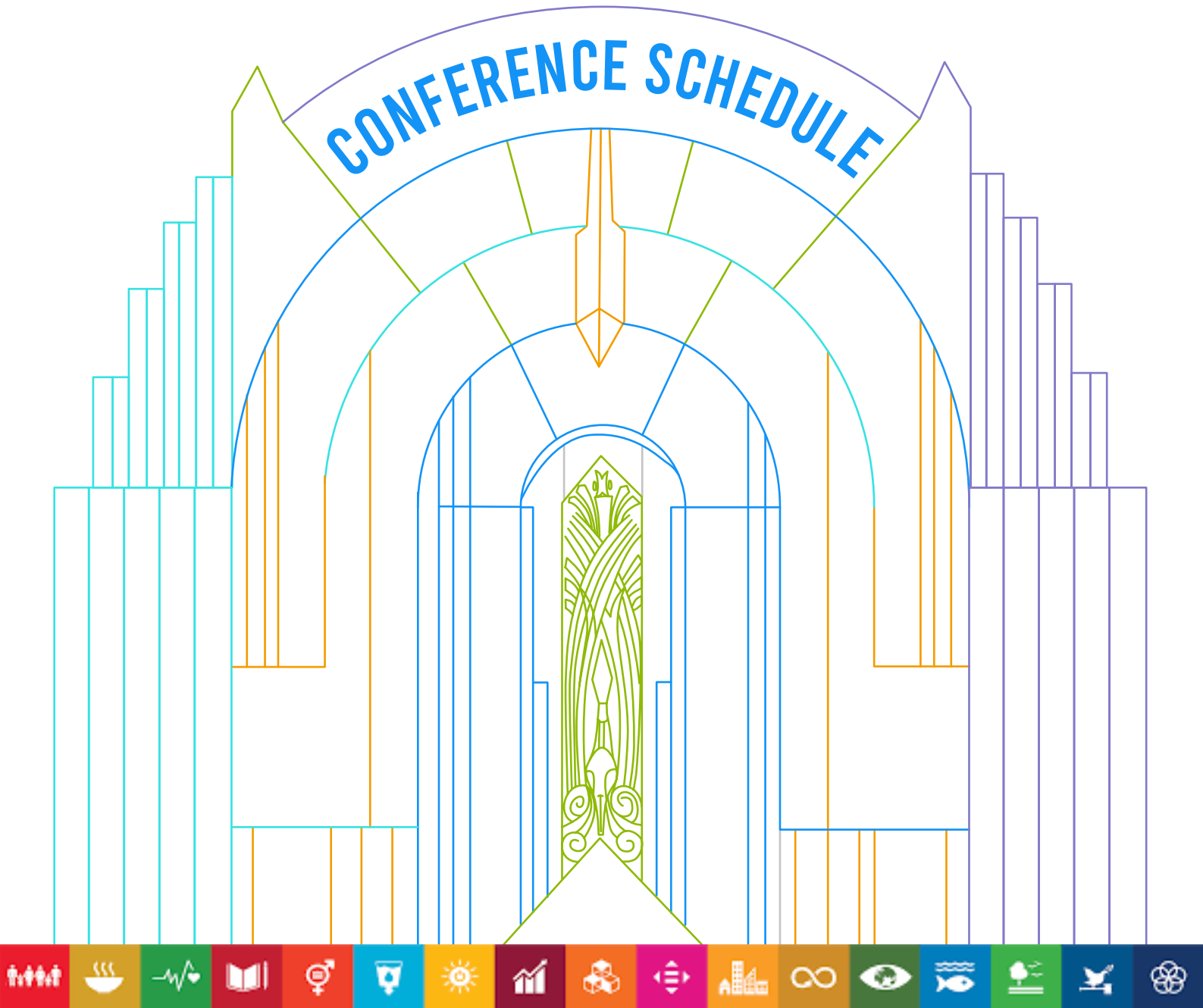


9TH NYC GREEN SCHOOL CONFERENCE-2025

23-24 September, 2025 New York



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



An event by



GREEN MENTORS

Powered by Law of Nature

Special Consultative Status with the
Economic and Social Council of United Nations from 2021

An official event of

**CLIMATE
WEEK** **NYC**

CLIMATE GROUP

Brief Introduction

The **9th NYC Green School Conference 2025** stands as a landmark gathering in global education diplomacy, where sustainability, equity, and innovation converge.

This global event is **an official event of Climate Week NYC**, organized in parallel with the **80th United Nations General Assembly**, and **convened in partnership with leading international institutions**, including **UNESCO-IESALC, UN SDSN, Columbia University's Climate School, University of Colorado Boulder, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet**, the **SDG Academy, Public Trust for Land, Green Film School Alliance, Takeda Pharmaceuticals**, the **National Extension Climate Initiative**, and **HESI of UN DESA**.

