementation of climate justice centered solutions and best practices with the leadership of community partners in the Philadelphia region. We do this through a rigorous process based in trust with the community and by fostering co-learning of these solutions nationally and globally. We are centrally positioned in the Office of the Provost to facilitate expertise across Drexel University.

AGENDA

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Arrivals
12:00 PM - 12:15 PM	Welcome and Orientation
12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	C-Change Conversations: <i>Climate Change Risks</i>
12:45 PM - 1:15 PM	Union of Concerned Scientists: <i>Disaster Experience on the Ground</i>
1:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Q&A Discussion
1:30 PM - 2:15 PM	Panel Conversation
2:15 PM - 2:45 PM	Facilitated Discussion
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM	Working Group Session
3:45 PM - 4:30 PM	Report Out
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Concluding Thoughts

PRESENTERS

Brian Moore



Brian Moore has been with the Department of Environmental Protection since 2005 and has worked with their Waste Management and Emergency Response programs. He is currently the Director of Environmental Emergency Response for the agency and is responsible for directing six regional emergency response teams, coordinating the emergency roles of the various DEP programs, representing Pennsylvania on the Regional Response Team 3 and being the Lead Agency Representative to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for major emergencies and natural disasters.

Chitra Kumar



Chitra Kumar is the managing director of the Climate & Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. In her role, she provides leadership, strategy, and oversight for the UCS teams working to transform the US energy system into one that is equitable and powered by renewable electricity, and to address climate damages by ensuring polluters pay their fair share of these costs and that people have the tools and resources they need to build healthy, resilient communities.

Dallas Hetherington



In 2017 Dallas retired from a 31-year career that began with National Starch and Chemical Company and ended at AkzoNobel Surface Chemistry, both global specialty chemicals concerns. His career spanned technologies such as adhesives, polymers and food ingredients, customers like PepsiCo, Monsanto and Procter & Gamble, and included nearly 1.5 million miles of travel across four continents. Dallas' passion ultimately became innovation, including the leadership qualities, processes, and training needed for innovation projects impacting hundreds of people in different functions and locations around the world.

Elizabeth Cerceo



Elizabeth Cerceo, MD, FACP, FHM is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of Climate Health at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, Associate Program Director of the Internal Medicine residency, and chair of Physician Engagement and Women in Medicine. She is a board-certified general internist in the Department of Hospital Medicine where she oversees faculty development and research. As the Director of Climate Health, she is responsible for integrating climate health content throughout the four years of medical school, into residency and faculty development.

Erik Leeds

Erik Leeds is employed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) as the Resiliency Officer under the Recovery Directorate. He has been with the agency since December of 2023, however, he has worked as a partner with PEMA since 2018 as the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Agency Representative. Prior to transitioning to PEMA Erik worked full time with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard under FEMA III and NORTHCOM guidance conducting planning, training, and exercises for WMD/CBRN and All Hazards Events from 2016-2023.

Fernando Treviño



Fernando Treviño is DEP's Special Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice. His work focuses on ensuring the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies, regulation, and laws; as well as with respect to the identification of environmental issues that affect the most vulnerable communities.

Mathy Stanislaus



Mathy (Vathanaraj) Stanislaus, Esq., serves as the Vice-Provost and Executive Director of The Environmental Collaboratory (TEC), which facilitates climate justice solutions that links community priorities with expertise of Drexel University, and other partners regionally, nationally and internationally. As Assistant Administration of USEPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management during Obama Administration, he led the development of the country first plan to address the increased severity and frequency of weather events due to climate change.

Rachel Cleetus



Dr. Rachel Cleetus is the policy director for the Climate and Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. She leads the program's efforts in designing and advocating for robust, just, and equitable policies to address climate change. Dr. Cleetus is an expert in climate resilience and clean energy policies, with over twenty years of experience. She also does research on the risks and costs of climate impacts to people and the economy, and transformative pathways to a clean energy transition.

Rebecca Piser



Rebecca Piser is a nurse and the Community Engagement and Outreach Manager for the Public Health Preparedness Program with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. She manages the Outreach Unit, which is responsible for helping communities prepare for and respond to routine and emerging public health emergencies such as extreme heat, severe storms, infectious disease outbreaks and more. The Outreach Unit conducts information desks, targeted trainings, door to door canvassing, tailored material development and digital engagement, and uses an evidence-based approach to focus on the communities most at risk of negative outcomes following a public health emergency.