

**ADVANCING CLIMATE JUSTICE:
TRANSFORMING THE ECONOMY, PUBLIC HEALTH
& OUR ENVIRONMENT**



**January 29th – 30th, 2009
Fordham University
School of Law
33 West 60th Street
New York, NY**



Photo Illustration Courtesy of GREENSTREET'S Building

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WE ACT for Environmental Justice is committed to educating and engaging student participants, advocates and activists through its 20th Anniversary Conference *Advancing Climate Justice: Transforming the Economic, Public Health & Our Environment* to be held at Fordham University School of Law on January 29 – 30, 2009.

We could use the help of students in college and graduate school to:

- **Recruit student volunteers** to help during the Conference. Volunteers would be used for registration, coat check, information tables, conference blogging, and running other media outlets such as podcasting and webinar.
- **Outreach** to student groups and individuals to increase conference participation.
- **Serve as Homestay Hosts** for student conference participants from outside the New York metro region.
- **Post Conference flyers** and information around school buildings and campuses.

As a Conference Student Volunteer, you will:

- Receive a Conference Registration Scholarship.
- Have the opportunity to meet conference keynote speakers and panelist during a special evening reception.
- Receive special thanks during conference programming.
- Meet other student and professional advocates and activists from around the country.

Please contact the Conference Co-Chair Ogonnaya Dotson-Newman for further information on student activities and involvement opportunities. She can be reached at (212) 961-1000, extension 315 or by e-mail at ogonnaya@weact.org.

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY

January 29, 2009

8:00 AM	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00	Welcome Address
9:15 – 9:30	Opening Climate Crisis Vignettes
9:45 – 11:00	Plenary Session Climate Justice: Framing the Climate Crisis
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary Session Climate Justice Advocacy in Light of the Climate Crisis
12:00 PM	<i>LUNCH</i>
1:15 – 2:30	Workshop Sessions: Climate Justice and Public Health <i>5 Unique Workshops Examining the Public Health Impacts of Climate Change and the Need to Incorporate a Climate Justice Perspective Into Public Health Advocacy</i>
2:45 – 4:00	Workshop Sessions: The Economics of Climate Justice <i>5 Unique Workshops Examining the Impacts of Climate Change on the Economy and the Economic Opportunities that Climate Justice is Advancing</i>
4:15 – 5:00	Closing Plenary

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Dona Auditorium

FRIDAY

January 30, 2009

	Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome Address
9:45 – 10:45	Plenary Session Climate Justice Advocacy: Translating What We Know About Climate Change Into Action
10:45 – 11:00	<i>BREAK</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary Session The Politics of Climate Change: Achieving Federal Climate Justice Policies
12:00 – 1:00 PM	<i>LUNCH</i>
1:15 – 2:30	Workshops Sessions: Climate Justice Opportunities <i>6 Unique Workshops examining the Politics of Climate Justice, including local policy initiatives and advocacy pathways for climate justice through policy, and Climate Justice Adaptation and Opportunities, looking at needs and opportunities for change created in environmental justice communities by climate change</i>
2:45 – 4:00	Workshops: Advocating for Climate Justice <i>6 Workshops providing the opportunity for participants to mobilize through their communities and create concrete action plans and policy goals to achieve climate justice</i>
4:15 – 5:45	Closing Plenary: Climate Justice: Art as Activism

THURSDAY

AGENDA

Jan. 29, 2009

Plenary Sessions: Pope Auditorium

WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARIES

8:00 AM

Registration and Continental Breakfast
Welcome Address

9:00 – 9:10

Opening: Climate Crisis Vignettes

9:15 – 9:30

*Residents facing local impacts and environmental crises created by or based in climate change will discuss those impacts and how they have affected their lives and communities***Plenary Session #1: Climate Justice: Framing the Climate Crisis**

9:45 – 11:00

*Looking at climate change from a climate justice perspective, speakers will discuss the scope of climate change including its domestic and local impacts***Plenary Session #2: Climate Justice Advocacy in Light of the Climate Crisis**

11:00 – 12:00

*In light of the efforts advancing climate change policy and advocacy internationally, speakers will consider how scientists, economists, academics, activists and others can come together domestically to advocate for climate justice policies***Workshop Sessions: Climate Justice and Public Health**

1:15 – 2:30 PM

Achieving Climate Justice: Climate Change and Public Health*Looking at the public health impacts of climate change, speakers will examine the adaptation opportunities available to protect vulnerable populations from current and future impacts associated with climate change***Climate Justice & Public Health: Increased Public Health Impacts in Vulnerable Areas***Focusing on environmental justice communities, speakers will discuss the increased vulnerability to heat, infectious diseases and air pollution created by climate change***Climate Justice & Public Health: Food Justice and Climate Change***The emerging food justice movement presents an opportunity for the advancement of environmental justice communities. Speakers will discuss this as well as the global ecology of climate change, the changing food economy and the impacts of climate change on access to and availability of food.***Climate Justice & Public Health: Green Chemistry and Sustainability***Green chemistry is an essential pillar to our transition to a clean, green economy. Speakers will examine the wide range of areas that green chemistry impacts, including sustainable building, energy and green jobs***Climate Justice & Public Health: Gender and Climate Justice***Just as climate change will have disparate impacts on different communities, the impacts of climate change in areas around the country are demonstrating the different impacts that climate change has on gender. Panelists will discuss impacts of climate change from a gendered perspective and examine opportunities for increased equity and justice for impacted gender communities.*