Held in the heart of New York City during a moment of global policymaking, the conference brings together over 300 high-level participants including ministers, university presidents, UN officials, youth leaders, and climate innovators.

Over two days and more than 20 sessions, the event aims to accelerate the integration of sustainability across all levels of education—from K–12 to universities—while empowering the next generation of learners to become climate-conscious changemakers.

The 9th NYC Green School Conference 2025 marks a defining moment in global education diplomacy, where sustainability, equity, and innovation converge. Held on September 23–24 in New York City, during the high-level United Nations General Assembly week, this flagship event convenes over 100 global education leaders, climate experts, government officials, youth advocates, and green innovators.

This year's theme, “**Greening Education for Pupils, Planet, and Prosperity**,” reflects the urgency to realign education with the planet's needs. The two-day conference, organized by **Green Mentors** with consultative status at ECOSOC, features 20+ sessions, including keynote addresses, high-level dialogues, interactive panels, and youth-led conversations—all designed to accelerate the integration of climate consciousness into education systems worldwide.

OPENING PLANERY

Setting the Tone for Climate-Conscious Education

The conference began with a moving performance, “**Voice of the Planet**,” presented by the **Samarthanam Sisters**—Vasundhara Ratruri and Anusha Manjunath—two visually impaired artists whose voices inspired hope and resilience. This was followed by the **Welcome Address** from **Dr. Virendra Rawat**, Founder of Green Mentors, who reminded delegates that education is not just a tool—but a climate solution.

The **Opening Plenary** featured global visionaries like **Mr. Satya S. Tripathi** (Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet), **Prof. Patrick Paul Walsh** (SDSN), **Dr. Radhika Iyengar** (Columbia University), and **Assemblywoman Emérita Torres**, among others.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Presented by the **Vice Chancellor for Sustainability at the University of Colorado Boulder**, and **former Federal Chief Sustainability Officer under the Biden Administration**, this keynote offers a forward-looking strategy for integrating sustainability deeply and systemically into higher education.

Drawing on both national policy experience and academic leadership, the address will explore how institutions can move beyond climate commitments to actual transformation—embedding environmental responsibility across curriculum, governance, operations, and culture. A central focus will be the introduction of the **Sustainability Elective Classification**, a pioneering framework designed to measure and incentivize climate leadership across colleges and universities. Through policy innovation, cross-sectoral collaboration, and data-driven accountability, this initiative marks a new era in how institutions are recognized for their role in shaping a sustainable future.

Session 1: Greening Leadership in Universities

University leaders like **Dr. Alberto José Cardelle** (SUNY), **Amy Thompson** (University of Bath), and **Peter D. Buck** (Penn State) explored how higher education can become a global driver of sustainability through governance, curriculum, and carbon-neutral campuses.

Session 2: Higher Education for Sustainable Futures

Co-hosted by **HESI of UN DESA** and **UNESCO IESALC**, this session focused on the **HESI Partnership Framework**—a powerful global mechanism for embedding SDGs into higher education through training, innovation, and international collaboration.

Session 3: Green Schools – From Local Roots to Global Impact

This dialogue celebrated trailblazing green schools such as **The Green School Bangalore**, **PS 58 Brooklyn**, and **Project Green Schools**—demonstrating how local, culturally rooted sustainability can drive global education reform.

Session 4: Policy Dialogue

With participation from **New York and Massachusetts legislators**, **Columbia University**, and the **Association for Conflict Resolution**, this session advanced bold national frameworks for embedding climate education across governance levels.

Session 5: Math to Music

This interdisciplinary panel brought together innovators like **Dr. Jai Asundi and Viraf Mehta** showing how subjects like math, art, music, and indigenous wisdom can create greener minds and deeper impact.

Session 6: Launching the Sustainability Elective Classification

A historic moment in Higher ed: **University of Colorado Boulder**, **ACE**, and **Carnegie Foundation** launched a new classification system to evaluate and reward universities on sustainability practices in curriculum, leadership, and campus operations.

Session 7: Learning from Landscapes

Trust for Public Land and education leaders from Florida and New York showcased schoolyards and natural landscapes as active learning labs—where climate education moves outdoors.

Session 8: Learning the Ages

In a deeply reflective session, speakers from **SDSN**, **University of Delhi**, and **The Earth Institute, Columbia University** traced education's arc from indigenous knowledge to regenerative classrooms.

Day 2

Session 1: Pupils for the Planet

Youth delegates from Schools and universities, as well as others, voiced their climate stories and projects, proving that youth are not just future leaders—they are today's changemakers.

Session 2: Greening Higher Education in the Global South

Led by **UNESCO IESALC**, this session showcased the **Greening Higher Education Framework**, highlighting youth leadership, regional equity, and South-South cooperation.

