

Climate Science and Education Committee (CSEC)

Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA)

University of Colorado Boulder

Annual Report

AY 2023–2024

Carol Cogswell & David Paradis – Co-chairs

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Summary

We began the Fall 2023 semester by strengthening our ties to various campus constituencies, including Fossil Free CU, potential donors, the Environmental Center, and campus administrators. We also forged new ties to climate committees at CU Anschutz and Colorado State. These meetings were vital not only for bringing many of our new committee members up to speed but also for laying the groundwork for our Spring activities. We wrapped up the Fall semester by spearheading a Boulder Faculty Assembly resolution calling on the entire Boulder campus community to prioritize climate action as the central focus of campus-wide initiatives. The resolution passed with over 90% support from the BFA representatives.

The Spring semester started off with a bang as we assembled many of these groups for a half-day retreat in early January 2024. The retreat gathered structured input from approximately 35 attendees, including students, faculty, staff, and outside partners along three lines: education, community outreach, and Scope-3 emissions. Following the retreat, the committee reviewed the data collected and formed action items: 1) to form a community of practice and working group to advance interdisciplinary studies related to climate and sustainability across the campus, 2) to increase the likelihood that every CU Boulder student completes at least one course related to the climate crisis, 3) to increase the number of applied learning opportunities for students interested in taking action on climate, 4) to promote incentives for all CU members to engage in reducing Scope 3 emissions as outlined in the Climate Action Plan, and 5) to establish new partnerships and strengthen ongoing collaborations with local and regional players, to help implement new solutions related to climate and sustainability. All of these efforts are ongoing.

In the coming year we plan to continue the efforts listed above. We will be forging closer ties with outside institutions over the Summer and into the Fall. In addition, we will continue our efforts to obtain funding for some of these initiatives by contacting donors, by applying for grants, and by forming partnerships with campus and outside entities that already have funding for projects that align with these objectives.

Agendas

Agenda for May 2, 2024

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

1. 2:30-2:35: Welcome and Settling in
2. 2:35-2:45: New BFA Campus Operations Resources Committee (CORC)
 - a. [Resolution related to building heat and air conditioning](#) - Carol & David
3. 2:45-3:00 Sustainability Summit Update - Marianne, Kathy, others
4. 3:00-3:30: Amanda Carrico, Chair ENVS
 - a. ENVS Initiatives, the CURE Program, and the Climate and Sustainability Working Group
5. 3:30-3:50 Summer initiatives
 - a. [Survey of CSEC Initiatives](#)
 - b. Cooperation with City of Boulder, Boulder County
 - c. Meetings with Campus Leadership - Justin Schwartz

Agenda for April 9, 2024

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

1. 2:30-2:40: Welcome and Settling in
 - a. Introduce new members Caitlin Charlet & Vicki Hand
2. 2:40-3:00: WDEP Status report - Dan Riffell
 - a. [Preliminary recommendations](#) from WDEP Tiger Team
3. 3:00-3:15: [Resolution related to building heat and air conditioning](#) - Carol & David
4. 3:15-3:35: Announcement/Updates
 - a. Sustainability Council Relationship
 - i. [Open Forum on Friday Apr 12th at 9AM](#) - Kitteridge Center Multipurpose Rm B
 - b. [CTL Call for Applicants](#) (deadline extended to May 3) - David
 - c. [Plastic Pollution & Environmental Justice](#) by Phaedra Pezzulo, April 17, 3:15-5:00
 - d. [Social Sciences Grant Proposal](#) - Laura
 - e. [RIO Grant Proposal](#) - David & Carol
 - f. [NSF Civic Innovation Challenge Grant Proposal](#) (due May 1) - Azza
 - i. Mtg with Boulder County (Susie Strife) on Friday April 12th, at 1PM
5. 3:35-3:50: Sustainability Summit Panel (April 25th, 2:45-4:00) - David
 - a. [Preliminary Script for Moderator](#)
6. 3:50-4:00: Summer Initiatives
 - a. Brainstorming with Sustainability Executive Council

Agenda for March 21, 2024

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

1. 2:30-2:35: Welcome and Settling in
 - a. Introduce Azza - Carol
2. 2:35-2:50 FRPA and Climate/Sustainability Reporting - Shelly Miller
3. 2:50-3:15: Announcements/Updates
 - a. [CTL Call for Applicants](#) - David
 - b. Social Sciences Grant Proposal - Laura
 - c. [NSF Civic Innovation Challenge Grant Proposal](#) (due May 1)- Azza
 - d. RIO Grant Proposal - Carol
4. 3:15-3:20: [Resolution related to building heat and air conditioning](#) - David
5. 3:20-3:45: Sustainability Summit Panel - Marianne
 - a. Campus composting initiative?
6. 3:45-4:00: Other topics:
 - a. [Articles and videos from AASHE](#) on how different campuses address Scope 3 emissions