THURSDAY

AGENDA

Jan. 29, 2009

Workshops Sessions: The Economics of Climate Justice

2:45 – 4:00 PM

Achieving Climate Justice: The Economics of Climate Change

Looking broadly at the disparate economic impacts of climate change and the opportunities for economic growth and advancement created by climate change, panelists will lay the groundwork for an understanding of the Economics of Climate Change

The Economics of Climate Justice: Needs and Opportunities for Transportation Equity

Speakers will consider the opportunity for increased transportation equity in a climate-changed future. Topics covered will include transportation as an economic right, transportation access needs of environmental justice communities, and transportation policy opportunities available to prepare for and mitigate against climate change impacts

The Economics of Climate Justice: Energy Use and Dependence

As the impacts of climate change become clear and communities move toward addressing and limiting future climate change, energy use, dependability and source opportunities are a critical component of any conversation. Panelists will examine both how climate change impacts energy options and what choices need to be made to enable a swift, just transition to a clean, reliable, safe, and just energy future

The Economics of Climate Justice: Sustainable (re)Development & Economic Growth

While economic growth is already impacted by climate change, it also represents an opportunity for communities to take advantage of the green sector. Panelists will consider the links between climate change and sustainable development or redevelopment in vulnerable communities and what opportunities exist for businesses, communities and workers to advance the Climate Justice Movement

The Economics of Climate Justice: Sustainability and Just Transitions

As actors working to advance sustainability through projects and initiatives, panelists will engage in a dialogue on how to incorporate an environmental justice framework into sustainability efforts and how those efforts advance climate justice

Closing Plenary

4:15 – 5:00

Achieving Climate Justice: Conversations about Climate Justice

Following the model set by the climate crisis vignettes, individual climate advocates will provide brief insights into how climate change has impacted their communities and how they have worked to achieve climate justice in response to these impacts.

5:15 – 6:30

Conference Reception

FRIDAY

AGENDA

Jan. 29, 2009

Plenary Sessions: Pope Auditorium

WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARIES

8:00 AM
9:00 – 9:30
9:45 – 10:45

Registration and Continental Breakfast
Welcome Address

Plenary Session #1: Climate Justice Advocacy: Translating What We Know about Climate Change Into Action
In light of the economic and public health impacts of climate change, policy solutions must protect current and future populations – particularly the most vulnerable communities. Panelists from the Climate Justice Movement will consider the opportunities for a broad range of advocacy around climate justice and the efforts that are occurring nationally and internationally to demand justice in climate change policies.

10:45 – 11:00

BREAK

11:00 – 12:00

Plenary Session #2: The Politics of Climate Change: Achieving Federal Climate Justice Policies

Policymakers and advocates working to advance national climate justice policies will discuss current federal climate change proposals, whether those policies incorporate the Climate Justice Principles, and the potential impact of federal climate change policy on environmental justice communities

12:00 – 1:00

LUNCH**Workshop Sessions: Climate Justice Opportunities**

1:15 – 2:30 PM

The Politics of Climate Change: Local Climate Policies and Initiatives

While climate change policies are being discussed at the federal level, they have already been implemented in localities throughout the country. The implementation of local policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change creates an opportunity for the climate justice advocacy. Panelists will discuss the climate change initiatives their localities have implemented and the inclusion of climate justice within these policies

The Politics of Climate Change: Evaluating Climate Change Policies

As governments move forward aggressively with implementing policies to address climate change, debate continues about effective and just climate change policies. Panelists will discuss the range of climate change policies that have been set forth, the perceived and experienced outcomes of these policies and the justice position of each policy

The Politics of Climate Change: Achieving Sustainability through Government Programs, Regulations and Legal Action

Traditional tools of advocacy including regulation and litigation are influencing the politics of climate change. Looking at these tools, panelists will assess the opportunities for the advancement of climate justice in government agencies, programs and the legal arena

FRIDAY

AGENDA

Jan. 29, 2009

Workshop Sessions: Climate Justice Opportunities (cont.)

1:15 – 2:30 PM

Climate Justice Adaptation: Public Health and Emergency Preparedness

Looking at the whole system of emergency preparedness, panelists will consider the ability of local health departments to meet the needs of vulnerable populations and the impact of climate change on the urgency of these needs and the severity of the potential impacts

Climate Justice Adaptation: Community and Individual Response Opportunities

As public awareness about climate change and climate justice grows, communities are seeking opportunities to educate residents on individual responses they can take to adapt to and mitigate climate change. Panelists will examine what people can do in their homes, schools, workplaces and communities to address climate change and the advocacy opportunities that are available to increase awareness of these individual community responses

Climate Justice Opportunities: Green Jobs and a Climate Changed Workforce

An essential pillar of the Climate Justice Movement is taking advantage of the opportunities created by climate change and the global shift toward sustainable to create clean, green, safe jobs and funnel those jobs toward traditionally under- and unemployed communities. Panelists will examine who has been involved in the policy groundwork structuring the green job workforce and what are the opportunities and necessary steps to ensure that climate justice is included in the green job economy.

Workshop Sessions: Advocating for Climate Justice

2:45 – 4:00 PM

Facilitators will work to bring together dynamic group brainstorming sessions that examine opportunities for climate justice advocacy among communities and create policy deliverables and long-term advocacy networks

Climate Justice and the Campus

Climate Justice and Houses of Worship

Climate Justice and Local Communities

Climate Justice and Business

Climate Justice, Government Actors and Legal Tools

Climate Justice and Academic Advocacy

Climate Justice and the Environmental Justice Movement:

The Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change

4:15 – 5:30

Closing Plenary

Climate Justice: Art as Activism