Session 3: Climate, Environment, and Health

Co-hosted with **Takeda Pharmaceuticals**, this session united science, public health, and sustainability to confront the interlinked crises of air, water, and climate justice.

Session 4: Advancing SDG Integration

SDSN's Global Schools Program and **SDG Academy** shared best practices for making SDG literacy central to teaching and learning across K-12 and higher education.

Session 5: Greening Campuses

This panel featured environmental innovators from **Unity Environmental University**, **Land Institute**, and **COPE NYC**, revealing how institutions are designing low-carbon campuses and inclusive green communities.

Session 6: Regional Climate Education Initiatives

Cornell University, **Rutgers**, and the **National Extension Climate Initiative** highlighted grassroots climate literacy efforts that scale local innovation to national impact.

Session 7: Papers for the Planet

Emerging scholars will present original research that tackles pollution, green technology, and sustainability—bridging academic inquiry with real-world solutions.

Session 8: A Foot in the Door

Co-hosted with the **Green Film School Alliance**, this panel brought together sustainability leaders from **Warner Bros. Discovery**, **NYU Tisch**, and **Amazon MGM**. The session empowered aspiring filmmakers to enter the entertainment industry through green production pathways and climate storytelling.

Session 9: Wild Wisdom in Action

Featuring conservation storytellers from **Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom** and academic leaders from India, this session explored the power of wildlife storytelling in environmental education.

It highlighted how real-life encounters with nature foster empathy, climate consciousness, and deeper learning, inspiring students to connect with biodiversity and embrace conservation as a shared responsibility.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Special recognitions, including the **Global Green University Award**, **Global Green School Awards**, **Global Green Mentors Awards**, **Global Green Teacher Awards**, **Global Young Climate Leader Awards**, and **Global Green Startup Awards**, were presented by Green Mentors to honor individuals and institutions leading the way in sustainable education, green innovation, and youth advocacy.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ◆ **Greening Education is no longer optional**—it is essential for planetary survival.
- ◆ **Youth leadership is critical** and must be supported through meaningful roles in policy and practice.
- ◆ **Global South voices are central**, not supplementary, to the climate education agenda.
- ◆ **Higher education institutions** are uniquely positioned to bridge policy, practice, and public engagement.
- ◆ **Creativity and culture**, from storytelling to schoolyards, are powerful drivers of climate learning.
- ◆ **Partnerships across sectors**—corporate, academic, and civic—are vital to scaling impact.

The 9th NYC Green School Conference 2025 leaves behind not just a record of bold ideas, but a global network of changemakers ready to act. As climate education continues to evolve, this gathering reaffirms that the future of our planet is being written in classrooms, campuses, and communities today.

08:00 AM – 09:00 AM

Registration

Guests are invited to register at the registration counter

Setting the Tone for Climate-Conscious Education

The conference began with a moving performance, “Voice of the Planet,” presented by the Samarthanam Sisters—Vasundhara Ratruri and Anusha Manjunath—two visually impaired artists whose voices inspired hope and resilience. This was followed by the Welcome Address from Dr. Virendra Rawat, Founder of Green Mentors, who reminded delegates that education is not just a tool—but a climate solution.

Welcome Address

09:00 AM – 09:05 AM



DR. VIRENDRA RAWAT

Founder, Green Mentors
Conference Mentor,
9th NYC Green School Conference

09:05 AM – 09:15 AM

Voice of the Planet



Vasundhara Ratruri

Presented by
Samarthanam Sisters



Anusha Manjunath

A soul-stirring performance by a talented duo of visually impaired artists
inspiring hope and resilience through music

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Opening Plenary

09:15 AM – 10:05 AM

Greening Education for Pupils, Planet, and Prosperity

The Opening Plenary featured global visionaries like Mr. Satya S. Tripathi (Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet), Prof. Patrick Paul Walsh (SDSN), Dr. Radhika Iyengar (Columbia University), and Assemblywoman Eméríta Torres, among others.

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

09:15 AM – 09:25 AM



Mr. Satya S. Tripathi

Secretary-General, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet
Former Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations

09:25 AM – 09:35 AM



Hon. Eméríta Torres

Member,
New York State Assembly
Albany, NY, USA

09:35 AM – 09:45 AM



Mr. Devin Chesney

Executive Director,
Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE), Washington D.C., USA

09:45 AM – 09:55 AM



Prof. Patrick Paul Walsh

Vice President of Education,
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Professor,
University College Dublin, Ireland

09:55 AM – 10:05 AM



Dr. Radhika Iyengar

Director of Education,
The Earth Institute
Columbia University,
New York City

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM



ANDREW MAYOCK

Vice Chancellor for Sustainability,
University of Colorado Boulder
Former Federal Chief Sustainability Officer,
Biden Administration, United States of America

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

From Classification to Transformation

Embedding Climate-Consciousness in Higher Education

As the climate crisis accelerates, the role of higher education in shaping a sustainable future has never been more urgent. Opening Day 1 of the 9th NYC Green School Conference 2025, Andrew Mayock—Vice Chancellor for Sustainability at the University of Colorado Boulder and former Federal Chief Sustainability Officer in the Biden Administration—delivers a visionary keynote titled “From Classification to Transformation: Embedding Climate-Consciousness in Higher Education.”