Agenda for March 7, 2024

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

1. 2:30-3:00: Announcements
 - a. Final 4 CSEC meetings: Mar 7th, Mar 21st, April 11th, May 2nd – David
 - b. [ECenter Sustainability Summit](#), April 24th-25th – Marianne
 - c. [AASHE Sustainability Education Forum](#), June 6-7, 2024 – David and Gaby
 - d. CAP Communications Working Group update – Irina
2. 3:00-3:15: Collaboration with Center for Teaching and Learning – David
 - a. [Fellowship for Climate & Sustainability Education](#)
3. 3:15-3:45: Action items overview and discussion – Carol
 - a. [Priorities from our retreat](#)
 - b. [CAP response document](#) (submitted 3/5/24)
 - c. [New Frontiers proposal](#) - We need volunteers!
4. 3:45-4:00: Proposed FRPA categories – Shelly needs volunteers
5. Upcoming events of interest
 - a. Rebecca Safran (EBio) Distinguished Lecture, March 12th 4-5 PM, Chancellor's Hall, CASE
 - b. Save-the-Date! CU Boulder Chancellor finalist forums
 - i. Week of March 18, 8:00 AM, days TBD, UMC Ballroom and via Zoom

Agenda for February 22, 2023

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

1. 2:30-3:00 Updates from Chairs
 - a. Climate Action Plan forums
 - i. Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. ([Zoom link](#))
 - ii. Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. ([Zoom link](#))
 - b. [Climate Action Plan Comment Document](#) in Google Drive
 - c. WDEP Tiger Team update
2. 3:00-3:40 [Priorities from Retreat](#)
 - a. Review sections C & D on pages 3-4
 - b. Breakout session notes
 - c. Partnership with CTL
 - d. Community of Practice
3. 3:40-3:55 Interdisciplinary major on Sustainability & Climate
 - a. [Rio New Frontiers Grant](#)
 - b. [Quad Chart](#)
4. 3:55-4:00 Meetings after Spring Break: April 11 and April 25

BFA CSEC Agenda for February 8, 2014

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

2:30-3:15: Continue Discussion of [Action Items from Retreat](#):

3:15-3:45: Develop an Approach to Eliciting Feedback on CAP (see attached)

3:50-4:00: Future Items: Developing a Faculty Education Community of Practice, meetings after Spring Break

Agenda for January 25, 2023

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

- 2:30-2:40 Welcome and introductions - All
- 2:40-3:00 Retreat recap general observations - Carol leads roundtable discussion
- 3:00-3:30 WDEP Tiger Team - Shelly Miller
- 3:30-3:50: Retreat Action Item Priorities - David & Carol
- 3:50-4:00 Discuss Future Topics

BFA CSEC is a co-sponsor of Live from Antarctica: Discussion with Scientists and Engineers at the Princess Elisabeth Antarctica Research Station, Wednesday, January 31, 11am -12:30pm MT, Zoom Webinar Registration: <https://bit.ly/4b2Ullm>

Agenda for December 7

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

- 2:00-2:15 Carol and David Updates on
 - Panel Discussion on Climate Justice
 - Upcoming Meeting with Anschutz
- 2:15-2:30: David P. updates
 - Resolutions: Chancellor, CAP Transparency, [Prioritizing Climate Action](#)
- 2:30-3:20 [Mini Retreat](#) update and discussion of content and proposed outcomes
 - SEEC S228 on Friday January 12th, 8:30am-1pm
 - [Sustainability Executive Council](#) initiatives - how can CSEC help?
 - Climate Across the Curriculum Community of Practice
 - Collaboration with CSU?
 - Outreach with Boulder County
- 3:20-3:30 Committee input mechanism - Google Docs; Teams later

Agenda for Nov 16

Meeting is on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91019577074>

- 2:00-2:15: Carol and David Update on the ASFS meeting
 - the main talking points that Carol and David presented at BFA and ASFS.
 - Please spread the word to units.
- 2:15-2:20: David P. updates
 - meeting with Advancement
 - FRPA
- 2:20-2:40 Carol & David Update on meeting with CSU's Carol Dollard
 - Switching off of fossil fuels with respect to heating, there are many steps toward implementation. Ground source pipes cost and disruption.
- 2:40 to 3:10: David P. with help from Dave Newport: STARS Gap analysis -
 - recommended next steps
 - Learning outcomes criteria need to reflect the STARS outcomes.
 - Use UN Sustainable Development Goals to work with Katherine Eggert to improve
- 3:10-3:30: Carol: Future items
 - Mini retreat
 - Reducing student travel emissions by coupling policies with calendar reform
 - Committee input mechanism - Google Doc?, Teams?

