

NEO Youth Climate Future Forum Agenda Friday October 16, 2020

Time	Session Title
8:30 - 8:40 am	Opening Remarks
8:40 - 9:30 am	Keynote Speaker: Representative Stephanie Howse
9:30 - 9:45 am	Morning Break
9:45 - 10:00 am	Breakout Session Overview
10:00 - 10:55 am	Breakout Sessions Track 1
11:00 - 11:55 am	Breakout Sessions Track 2
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 - 1:55 pm	Breakout Sessions Track 3
2:00 - 2:55 pm	Breakout Sessions Track 4
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Closing Remarks

Keynote Speaker Bio: Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, State Representative Stephanie Howse has lived most of her life in the Ward 7 community. Howse is a graduate of the Cleveland School of the Arts where she studied vocal and instrumental music. After high school, Stephanie earned her undergraduate degree in Civil Environmental Engineering from Florida A&M University and her Master's degree in Environmental Studies from Cleveland State University.



Breakout Sessions

	Track 1		Track 2		Track 3	Track 4
Time (EDT)	Environment and Climate Change		Racial and Environmental Justice		Food/Agriculture and Land Use	Youth Empowerment and Activism
10:00 - 10:55 am	Watershed Stewardship in a Changing Climate	Climate Change and How it Affects Us All	Environmentalism vs Environmental Justice: Future of the Climate Movement	E-Mobility and Electric Vehicles	Food Waste: The Biggest Problem We Can Solve	Green New Deal
11:00 - 11:55 am	Too Much Too Little Too Dirty- How Climate Change Expresses itself through Water	From Fore to Forest for Fins and Feathers: Transforming Acacia Country Club	Community Owned Solar		Environmental Health	n/a
1:00 - 1:55 pm	Technical Innovation for Water Equity		Reforestation of the Forest City	How We Get Free: Ecological Knowledge in our Communities	Recreation	Career Horizons
2:00 - 2:55 pm	n/a		Racial Equity & Inclusion - Groundwater Analysis		Food Systems	Advocacy 101

*For more information about a session, click on the [session title](#) and you will be taken to the session description