Drawing from his leadership experience in both government and academia, Mr. Mayock will outline a bold, systemic approach to embedding sustainability across institutional policies, leadership structures, and academic culture. He will introduce the recently launched Sustainability Elective Classification, a groundbreaking initiative that redefines how colleges and universities are recognized for their climate action and accountability.

This keynote will provide a strategic roadmap for institutional transformation—where sustainability is not an add-on, but a core value driving decision-making, research priorities, operations, and student engagement. Mr. Mayock will also emphasize the need for cross-sectoral collaboration between universities, public agencies, and civil society to scale climate solutions and cultivate climate-literate graduates.

As a bridge between federal policy and educational reform, Andrew Mayock’s insights will empower institutions worldwide to move beyond sustainability commitments and into measurable, mission-aligned transformation.

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Greening Leadership in Universities – From Campus Commitment to Global Impact

This session highlights the critical role of leadership in transforming higher education institutions into sustainability champions.

As universities commit to bold climate goals, translating those commitments into action requires visionary governance, integrated curriculum, and operational innovation. Global university leaders will share real-world strategies—from decarbonizing campuses to embedding climate resilience in institutional planning.

The session emphasizes cross-border collaboration, policy alignment, and the importance of student engagement in creating climate-smart universities.

Panelists will demonstrate how academic institutions can lead by example on climate action while nurturing the next generation of planetary stewards.

PANELISTS



Peter D. Buck

Director of Education at Sustain Penn State,
Co-Director of Penn State's Local Climate
Action Program (LCAP) Penn State University,
Pennsylvania, USA



Dr. Janna Goebel

Assistant Professor,
School of Sustainability
Arizona State University, USA



Dr. Alberto José Cardelle

President
State University of
New York (SUNY),
Oneonta, New York, USA



Amy Thompson

Director of Operations
University of Bath,
United Kingdom

Higher Education for Sustainable Futures

Advancing the HESI Partnership Framework

Co-hosted by



This session explores how global partnerships are accelerating SDG implementation in academia.

Panelists will present collaborative models and institutional strategies that embed sustainability, equity, and innovation into university ecosystems. From faculty training to climate policy labs and South-South cooperation, the session offers a strategic roadmap to position higher education as a catalyst for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Attendees will learn how the HESI framework enables shared metrics, mutual accountability, and a united vision for planetary transformation through education.

PANELISTS



Mr. Ola Göransson

Sustainable Development Officer
Department of Economic and
Social Affairs (UN DESA),
United Nations



Bosen Lily Liu

Head, Partnership and
UN Liaison Unit
UNESCO IESALC



Dr. Janna Goebel

Assistant Professor,
School of Sustainability
Arizona State University, USA



Dr. Virendra Rawat

founder Green Mentors

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Green School – From Local Roots to Global Impact

This session celebrates how local sustainability initiatives in schools are shaping global education narratives. Educators and leaders will share how culture-based practices, community engagement, and student activism have turned neighborhood schools into global green exemplars.

The session explores net-zero learning environments, climate-integrated curricula, and place-based education strategies.

With participation from UNESCO, grassroots innovators, and international networks, this discussion illustrates how green schools—regardless of geography—can contribute to system-level transformation.

Participants will leave with replicable models that turn local action into global impact.

PANELISTS



Robin Sidman, M.Ed.
Founder & Executive Director
Project Green Schools,
Boston, USA



Shana Gallagher
Head of Net Zero Engagement
British Standards Institution,
London, United Kingdom



Adelina Tripoli
Principal
PS 58, Brooklyn,
New York, USA



Usha Iyer
Director and Principal
The Green School,
Bangalore, India

DAY 1- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Policy Dialogue – Advancing National Frameworks for Green Education

As the urgency of the climate crisis intensifies, systemic educational reform becomes a necessity. This high-level policy dialogue brings together government officials, regulatory experts, and institutional leaders to chart the path for national green education frameworks. Panelists will examine how legislative action, inter-ministerial coordination, and accountability systems can embed climate literacy into national curricula and school standards. The session also explores how policy innovation can align education systems with national climate goals. Attendees will gain strategic insight into influencing education policy to make sustainability the new standard.