Agenda for 11-2-2023

- 2:00 - 2:15: Climate Action Fund Resolution is on hold - David P.
 - Collaboration with CSU
 - Bylaws work including Shelly and Advancement
- 2:15-2:30: BFA Resolution update - Carol
 - Final Draft of the resolution is here: [BFA resolution](#)
- 2:30-3:00: Next steps for our committee

- AASHE report - Closing the sustainability skills gap (p. 55) - Carol and Dave Newport
<https://www.aashe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SCI-2023-1.pdf>
- Creating a video with faculty input on CU's commitment to implementing climate action - David
- 3:00-3:30: CAP Follow up and future items to cover - David P.
 - Time horizon: 2050
 - Costs, grants, other sources of funding
 - CSU - Carol Dollard
 - Carbon Offsets, greenwashing, reduced air travel, academic calendar
 - New suggested topics from committee members

Upcoming CIRES lecture:

Dr. Tracey Holloway:
Linking Data with Decision-Making on Air Quality
Friday, Nov. 3, 2023
3 pm; CIRES Auditorium

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/CIRES-Distinguished-Lecture--Dr--Tracey-Holloway.html?soid=1140242802375&aid=j04PQJQrL9I>

Agenda for 10-19-2023

1. 2:00 to 2:15: Discuss proposed changes to [Resolution for urgent climate action](#) and Excom reaction - David P.
2. 2:15 to 2:25: Discuss
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uGLsOzzlI81SeKNfLcpUu5by4P4ZZxW_yA8STMyQ30w/edit?usp=sharing - David P.
3. 2:25 to 2:45: Campus Sustainability issues - David P.
 - a. Travel, carbon offsets?
 - b. Academic calendar [CSEC Resolution on Climate Action](#)
 - c. Climate Action Plan - expert analysis needed
4. 2:45 to 3:15: Divestment update (we will be joined by students from Fossil Free CU)
 - a. Recent regent meeting
 - b. [Fossil Free CU](#)
 - c. Carol & David's Letter to regents regarding divestment
 - d. 3:15 to 3:30: Upcoming/Proposed topics
 - i. Grant for IRA or other funding for CAP implementation
 - ii. CAP presentation
 - iii. Visit from CSU's [Carol Dollard](#) who is a force behind [CSU's sustainability commission](#)
 - iv. Joint resolution with BPC related to CAP
 1. time for public comment

Agenda for Climate Science Education Committee, Oct 5, 2023

- Opening announcements – 15 minutes - Carol & David
 - Still waiting on CAP
 - STARS Survey 2023- Environmental Literacy questions - will discuss in second half of meeting
 - [Revised Resolution in Support of Urgent Climate Change Action](#)
 - Vote to approve sending this to the BFA ExCom
 - Other announcements from committee members?
- Climate Action Fund – Scott King 30 minutes
 - Purpose of the fund
 - Obstacles encountered: [bylaws](#), general attitude of advancement
 - How can we help? Resolution? Meet with Advancement?
- AASHE Follow up – Carol & David 30 minutes
 - [STARS Survey 2023](#)- Environmental Literacy Questions
- Future Activities for the CSEC – Carol & David – **15 minutes**
 - Education Initiatives
 - Common Curriculum
 - Credentialing, badges: Visit from Registrar's Office?
 - Travel Offsets

Agenda for Climate Science Education Committee, September 21, 2023

[\[Followup notes after meeting are listed in blue\]](#)

- Opening announcements – **5 min**
 - Update on the state of CAP – awaiting its release – David P.
 - Other announcements from committee members?
- AASHE overview – Dave Newport – **15 min**
 - AASHE 2023 Conference & Expo
 - October 29 – 31, 2023, Sheraton Boston Hotel - Is CU attending? Yes, Heidi and Dave N.
 - How can Boulder faculty help advance AASHE sustainability goals on our campus? – Carol
 - [STARS Survey 2023- Environmental Literacy questions – [\[CSEC give feedback to Marianne Martin and Katherine Eggert\]](#)
- Resolution in Support of Urgent Climate Change Action (for BFA approval) – Carol – **20 min**
 - Discussion - do you agree with the concept?
 - Edits and comments incorporated into a final version
 - Vote to approve sending this to the BFA ExCom
 - [\[David, Irina and Carol will meet by email to suggest a couple more action bullets. Also change the wording of bullet three to incorporate Dan's comment.\]](#)
- Scott King resolution to support climate action fund – David P. – [postponed to next meeting](#)
 - Is this something CSEC is interested in pursuing?
 - Should we first call on CU Boulder's Advancement Office to hear their side before we issue a resolution?
 - Ask Dave Newport for his thoughts