**To get back to this breakout session view from a session description, click on the [time slot](#)



Time	Track 1: Environmental and Climate Change - Session Description	Session Lead Information
10 - 10:55 am	<p><u>Watershed Stewardship in a Changing Climate</u> by Lisa Meranti, Watershed Volunteer Program Coordinator</p> <p>In this presentation, we will explore the urban water cycle challenges and stewardship opportunities in addressing stormwater increases through citizen science. We will learn about the work of over 2,200 NEO watershed stewards and how you can join them to be a force for positive change.</p>	<p>Lisa Meranti is the coordinator for the Watershed Volunteer Program, a program created in 2012 to involve citizen scientists in watershed education, monitoring, and restoration. The program is in partnership with Cleveland Metroparks, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and West Creek Conservancy. Lisa's love of water influenced her to get a B.S. in Environmental Biology and Chemistry from Lebanon Valley College in PA and then M.A. in Environmental Studies from Cleveland State University.</p>
10 - 10:55 am	<p><u>Climate Change and How it Affects us All</u> by Laura Cancino (Conservation Coordinator, Akron Zoological Park) and Peter Petto</p> <p>Both speakers have been trained by the Climate Reality Project to educate others on the reality of climate change. They will provide an overview of the science of climate change, its impacts around the world, and discuss the solutions to limit its effect.</p>	<p>Laura Cancino is the Conversation Coordinator for the Akron Zoological Park overseeing its global conservation programs and helping them grow.</p> <p>Peter Petto has spent the most recent 13 years teaching and learning statistics and math at Lakewood High School. Today he is committed to learning, teaching, and encouraging solutions to climate challenges faced by all of us.</p>
11 - 11:55 am	<p><u>Too Much Too Little Too Dirty- How Climate Change Expresses itself through Water</u> by Drink Local Drink Tap</p> <p>During this session, we will explore climate change and how it expresses itself through water using DLDT's real-world examples from East Africa and Cleveland. After learning in the session, we can explore ways, together, that we can encourage the dramatic steps needed to create change. The speaker is especially interested to hear from all of YOU on how DLDT and other orgs can help amplify YOUR voice to make change.</p>	<p>Drink Local. Drink Tap., Inc.™ is a not-for-profit organization that inspires individuals to recognize and solve our water issues through creative education, events, and providing safe water access to people in need. Drink Local Drink Tap has worked in the water, hygiene and sanitation sector for a decade in Cleveland, Ohio and Uganda.</p> <p>Learn more here.</p>
11 - 11:55 am	<p><u>From Fore to Forest for Fins and Feathers: Transforming Acacia Country Club</u> by Jenn Grieser, Director of Natural Resources for Cleveland Metroparks</p> <p>When Cleveland Metroparks received the donation of Acacia Reservation, formally a private golf course and country club, the Park District also received a mission - to restore the property to a forested public park. Learn about the steps to creating wetlands, restoring streams, establishing native meadows and welcoming the public.</p>	<p>Prior to joining the Park District, Jenn Grieser worked for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Stream Management Program upstate in the Catskills. Jenn holds a Masters in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management from Indiana University and spends much of her "free" time carting her two boys from sport to sport.</p>
1 - 1:55 pm	<p><u>Technical Innovation for Water Equity</u> by Max Herzog, Project Manager at the Cleveland Water Alliance</p> <p>This session will use Lake Erie region case studies as prompts for student discussion and problem solving. Each case study will describe a particular water resource issue and challenge students to brainstorm technical solutions for it. The presenter will underscore each conversation with information about actual technical innovations currently being pursued by scientists, companies, and community organizations.</p>	<p>Max is currently working on next-generation water technology and intelligent water systems with the Cleveland Water Alliance. In his three years with CWA, Max has spearheaded and contributed to regional innovation initiatives that activated over fifty entrepreneurial water solutions and one hundred stakeholder organizations from Windsor to Buffalo. As Program Manager, he coordinates the bi-national ecosystem of partners that drive the Water Alliance's cluster of programs and technologies.</p>



Time	Track 2: Racial and Environmental Justice - Session Description	Session Lead Information
10 - 10:55 am	<p><u>Environmentalism vs Environmental Justice: Future of the Climate Movement</u> by Ohio Youth for Climate Justice</p> <p>We will talk about the contrasts between 'environmentalism' and environmental justice, looking at the ways environmentalism is devoid of social justice and can be problematic when framing issues. We'll talk about the evolution of environmental justice, environmental racism, and how it applies to the climate movement. Rather than seeking 'environmentalist' goals such as only reducing carbon emissions, activists should aim to advocate for climate justice, which bundles social justice with climate mitigation efforts in an acknowledgment of the ways marginalized identities intersect in environmental issues such as the Green New Deal.</p>	<p>Ohio Climate Youth for Climate Justice is a youth led group organizing actions to address the climate crisis with the focus and urgency that the issue deserves.</p> <p>Learn more here.</p>
10 - 10:55 am	<p><u>E-Mobility and Electric Vehicles</u> by Dr. Shelly Francis</p>	<p>Dr. Shelley Francis is a nationally recognized E-mobility and Public Health professional focused on equity initiatives with electric, connected, autonomous & shared vehicles. In addition to her work with EVHybridNoire, she is the Managing Partner & Co-Founder of EVNoire Mobility Intelligence Consulting Group, where she consults and collaborates with utility companies, transit authorities, government agencies, auto manufacturers and others to help expand EVs' market share in an equitable manner.</p>
11 - 11:55 am	<p><u>Community Owned Solar</u> by Cindy Mumford, Hough Community Leader and Activist</p> <p>The Hough solar garden will be a symbol of the neighborhood's power and progress. It will change our economic footprint and move our mostly African American neighborhood -- and the whole state of Ohio -- forward. The project includes new employment opportunities within the community, job training, and sustainable upgrades to the homes in our neighborhood. We're building a ~300 kilowatt solar array in Hough that will power about 50 homes of The BC. We've selected land, and we have a verbal commitment from a solar developer for upfront costs of ~\$500,000, which we'll pay off each month through our electric bills. We'll achieve full ownership after several years. From that time on, we'll pay substantially less for electricity each month.</p>	<p>Cindy Mumford has worked with the east side neighborhood of Hough to build the city's first community solar garden.</p>