PANELISTS



Hon. Emérita Torres
Member,
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York, USA



Tram Nguyen
State Representative
Massachusetts House of Representatives;
Chair, House Committee on
Climate Action & Sustainability



Dr. Radhika Iyengar
Director of Education,
The Earth Institute
Columbia University,
New York City



Nick Pozek
President
Association for
Conflict Resolution,
Greater New York

DAY 1- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

LUNCH BREAK

01:30 PM – 02:30 PM

Math to Music – The Art and Science of Greening the Curriculum

This interdisciplinary session demonstrates how every subject—from mathematics to the arts—can become a channel for sustainability education. Panelists will explore creative pedagogies, indigenous wisdom, and STEAM approaches that inspire climate-conscious learning across grade levels.

Educators and experts will share how blending scientific accuracy with artistic expression deepens student understanding of ecological interdependence.

This session emphasizes inclusivity, imagination, and emotional intelligence as essential tools in building sustainable mindsets. It encourages educators to reimagine curricula as vibrant ecosystems for cultivating green thinkers.

PANELISTS



Dr. Jai Asundi
Executive Director
Center for Study of Science,
Technology and
Policy (CSTEP), Bangalore, India



Viraf Mehta,
Teacher,
The Browning School,
New York, USA



Dr. Alexandra Okada
Senior Researcher
The Open University,
United Kingdom



Dr. Jennifer Brandon
Sustainability Consultant &
Climate Impact Advisor
Microplastics Scientist &
Science Communicator,
California, USA

Launching the Sustainability Elective Classification for Higher Education

Co-hosted by



University of Colorado
Boulder

This groundbreaking session unveils the **Sustainability Elective Classification**, a bold new initiative co-developed by academic and policy leaders to evaluate and accelerate sustainability in universities.

Panelists will explain how this framework measures impact across curriculum design, campus operations, student life, and community engagement.

The classification serves as both a benchmarking tool and a catalyst for institutional change, offering universities the opportunity to be recognized for their leadership in climate-conscious education.

Participants will gain first access to this transformative tool and learn how to implement it within their institutions.

PANELISTS



Andrew Mayock
Vice Chancellor for Sustainability,
University of Colorado Boulder
Former Federal Chief Sustainability Officer,
Biden Administration, United States of America



Cara Carmichael
Associate Vice Chancellor
for Sustainability University of
Colorado Boulder, CO, USA



Mushtaq Gunja
Senior Vice President
American Council on Education,
Washington DC, USA



Diego Arambula
Vice President for Education
Transformation Carnegie
Foundation for the Advancement
of Teaching, Stanford, California

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Learning from Landscapes
Inspiring Stories of Experiential Education in Action

Co-hosted by



This hands-on session explores how outdoor environments—schoolyards, parks, and natural ecosystems—are being reimagined as powerful learning spaces.

Speakers will showcase how educators are using gardens, green infrastructure, and public spaces to teach environmental stewardship, well-being, and place-based science.

Through compelling case studies and practical models, the panel emphasizes the value of sensory learning, accessibility, and equity in experiential education.

Attendees will discover how learning beyond the classroom not only improves academic outcomes but fosters deeper, lifelong connections with nature and sustainability.

PANELISTS



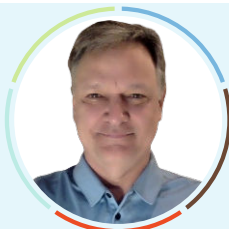
Danielle Denk
Senior Director, Schoolyards Initiative
Trust for Public Land, Philadelphia, USA



Mary Alice Lee
Director
Trust for Public Land
Philadelphia, USA



Taj Schottland
Associate Director, Climate
Land and People Lab
Trust for Public Land



Don Lamison
Director
Urban Green Education,
Florida, USA

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Learning the Ages – From the First Societies to Green Classrooms

Co-hosted by



This reflective session traces the historical arc of human learning—from ancient oral traditions and indigenous wisdom to regenerative classrooms of the present.

Panelists will explore how intergenerational knowledge and cultural heritage can guide modern sustainability education. With diverse perspectives from across the globe, this session connects past to future, showing how rooted, ancestral worldviews can inform innovative practices for today's classrooms.

It offers a compelling vision of education that is timeless, inclusive, and deeply connected to both people and planet.

PANELISTS



Haein Shin
Education Adviser
Columbia University,
New York, USA



Prof. Poonam Kumria
Principal, Indraprastha
College for Women
University of Delhi, Delhi, India



AMY HARVEY
Senior Lecturer
Bermuda College
Paget, Bermuda



Katja Anger-Delimi
UN Sustainable Development
Solutions Network (SDSN),
New York, USA

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Pupils for the Planet: Youth-Led Dialogue on Greening Education

In this inspiring and action-driven youth-led session, students from across the globe unite to share their visions, voices, and initiatives for transforming education through sustainability and climate consciousness. Representing diverse geographies and disciplines, these young changemakers will present their lived experiences, innovative projects, and bold ideas for integrating environmental action into school culture, curriculum, and community life.

