

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES DIVISION 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM**

### **Exploring Local Climate Action: Mitigation + Adaptation**

Thursday, January 23, 2025

(2 – 5 pm ET, 1 – 4 pm CT, 12 – 3 pm MT, 11 am – 2 pm PT)

3 AICP CM

Please join us for the fourth annual SCD Symposium (virtual), this year we are focusing on planner's role in reducing carbon emissions and helping our communities adapt to a future climate. This year's symposium will feature a keynote by Brian Ross, Vice President, Renewable Energy and Interim Vice President, Communities at the Great Plains Institute, a panel focusing on carbon reduction strategies and a panel on climate adaptation strategies for planners.

Registered attendees will receive a Zoom webinar link prior to the event. You can attend one session, or multiple sessions. CM Credits will be available for individual sessions. AICP CM Credits pending (3 hours).

#### **Welcome: Introduction to the Symposium (10 min)**

2:00 pm ET Welcoming remarks from APA's Sustainable Communities Division (SCD) Chair Karla Ebenbach and Shannon Roberts, Partnerships Co-Chair.

#### **Session 1: Keynote: Local Climate Action (20 min) – Shannon to introduce**

2:10 pm ET Brian Ross of the Great Plains Institute will discuss the planners role in combating climate change. Setting the stage for the symposium's two panels, Brian will highlight how planners, whether they are experts in climate change or not, and regardless of whether their community has prioritized climate action, need to recognize market- and policy-driven changes in long-range planning and development review and implement adaptation strategies in a climate-changed world.

##### **Learning Objectives:**

- Recognize changes in land use and development associated with energy choices that affect all communities
- Understand the essential role of planners in preparing communities for climate-driven risks

#### **Session 2: Carbon Reduction Strategies (1 hour, 15 min)**

2:30 pm ET Planners can incorporate carbon reduction strategies into their work through policy choices, supporting the transition to cleaner energy, and promoting complete neighborhood development. Hear from our panel of experts whose work is actively reducing carbon and building stronger communities for the future.

- Shannon Roberts, AICP, LEED BD+C, PMP (Moderator), Jacobs
- Muhammed Patel, NRDC
- Richard Ezike, Argonne National Laboratory
- Donny Goris-Kolb, AICP, LEED AP O+M, Envision SP, VHB
- Laura Jay, Climate Mayors

##### **Learning Objectives:**

- Will learn about approaches and tools for carbon reduction
- Will learn how investments in transportation infrastructure can reduce carbon emissions
- Will learn how zoning equity and community engagement can lead to carbon reductions in our communities

**Session 3:**  
3:45 pm ET

**Climate Adaptation Strategies (1 hour, 15 min)**

As climate change continues to intensify, adaptation planning has become an essential component of creating more resilient communities. This panel will discuss case studies, strategic tools, and funding opportunities that planners can employ to prepare for and adapt to the changing climate.

- Anna Rosenblum (Moderator), EcoDistricts AP, LEED O+M AP, LFA, evolveEA
- Katrina Kelly-Pitou, SmithGroup
- Megan O'Hara, AICP, Urban Design Associates
- Emelia Suljic, MPH, Climate Resilience Specialist, ICF
- Jennifer Dowdell and Claudia Browne, Biohabitats

**Learning Objectives:**

- Will learn about the urgency and importance of climate adaptation planning
- Will learn about climate adaptation strategies and planning approaches
- Will learn how to integrate climate adaptation considerations into other types of plans

**Closing:**  
5:00 pm ET

**Symposium Closing**