<p>1 - 1:55 pm</p>	<p><u>Reforesting the Forest City</u> by Lizzie Sords</p> <p>We will zoom in from big to small, starting with a poll about what tree canopy is, and guesses as to what the tree canopy in Cleveland is. Then we will compare that to other regional cities (Pittsburgh, Columbus, Akron, and Chicago). Then, we will break it down by neighborhood, with another poll about where people expect to see trees in cities. From here, I will talk about the correlations of tree canopy and other things like asthma rates, urban heat island, and other measurable health impacts. Then I will ask the group how they think tree canopy is best grown before going over what the city has done to grow canopy and what neighborhood groups have done for tree canopy. We will close by breaking down a couple of ways to get involved with community forestry and a Q&A session.</p>	<p>Lizzie Sords is a certified arborist and community forester who offers expert assistance to cities, community organizations and neighborhood groups.</p> <p>She led a volunteer community science initiative to measure, map, and identify trees for 3 seasons, and lead community tree planting and education sessions.</p>
<p>1 - 1:55 pm</p>	<p><u>How We Get Free: Ecological Knowledge in our Communities</u> by Kenia Hale</p> <p>I will teach students about the histories of ethnobotanical knowledge in BIPOC communities, and engage them to learn about the history of the land and how their communities got to it, and about thinking local before thinking global.</p>	<p>Kenia Hale is a junior at Yale University studying Computing and the Arts (Architecture Concentration) and Ethnicity, Race, and Migration. She is interested in Technological Equity, Sustainable Urbanism, and Environmental Justice.</p>
<p>2 - 2:55</p>	<p><u>Racial Equity & Inclusion - Groundwater Analysis</u> by ThirdSpace Action Lab</p> <p>We will provide an overview of systemic racism and how it manifests in a variety of different systems.</p>	<p>ThirdSpace Action Lab was created to disrupt the vicious cycle of disinvestment and displacement that negatively impacts the vitality of low-income communities of color. We are a grassroots research, strategy & design cooperative, dedicated to prototyping creative place-based solutions to complex socio economic problems. We are institutional and community organizers, turning multidisciplinary research into evidence-based strategies; and activating "third places" to co-creating more liberated spaces for people of color.</p> <p>Learn more here.</p>



