

Faculty & Staff Research Symposium on Climate Change: Challenges and Innovations

The University of Connecticut's (UConn) Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) is hosting a research symposium for UConn faculty and staff to be held on January 12th, 2024. The goal is to expand the participation of UConn researchers in addressing the complex challenges climate change is creating for the diverse communities of Connecticut. The forum will include presentation of some on-going projects and the exchange of innovative ideas, this gathering seeks to foster a collaborative academic environment. This environment will not only stimulate robust intellectual discussions but also pave the way for impactful, tangible research initiatives.

Through this symposium, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) **Enhance Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Break down silos between disciplines by encouraging dialogue and partnership among professionals and academics from varied fields such as environmental science, sociology, economics, engineering, and others. CIRCA believes that addressing the multifaceted challenges of climate change requires a holistic approach that integrates diverse perspectives and expertise.
- 2) **Showcase Current CIRCA Research and Innovations:** Inform the faculty of ongoing CIRCA research, findings, and creative projects. This exposure highlights the breadth and depth of climate change-related work currently undertaken within our academic community, sparking further discussion and inquiry.
- 3) **Inspire New Research Initiatives:** Introduce **CIRCA's Research Seed Grants Program** to incentivize ambitious projects that align with CIRCA's mission. By funding pilot studies and innovative approaches, CIRCA aims to catalyze research that addresses critical knowledge gaps in our understanding of natural processes, social consequences, and practical solutions concerning climate change impacts.
- 4) **Facilitate Community Engagement and Support:** Encourage research that goes beyond academia and engages with local communities, decision-makers, and stakeholders. CIRCA emphasizes projects that explore effective communication strategies, assess and contribute to local and state adaptation plans, and evaluate the socioeconomic implications of climate change for Connecticut's communities.
- 5) **Promote Practical, Resilient Solutions:** Advocate for the development and evaluation of pragmatic approaches to adaptation and resilience. The solutions should be geared toward mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on Connecticut's ecosystems, economy, and communities.

CIRCA is inviting all UConn Faculty and Staff to:

- Network across disciplines.
- Celebrate research achievements.
- Exchange innovative, interdisciplinary ideas about climate change research
- Learn about the CIRCA Research Seed Grants Program

By convening this symposium, CIRCA commits to nurturing a dynamic, forward-thinking academic community that is prepared to take decisive, interdisciplinary action in response to climate change.