

MIDWEST CLIMATE SUMMIT

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2023 Midwest Climate Summit!

The Midwest Climate Summit took place February 21-23 in St. Louis, MO.

SUMMIT SUMMARY

12	States Represented
245	In-person Participants
80	Virtual Participants
35	Student Participants
20	On-Site Workshops
6	Mobile Workshops

Thank you to Washington University in St. Louis for hosting the event!

WHAT ATTENDEES HAD TO SAY:

The summit was **“phenomenal!”**

“It was powerful to be surrounded by so many people working on climate issues in the Midwest!”

The mobile workshops were a **“wonderful experience!”**



Images courtesy of Carol Green



KEY TAKEAWAYS

The summit hosted a variety of professionals in the private, educational, and government sectors, and included exceptional leaders, practitioners, and researchers working on climate action in the Midwest.

Emerging themes:

- Federal funding for energy, emissions, and climate resiliency
- Bridging the gap between research and practice
- Advancing career pathways and climate-ready workforce
- Agricultural and nature-based solutions
- Expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives
- Understanding and addressing health impacts

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The Midwest Climate Summit brought together climate leaders across sectors to spark conversation and collaboration to expand knowledge, accelerate climate action, and catalyze new partnerships. The Midwest Climate Collaborative (MCC), a group of more than 60 members working in academic, government, industry, and non-profit sectors, hosted the summit, in which people across the 12 Midwestern states joined together to share, learn, and expand the conversation around work in agriculture, energy, sustainability, and more.

Janet McCabe, U.S. Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Dr. Sylvia Hood Washington, epidemiologist and environmental engineer, kicked off the summit with inspiring words to center equity and justice and leverage new and existing resources for collective impact. Attendees engaged on a variety of topics, including the importance of the circular economy, climate communications, and the work that still needs to be done regarding environmental racism. Additionally, many attendees ventured out into St. Louis for mobile workshops to experience firsthand how climate action is taking shape locally. The Summit also introduced attendees to the Midwest Climate Resource Network and the Midwest Climate Research Agenda, two projects of the MCC.

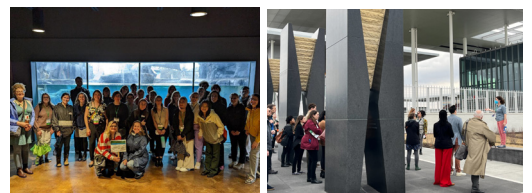
While this experience was about sharing information, it was also about gathering insight into the work that still needs to be done, the questions that remain unanswered, and how cross-sector collaboration can advance shared goals. The MCC is committed to accelerating action on these questions and to a carbon neutral, climate-resilient, and interconnected Midwest region.

2023 SUMMIT WORKSHOPS:

- Emerging Trends in Renewable Energy - An Ambitious New Path Towards 24/7 Carbon Free Electricity in the Midwest
- Higher Education Sustainability: Priorities, Programs, Partnerships, & Practices in Climate Change and Resilience
- Energy & Housing Justice
- Midwest Climate Collaborative: Research Agenda and Collaborative Research Across Sectors
- Navigating the Federal Funding Landscape for Limited-Capacity Communities
- Farm Bill Advocacy 101: How to Help Shape the 2023 Farm Bill
- Climate Action in the Midwest Centered in Environmental Health Justice: Screening and Panel Discussion of “Unbreathable: The Fight for Healthy Air”
- Climate Action Planning: Bringing Communities Together to Equitably Address Sustainability, Transit, and Green Infrastructure
- Becoming a Resilient Activist : Four Steps for a Resilient Life
- The Weather and Climate Link: Data tools to help you understand and tell that story on a local level
- Building Capacity Through Cross-Sector Collaborations
- How Urban Farmers in Chicago are Building Food System and Climate Resiliency in the Great Lakes Region
- Stop, Collaborate, and Listen: Engaging Key Audiences to Climate Action
- What does the Tip of the Spear for Climate Action look like?
- Agroforestry and Silviculture as Natural Climate Solutions
- Policy and Practice Strategies to Mitigate Health Impacts of Climate Change
- Building Resilient Farming Systems and Rural Communities Amidst Climate Change
- The Cross-Community Climate Collaborative (C4)
- Informing Policy and the Masses: Sharing “Science Notes” with Decision Makers and Using Social Media to Build Agency
- Every School can be a Green School and Every Student a Change Agent
- Circular Economy: A New Approach to Addressing Climate Change
- Environmental Racism in St. Louis: What Comes Next?

FEATURING 6 MOBILE WORKSHOPS:

- Deep Mapping: Bridging Story-Telling and Science at Tyson Research Center
- Cultivating the Bench: Developing a Climate Resilient and Inclusive Workforce in Agriculture and Plant Science Industry
- Designing the 2028 Anti-Flood Control Act: The Intersection of Climate Resilience, Water Quality, and Commerce on the Mississippi River
- Genuine Engagement Makes Better Projects and Connected Communities
- Cultural Collaboration: Zoo Museum District Working Together on Climate Solutions
- Preparing Future Scientists to Battle Climate Change with Green Chemistry



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