As emerging leaders of a climate-smart generation, the panelists will explore how youth agency can drive systemic change in education—from local classrooms to global policy forums. This session will showcase the creativity, courage, and commitment of students who are not waiting for change but actively creating it.

Mei Lamison
Writer & Teaching Artist,
New York University

Poorvika Singh Negi
Research Scholar,
Ministry of Education,
Government of India

Ms. Ananya Smit Joshi
Student
University of Illinois Chicago
United States of America

Sophia Yuan (GA)
Outreach Coordinator
Project Green School

Madhavibala Mohanakrishnan
Policy Coordinator
Project Green School

Inspiring Green Stories from the Green Champions of
Navrachana International School, Vadodara, India

This uplifting session features powerful stories of climate action from the student changemakers of Navrachana International School, Vadodara, India—young leaders who are turning environmental challenges into hands-on learning and community transformation.

With a strong foundation in sustainability education, these students have led impactful projects that demonstrate innovation, empathy, and deep ecological awareness. Their initiatives reflect a whole-school approach to sustainability, integrating green thinking across subjects, spaces, and student life featuring.

- ◆ Green Spaces and School Gardening

◆ Climate Change and Awareness Campaign

◆ Waste Reduction and Recycling

◆ Earth to Earth: Growing, Recycling
- ◆ Water Conservation and Management

◆ Reduce Carbon Footprint

◆ Composting & Tree Plantation Drive

◆ Blue Future: Water – Treat, Research, Conserve

Each story reflects the power of student voice and leadership in creating positive environmental change—from conserving precious water resources to building greener school grounds, and from raising climate awareness to rethinking waste.

This session is a testament to how education rooted in action can empower young people to not only learn about sustainability—but live it.

Greening Higher Education

Youth Leadership, Global South Action, and Strategic Partnerships for a Climate-Resilient Future

Co-hosted by

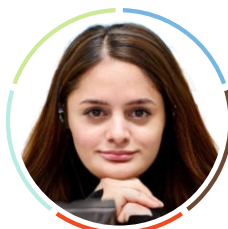


Higher education has a pivotal role to play as a catalyst for systemic change in the face of global challenges. Anchored in UNESCO IESALC's Greening Higher Education Framework, which covers teacher training and curriculum, science and innovation, jobs and skills, and institutions, this session will explore how universities can drive climate resilience and sustainable development, particularly across the Global South.

Bringing together educators, institutional leaders, youth and students, the panel will highlight the agency of youth and students, the leadership of the Global South as equal partners, and the importance of multi stakeholder, South South and triangular cooperation.

Grounded in inclusive policies, innovative curricula and collaborative platforms, the discussion will demonstrate how higher education can nurture planetary citizenship and position youth and students as central actors of change.

Moderator



Eliane El Haber
Project Officer, **UNESCO IESALC**

PANELISTS



Bosen Lily Liu
Head, Partnership and
Agenda-Setting Unit
UNESCO IESALC



Dr. Virendra Rawat
founder Green Mentors



Christina Williams

Young Changemaker
& Thought Leader



Ghazala M. Syed

Former Higher Education Expert



Dr. Meredith Storey

Senior Manager PRME
UN Global Compact



Temilade Salami

Executive Director
EcoChampions

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Climate, Environment, and Health – A Triple Nexus for Education

Co-hosted by



This session explores the critical intersection of climate change, environmental degradation, and public health.

Panelists—including healthcare professionals, climate scientists, and educators—will discuss how air quality, heatwaves, and disease patterns affect learning environments and community well-being.

With a focus on curriculum design and cross-sectoral partnerships, the session emphasizes the need to prepare students not only to adapt to climate-related health risks but also to lead innovations in planetary health.

Attendees will leave with actionable models for integrating climate-health literacy into K–12 and university education.

PANELISTS



Robin Sidman, M.Ed.
Founder & Executive Director
Project Green Schools,
Boston, USA



Johanna Jobin
Global Head of Environment
and Sustainability
Takeda, Boston, Massachusetts



Jennifer Macedonia
Board Advisor
Project Green Schools



Bob Perciasepe
Senior Advisor
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES),
Virginia, USA Former Deputy Administrator,
US EPA

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Advancing SDG Integration in Teaching, Learning & Assessment

Led by experts from the

SDGacademy



this session explores how to make the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) an integral part of pedagogy and assessment.

Through teacher training, school certifications, and curriculum-aligned tools, panelists showcase scalable models that help schools incorporate SDG literacy across all subjects.

The session emphasizes localization, participatory learning, and digital innovation as keys to making the 2030 Agenda accessible for all learners. Participants will gain practical frameworks to embed SDGs meaningfully across disciplines, age groups, and assessment systems.