- Future Activities for the CSEC – Carol – **5 min**
 - Should we start up the Education subcommittee? Perhaps using the blueprint of the Common Curriculum? - ask for ideas.
 - Should we continue to pursue creating a campus climate change and environment website that lists all campus efforts in teaching, research and outreach? [**Ask Shelly about getting funding from Katherine Eggert or Chancellor?**]
- Report on the Divestment rally by student Fossil Free CU group last Friday afternoon - ~65 people attended – Carol and David P. – **10 min postponed to next meeting**
 - Should CSEC continue to support student efforts or recommend that the BFA ExCom do so?
 - Should we ask Beth or Brigid to come talk to us?
- New business or proposals from CSEC members – **10 min**
- **Irina - Can we meet with Advancement to get them to make big initiatives to pitch things that are attractive to - after we hear from Scott?**

Agenda for Climate Science Education Committee, September 7, 2023

- I. Introductions - 10 minutes
- II. Carol Cogswell
 1. Vision for Committee 10 minutes
 - a. Sense of urgency
 - b. BFA has ability to effect change through united voice
 - c. Break down silos
- III. Nadav Peer - Infrastructure Committee - 20 minutes
 1. Climate Action Plan (CAP)
- IV. David Paradis - Outreach Committee - 20 minutes
 1. Activities
 - a. Boulder County
 - b. Alumni
 2. Connection to AAU Universities
 - a. UNICOP
 - b. Lobbying arm
- V. Carol Cogswell - Education Committee - 15 minutes
 1. Shelly's recommendation/vision
- VI Action items - 10 minutes
 1. Subcommittee meetings next week(s)
 2. CU Ombudsman
 3. Divestment

Meetings

In AY 2023-24, regular CSEC meetings were held bi-weekly using Zoom. Additional activities were held in person and are summarized below:

Nov 2, 2023: Resolution presented at BFA Assembly

Nov 13, 2023: Carol Dollard, CSU Infrastructure presentation and discussion on building geothermal heating plans

Nov. 14, 2023: Carol presents proposed Climate Action Resolution slides to the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council discussion led by Andy Cowell

Dec 7, 2023: David and Carol meet with Erin Espelie

Dec 7, 2023: Resolution adopted by BFA Assembly

Dec. 12, 2023: Meet with Heidi VanGenderen

Dec 14, 2023: Meet with Maureen Leehey, CU Anschutz

Dec. 18, 2023: David and Carol meet with Kirk Ambrose, Center for Teaching and Learning

Jan 12, 2024: CSEC Mini Retreat

Feb 20, 2024: David and Carol meet with Kirk Ambrose

Feb 29, 2024: RIO New Frontiers proposal presentation

Mar 8, 2024: Carol presents a CSEC activity summary to the College of Engineering Faculty Governance Council

Mar 4, 2024: David and Carol meet with Andy Cowell

Mar 14, 2024: David and Carol meet with Matt Young

Mar 28, 2024: Carol and David meet with Heidi VanGenderen

Apr 12, 2024: Carol, David and Azza meet with Susie Strife

Apr 23, 2024: David and Carol meet with Amanda Carrico

Apr 25, 2024: Campus Sustainability Summit panel discussion - CSEC members Azza Kamal and David Paradis were panelists

In addition: David and Carol met nearly every week with BFA Chair Shelly Miller as well as attended the weekly BFA ExCom meetings.

Ongoing CSEC Initiatives

Climate Change Education

Meeting with Kirk Ambrose – outcome was to create a new faculty fellow position between CTL and BFA. The new fellow will implement a new working group/“Community of Practice” to initiate a wide range of new sustainability study opportunities and credentials for all CU undergraduates. STARS

Campus Climate Action Plan: Investigate ways faculty and students can work together with staff to implement Scope 3 emissions reductions

Some examples:

Step 1: Research: Collect data on sources of scope 3 emissions

Step 2: Identify and evaluate multiple incentives for changing behaviors, such as:

- Faculty incentives for new climate [education](#) approaches
- Changing [travel and commuting](#) practices
- Encouraging [green lab](#) purchasing practices
- [Sustainable living](#) – electrifying everything, conservation

Step 3: Mobilize students to recruit more students and faculty/staff to test possible solutions and monitor results.

Continuing Efforts to Strengthen Interactions with the Environmental Center

Communicating Climate Change: Investigating methods to implement effective community partnerships

Meeting with Susie Strife – Boulder County Sustainability to discuss possible grant proposal collaboration