

**Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)
Faculty & Staff Research Symposium on Climate Change: Challenges and Innovations
Friday, January 12, 2024 – 8:45 AM – 12: 00 PM
UConn Storrs – Student Union Ballroom 331**

AGENDA

8:45 – 9:00 Arrival, Registration and Coffee, Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome Remarks, Pamir Alpay, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor

9:15 – 9:25 Introduction to CIRCA's Mission and Goals, Jim O'Donnell, UConn, CIRCA Executive Director and Professor of Marine Sciences

Attendees will gain insights into CIRCA's strategic focus on bolstering the resilience of Connecticut's communities to the challenges posed by climate change. The presentation will highlight the institute's commitment to excellence in research, collaboration across disciplines, and its goal of influencing policy and infrastructure decisions for a sustainable future.

9:25 – 9:45 CIRCA's Projects and its Impact on Connecticut, John Truscinski, UConn CIRCA, Director of Resilience Planning

Discover how CIRCA's work bridges research and real-world application, setting new standards in environmental sustainability and proactive climate strategies.

9:45 AM – 10:20 AM CIRCA Capacity Building Research

Attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of how capacity building operates in practice, the current research endeavors under CIRCA's guidance, and how these initiatives are carving a path for a climate-resilient future in both urban and rural regions of Connecticut. The session will showcase some of the previously funded interdisciplinary CIRCA research in brief presentations under five minutes.

- **Mariana Fragomeni**, UConn, Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP), Assistant Professor, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture "Change in Heat Vulnerability and Land-use Influence"
- **Charles Towe**, UConn, Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics, Associate Professor "Real Estate Values, Tax Revenues, and Climate Change-Induced Retreat from Flood Zones"
- **Louanne Cooley**, UConn CIRCA, Legal Research Fellow "Legal & Policy Tools for Climate Resilience"
- **Nalini Ravishanker**, UConn, Department of Statistics, Professor, "Ensemble Backcasting of Wave Heights in the Long Island Sound"
- **Rosalie Ray**, Assistant Professor in Department of Geography and Environmental Studies in Texas State University, "Transit Oriented Development"

10:20 – 10:30 Morning Break

10:30 – 11:30 Round Table Discussion

This session offers faculty and staff the chance to satisfy their curiosity about the array of projects and research unfolding within our university. The participants are encouraged to share and discover interdisciplinary insights, potentially sparking innovative collaborations. It's more than a conversation; it's an incubator for shared interests and pursuit of new knowledge, fostering a culture of intellectual synergy and collaborative curiosity. The round table themes for this session are:

- *Resilience Adaptation and Engineering,*
- *Inland and Coastal Flooding,*
- *Climate Justice and Equity,*
- *Economy, Workforce and Planning Perspectives,*
- *Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Conservation,*
- *Decarbonization and Energy,*
- *Climate Communication and Policy,*
- *Climate change's impact on Public Health and Emergency Response.*

11:30 – 11:45 AM [CIRCA Research Seed Grants Program Information](#), Yaprak Onat, UConn CIRCA, Associate Director of Research

The session aims to inspire faculty members by exploring how seed funding can be instrumental in addressing complex climate-related issues, leading to solutions that have a tangible impact on our communities. This funding opportunity is geared towards empowering UConn faculty, providing the financial support needed to embark on preliminary studies, surveys, and experiments that are essential in the early stages of impactful research. The participants will receive detailed guidance on the application process, an overview of the grant program's objectives, and insights into the types of projects that align with CIRCA's mission. Examples of successful grant applications will be discussed.

11:45 AM – 12:15 Poster Session and Networking

Participants or any member of their research group will have the opportunity to showcase various components of their ongoing projects or articles, elaborate on programs, initiatives, or collaborations they're involved in, delve into their latest experimental research, introduce archival or digital ventures, or share excerpts from their creative literary works. They might also discuss insights gained from leadership experiences or strategic implementations, among other topics. These presentations could be adaptations of talks delivered or slated to be shared at professional conferences or meetings within the academic year.