PANELISTS



Amanda Abrom

Director,
Global Schools Program
SDSN, New York City



Helen Perham

Communications Coordinator
SDG Academy, New York, USA



Mei Lamison

Writer & Teaching Artist
New York University,
New York, USA



Paul Johnston

Founder –
Governance For Good,
London, UK

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Greening Campuses – Sustainable Infrastructure for Inclusive Education

In this session, environmental architects, university leaders, and sustainability officers share bold approaches to rethinking the physical and operational footprint of education institutions.

From **Unity Environmental University** to **Land Institute** and **COPE NYC**, speakers will present projects that center sustainability in infrastructure—from net-zero buildings and renewable energy to inclusive design that supports well-being.

The session highlights the role of physical spaces in shaping climate-literate citizens and how operational transformation can reinforce curriculum goals.

Attendees will gain exposure to global best practices in designing resilient, regenerative learning environments.

PANELISTS



Dr. Melik Peter Khoury,
President and CEO
Unity Environmental University,
New Gloucester, Maine, USA



Hina West
Managing Director,
Climate Strategies,
London, UK



Vida Sabbaghi
Director
COPE NYC & The IW Gallery,
New York, USA



Aubrey Streit Krug
Director of the Perennial
Cultures Lab
The Land Institute, Salina ,KS, USA

Regional Climate Education Initiatives – Lessons from State-Level Innovation

Featuring leading institutions like **Cornell University**, **Rutgers**, and the **National Extension Climate Initiative**, this session demonstrates how regional collaborations can amplify climate education.

Panelists will share tools, teacher networks, and outreach strategies that embed sustainability into classrooms, farms, and communities.

With a focus on state-level action, the session explores how universities can serve as local climate hubs—linking education, research, and citizen engagement.

Attendees will explore models for scaling impact from the ground up, reinforcing the role of regional ecosystems in achieving national and global climate goals.

PANELISTS



David Kay
Chair, National Extension Climate Initiative
Senior Extension Associate,
Department of Global Development,
CALS, Cornell University, NY, USA



Marissa Staffen
Associate Professor –
County Extension
Rutgers University,
New Jersey, USA



James Shope, PhD
Assistant Extension Specialist in
Climate Services
Rutgers University,
New Jersey, USA

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

LUNCH BREAK

01:15 PM – 02:00 PM

Papers for the Planet – Youth Research and Innovation for a Sustainable Future

This academic session highlights the power of student-led research and innovation in shaping sustainable solutions for the planet. As climate challenges grow more urgent, the contributions of young scholars and educators are becoming increasingly essential—not just in theory, but in real-world applications that drive change at local and global levels.

“Papers for the Planet” showcases original research projects and scholarly presentations from emerging voices committed to environmental resilience and climate-conscious innovation. Through the lens of academic inquiry, this session explores diverse sustainability themes—ranging from clean energy and waste management to climate education, green technology, and eco-friendly urban solutions.



Dr. Jinal Joshi

Director, International Relations, Kadi Sarva
Vishwavidyalaya Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

PAPER PRESENTER

Parth Harishkumar Patel

Assistant Professor
LDRP Institute of Technology and Research
Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya
Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

Krutikaben Vijaybhai Patel

Undergraduate Student
LDRP Institute of Technology and Research
Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya
Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

Nancy Rajesh Patel

Undergraduate Student
LDRP Institute of Technology & Research
Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya
Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

This session elevates research as a powerful instrument of planetary progress, offering a platform where student voices become catalysts for practical, evidence-based solutions to global environmental issues.

A Foot in the Door – Sustainable Careers in Entertainment

Co-hosted with the



This panel highlights how green practices in the film industry are opening new career pathways for sustainability-minded creatives.

Featuring leaders from **Warner Bros. Discovery**, **NYU Tisch**, and **Amazon MGM**, the session showcases how climate-conscious production—from carbon tracking to waste diversion—is becoming a professional asset.

The panel also explores how storytelling itself can drive climate action, and how students trained in green filmmaking are poised to lead in an evolving entertainment landscape.

Attendees will learn how art and impact can intersect meaningfully in their careers.

PANELISTS



Harry Winer
Director of Sustainability
Kanbar Institute of Film and
Television, New York University



Heidi Kindberg
Vice President, Sustainability
Warner Bros. Discovery
(HBO/MAX),
Los Angeles, California, USA



Raef Tanner
Filmmaker, HBO and
Amazon MGM Productions,
New York



Rohan Dua
Executive Editor and Director
The New Indian

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Wild Wisdom in Action – Experiential Learning Through Wildlife Storytelling

Featuring iconic conservationists from **Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom** and global education leaders, this session explores the emotional power of wildlife storytelling in building environmental empathy.

Speakers include **Peter Gros**, **Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant**, and **Dr. Jinal Joshi**, who share how real-life encounters with biodiversity spark climate consciousness in learners.

The session emphasizes storytelling, observation, and empathy as key components of experiential learning, showing how media and personal narratives can connect students deeply with the planet.

Attendees will leave with tools to integrate wildlife education into curriculum in meaningful, imaginative ways.

