

## 4.7.21 Global Climate Dialog / Webinar Information

# Climate Solutions for West Virginia

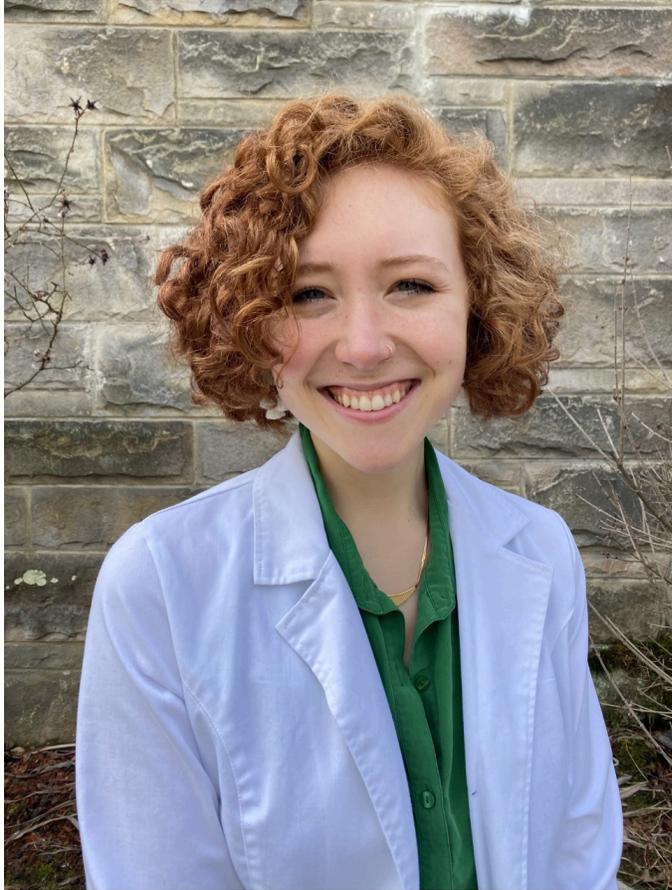
Hosted by West Virginia University and WV Climate Action members:



## Panelists

**Leah Mason, Student at Marshall University,  
Food Security, Biodiversity, and Cultural  
Preservation**

“Relationship Restoration: How regionalized food systems intersect climate change and food insecurity.”



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N\\_d24PEW77A&t=1524s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_d24PEW77A&t=1524s)  
[mason107@live.marshall.edu](mailto:mason107@live.marshall.edu)

Leah Mason is a grad student at Marshall University. She is undergoing her dietetic internship through the university's Distance Dietetic program. Last fall, she spent her rotations in the kitchen at The Wild Ramp, a local farmers' market, and working with Lacy Davidson-Ferguson on various community nutrition projects. Her most recent project was a lecture-style presentation on the art of seed saving, and how this is related to cultural preservation, biodiversity, and food security. She will finish her internship this June in Montana at the Gallatin Valley Farm to School program, where she will work (and play) in the garden with first and second graders. After her internship, she plans to focus her interests through community efforts in the Huntington area. She is interested in understanding community health disparities, food systems, and food insecurity in order to know how these

issues are related and can be addressed through community nutrition and service efforts. She enjoys baking anything from focaccia to berry Chantilly cake, and watching seeds grow with her fiancé and his son.

## **Jacob Hannah, Coalfield Development Conservation Coordinator**

"New Solutions From The Old Troubles: How Negatives Create a Positive For An Appalachian Just Transition"

<https://coalfield-development.org/bio-jacob-israel-hannah/>



## **Pamela Nixon, WV NAACP**

“Understanding the Challenge of Climate Change in Vulnerable Communities”



Pam Nixon is a life-long resident of Kanawha County, and a product of the Kanawha County public school system. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia State University, and her Masters in Environmental Science from West Virginia Graduate College (now Marshall University Graduate School).

### Career

Pam worked 24 years as a medical laboratory technologist in clinical laboratories in the Charleston WV area.

In 1998, she was appointed to the position of Environmental Advocate at the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Nixon was the conduit between the public and the DEP by organizing public education forums on state and federal environmental regulations, the pollution control permitting process, and how to participate in public hearings.

She testified before the U.S. Congress in April 2009 on behalf of residents negatively impacted by the 2008 fire and explosion at a chemical facility in the town of Institute. Nixon retired from the DEP in early 2014.

### Community Involvement

Nixon's history in community service began in the mid-1980s by promoting environmental and social justice issues, and has received various awards from the US EPA and civic organizations.

She is a member of the Charleston Branch NAACP, and has served on the Boards of Directors for the *Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition* and for *People Concerned about Chemical Safety* (2014 - 2020).

Governor Tomblin appointed her to a 5-year term on the WV Public Water Systems Supply Study Commission from 2014 to 2019.

In 2019 she testified in March before the US House Committee on Homeland Security "Securing Our Nation's Chemical Facilities"; and again in September before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure "The Administration's Priorities and Policy Initiatives Under the Clean Water Act".

## **Jim Probst, WV Citizens Climate Lobby**

“A New Day for the Coalfields”



Jim Probst is a semi-retired furniture maker/furniture designer having run a small business creating high end custom furniture for the past 40 years. He

trained with Al Gore's organization, Climate Reality in 2013 and has been a state coordinator for Citizens Climate Lobby in West Virginia since 2014 where he works with CCL members across WV to lobby Congress to pass a Carbon Fee on fossil fuels that returns revenues collected to US households in the form of a dividend. Jim is a father of two daughters and grandfather to four.

## **Moderator**

Kathryn Williamson, Faculty in WVU's Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Physics & Astronomy, co-founder of WV Climate Action

7 PM-8:30 PM (Local Time): Climate Solutions for West Virginia

[\[PLEASE REGISTER HERE\]](#) watch the webinar live, or if you would like to be e-mailed a link to the recording.

WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences [Event Page](#)

For more info, contact [kewilliamson@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:kewilliamson@mail.wvu.edu)

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