Time	Track 3: Food/Agriculture and Land Use - Session Description	Session Lead Information
10 - 10:55 am	<p><u>Food Waste: The Biggest Problem We Can Solve</u> by Daniel Brown, Co-Founder of Rust Belt Riders</p> <p>We all waste food but we do not have to. By taking our food system into local control we can minimize the detrimental impacts our food system has on public health, and climate while also validating a new economic model for self-sufficiency and resilience in the face of the climate crisis.</p>	<p>Daniel Brown is one of the co-founders of Rust Belt Riders. Our organization was founded in 2014 with the mission of feeding people, not landfills. We provide services to businesses, organizations, and individuals across Northeast Ohio to provide them with a clean, timely, and community benefiting alternative to landfills for their food waste. We actively work with over 150 businesses and nearly 1,000 residents.</p>
11 - 11:55 am	<p><u>Environmental Health</u> by Kim Foreman, Executive Director of Environmental Health Watch (EHW)</p> <p>Originally organized as a volunteer group known as The Council on Hazardous Materials in 1980, EHW is Northeast Ohio's longest standing environmental justice organization. This group of volunteers, consisting of concerned citizens and health professionals, began developing activities to educate the public about emerging concerns related to hazardous waste, pollution, and chemical accidents and how these impact human health and the overall environment.</p>	<p>Kim Foreman brings nearly 20 years of experience working on environmental justice issues in Cleveland. Kim joined EHW in 1999 as a part-time health educator, and has served in the role of Executive Director since 2015.</p> <p>As the Executive Director for EHW, Kim has focused on Environmental Justice Issues and adverse outcomes of environmental exposures, both indoors and outdoors, that disproportionately impact poor and minority communities. During her eighteen years with EHW, she has developed, implemented, and managed various local, direct service, grassroots projects, worked on national projects, spoken at local and national conventions, and has helped EHW obtain national attention for its work through outlets such as the New York Times and Al Jazeera English.</p>
1 - 1:55 pm	<p><u>Recreation</u> by SYATT</p>	<p>SYATT recognizes the adverse legacy people of color have faced in America. It is our VISION that youth and adults experience a world where they know they belong and feel empowered. Syatt's MISSION is to support its community through culturally relevant programming in the natural and built environment, where youth and adults experience relief leading to life-changing transformation.</p>
2 - 2:55 pm	<p><u>Food Systems</u> by Veronica Walton</p> <p>We will take a look at the history and current aspects of the food system in America and other countries. We will identify cultural, sustainable and global practices that influence food systems and our health. We will talk about Perceived ways to Change , Improve, and Impact our local food system to improve the health of people and the planet (All inhabitants).</p>	<p>Veronica Walton has made a lifelong career in the food and health space with a variety of experiences. She works as a Green Consultant and Educator.</p> <p>She has managed over 215 farmers' markets, consulted on more than 200 community and backyard gardens, designed afterschool & environmental science programs, and supported many other sustainable environmental projects/programs.</p>



Time	Track 4: Youth Empowerment and Activism - Session Description	Session Lead Information
10 - 10:55 am	<p>Green New Deal by Sunrise Oberlin Chapter</p> <p>The Green New Deal is a congressional resolution to mobilize every aspect of American society to 100% clean and renewable energy, guarantee living-wage jobs for anyone who needs one, and a just transition for both workers and frontline communities—all in the next 10 years.</p>	<p>Sunrise is a youth movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. We're building an army of young people to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people.</p> <p>Learn more about the movement here. Connect with the Oberlin chapter here.</p>
1 - 1:55 pm	<p>Career Horizons by Whitney Long Jones, Founder and Executive Director of Organic Connects, Inc.</p>	<p>Whitnye Long Jones is the Founder and Executive Director of Organic Connects, Inc.</p> <p>Organic Connects provides avenues that lead to countless areas of expertise within the environmental field, a young person in high school and even college will identify ways to simultaneously earn a living and fulfill their passion.</p>
2 - 2:55 pm	<p>Advocacy 101 by Crystal Davis, Vice President of Policy & Strategic Engagement at the Alliance for the Great Lakes</p> <p>The Alliance for the Great Lakes and River Network will work to build community youth leaders' capacity through brief, interactive workshops. The goal is to activate and educate your networks as part of policy campaigns and planning processes.</p> <p>The popular education model we use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focuses on building capacity for community advocates and encourages horizontal relationships between facilitators and participants • responds to the needs of community organizations and their constituencies • prioritizes collaborative planning and policy development • acknowledges that those most impacted by proposed community plans and policies are a main source of knowledge 	<p>Crystal M.C. Davis is a respected professional with a career in government affairs that bloomed in Columbus, Ohio and Washington D.C.</p> <p>Crystal is currently with the Alliance for the Great Lakes as its Vice President of Policy & Strategic Engagement, leading the organization's efforts related to Lake Erie, drinking water policy advocacy and relationship building across the region. In this role, Crystal has spearheaded the Alliance's commitment to diverse engagement of Great Lakes communities and authored the organization's seminal report Step One: Shut Up and Listen. She also developed and executed the organization's environmental policy and strategy on Lake Erie water quality issues. Moreover, in 2016 Crystal founded the Thornton Buckeye Group, which is a government relations and public affairs firm that provides clients tactical advocacy, policy, communications and other related services. Crystal has developed local, state and national clients.</p>