PANELISTS



Peter Gros

Veteran Wildlife Expert
Host, Mutual of Omaha's
Wild Kingdom
Omaha, Nebraska, USA



Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant

Wildlife Ecologist
Co-Host, Mutual of Omaha's
Wild Kingdom
United States



Cmde S. R. Sridhar (Retd.)

Registrar
IIIT-Bangalore
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

04:00 PM -6.00 PM

GLOBAL GREEN AWARD CEREMONY

Celebrating Climate-Conscious Education Leadership for a Sustainable Future

At the heart of the 9th NYC Green School Conference 2025 lies the Global Green Awards Ceremony—a prestigious recognition of individuals and institutions leading the charge in reimagining education for a climate-resilient and sustainable world.

This high-impact event honors pioneering efforts that align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially those advancing climate action, environmental stewardship, and sustainability in education. From transforming curricula and operations to catalyzing innovation and empowering youth leadership, each award celebrates a remarkable contribution to the global greening education movement.

The following awards will be presented to distinguished changemakers and institutions:

Patron of the Planet Award – Honoring exceptional lifetime contribution to planetary well-being

Green Leadership Award 2025 – Recognizing transformative leadership in sustainable education governance

- ◆ Global Green Policy Maker Award 2025- Celebrating policy leaders shaping climate-conscious education frameworks
- ◆ Global Green Mentor Award 2025 – Honoring educators and advocates inspiring the greening of higher education
- ◆ Global Green University Award 2025– Recognizing universities embedding sustainability across teaching, research, and campus life
- ◆ Global Green School Award 2025 – Celebrating K-12 schools integrating environmental action across education systems
- ◆ Global Green Teacher Award 2025 – Honoring teachers fostering environmental literacy and climate leadership
- ◆ Global Green Start-Up Award 2025 – Acknowledging innovators advancing sustainability through entrepreneurship
- ◆ Young Climate Leader of the Year 2025 Award – Recognizing K-12 students leading impactful climate initiatives
- ◆ Global Green Graduate Award – Awarded to higher education students championing green jobs and sustainable development

This ceremony is more than a celebration—it is a global call to accelerate the transformation of education systems into engines of sustainability.

By honoring those at the forefront of climate action in education, the Global Green Awards aim to inspire a new generation of leaders to create a healthier, more equitable, and greener future for all.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

The 9th NYC Green School Conference 2025 brought together an inspiring constellation of education leaders, youth activists, policymakers, climate innovators, and sustainability practitioners from across the globe. Co-hosted during Climate Week NYC and alongside the 80th United Nations General Assembly, the conference served as a vital platform for advancing the global discourse on greening education.

Across two days of keynotes, panels, workshops, and award recognitions, the conference affirmed that education must be at the forefront of climate action—and that transformative change is already underway.

Major Takeaways

Greening Education Is No Longer Optional—It's Urgent

From curriculum reforms to green infrastructure, the call to action was clear: education systems must be redesigned to prepare learners to thrive in and respond to the climate crisis. Greening education is not a siloed goal—it is foundational to achieving the SDGs.

Youth Are Leading—and Must Be Empowered

Through sessions like Pupils for the Planet and Young Climate Leader Dialogues, the conference showcased bold student leadership and intergenerational collaboration. Investing in youth climate education is not just an opportunity—it's a necessity.

Policy and Practice Must Work Together

Policymakers and academic leaders explored how national strategies, global frameworks (like UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership), and local implementation can create cohesive pathways for scaling sustainable education.

Cross-Sector Collaboration is Key

Sessions highlighted how partnerships between governments, universities, businesses, civil society, and media can catalyze systemic change. Climate literacy, green skills, and ethical leadership must be co-developed across disciplines and industries.

Sustainability is a Career Path—Not Just a Value

Panels such as A Foot in the Door demonstrated how sustainability in sectors like film, business, and healthcare is opening new green career pipelines. Education must equip students not just to understand climate challenges, but to innovate within them.

Recognition Fuels Replication

The Global Green Awards Ceremony honored institutions and individuals whose leadership is shaping the future of climate-conscious education. These recognitions serve not only as celebration, but as replicable models for the world to follow.

Technology, Storytelling, and Nature Must Converge

Sessions such as Wild Wisdom in Action and the presentation of Voice of the Planet illustrated the power of storytelling, the arts, and digital tools to ignite emotional connection and behavioral change for the planet. Greening Higher Education Is a Global Imperative.

Through leadership from UNESCO IESALC, University of Colorado Boulder, and others, the conference advanced the conversation on the Sustainability Elective Classification and the need to align higher education with planetary health.

CONFERENCE VENUE

ILR Conference Center – Cornell University
570 Lexington Avenue (at 51st Street) **New York, NY 10022, USA**

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6tmxKeikfcAytv4S9>



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