

MENV 2025 CAPSTONE SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM



Masters of the Environment
University of Colorado **Boulder**

October 31st, 2025
8:00am - 12:30pm

SEEC Building
4001 Discovery Drive
Boulder, CO 80303

In Person or Virtual

RSVP Link



EVENT SCHEDULE

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 - 8:45am	Breakfast and Check-In	SEEC Atrium
8:45 - 10:00am	Welcome & Keynote Presentations	C120
10:00 - 10:30am	Session 1	All rooms
10:30 - 11:00am	Session 2	All rooms
11:00 - 11:30am	Session 3	All rooms
11:30am - 12:00pm	Session 4	All rooms
12:00 - 12:30pm	Session 5	All rooms

For each session: 30-minute format

15 Minutes - Student Presentation

8 Minutes - Q&A

7 Minutes - Transition

WELCOME SCHEDULE

Time	Activity	Location
8:45 - 9:15am	Keynote Presentations	C120 Auditorium
9:15 - 9:30am	Awards	C120 Auditorium
9:30 - 10:00am	Kickoff Presentation - Mad Agriculture	C120 Auditorium

Kickoff Presentation

Mad Agriculture

Sam Romero
Jamilah Touré
Joe Bousamra
Joe Mitchem

Haystack Farms

Advised by: Damien Thompson

CARA CARMICHAEL

Associate Vice Chancellor of Sustainability at CU Boulder Keynote Speaker

Cara Carmichael is a proud Colorado native, a two-time University of Colorado Boulder graduate, and a nationally recognized leader in sustainability solutions. With over 20 years of experience **advancing systemic and collaborative change across federal, state, and local levels**, she brings deep technical expertise and a passion for impact. Cara has a long-standing history with RMI, where she helped drive **high-impact energy strategies**, including **leading research and techno-economic analysis on the cost, carbon, and grid benefits of building energy demand flexibility**.



Throughout her career, Cara has worked with **more than a dozen universities** to advance sustainability, including the delivery of several **high-performance buildings** at the University of Hawaii. Most recently, Cara served at the White House, where she led the development of the nation's first-ever **Federal Building Performance Standard** among other achievements.

CHRIS STEINKAMP

Executive Director of Mountain Towns 2030

Keynote Speaker

Chris Steinkamp is the **executive director of Mountain Towns 2030**, an organization dedicated to helping mountain and rural communities reach carbon neutrality. His work centers on scaling MT2030's influence and impact, **building a national movement of local governments, ski resorts, businesses, and community leaders** working together to turn climate ambition into action, and driving measurable progress toward a clean energy future.

Before launching MT2030, **Chris spent over a decade leading Protect Our Winters (POW)**, building it from an ambitious idea into the pre-eminent climate advocacy organization representing the winter outdoor community around the world.



MAD AGRICULTURE

Accepted by Tanner Starbard - Chief Financial Officer 2025 Capstone Partner Recognition Award

Mad Agriculture is a six-time partner with MENV's Capstone Program. **Phil Taylor, a co-founder of Mad Ag and a previous lecturer within Sustainable Food Systems specialization,** originally brought the non-profit in as a capstone partner in 2018. Since then, students have furthered Mad Ag's mission to **drive regenerative agriculture in Colorado** and support farmers in their transition. In the last two years, MENV capstone teams have worked at **Haystack Farms with MENV Alum Tanner Starbard, the Chief Financial Officer** of Mad Ag. Student projects have focused on designing and implementing stewardship plans to support the land's ecological recovery and establish Haystack as a **model biodiverse and regenerative farm.**

MAD AGRICULTURE



Tanner Starbard (he/him) grew up amongst the citrus orchards and ephemeral creeks of Ojai Valley, near California's central coast. Working with the land on a small ranch and adventuring through the **native oak groves and orange orchards helped him foster respect and joy for nature—**in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, and especially where they intersect. His degrees in **Ethnic Studies and Environmental Planning and Management** each supplement his history and his vision for **creating businesses that are a source of food for people and the planet.**

Taken from <https://madagriculture.org/team/tanner-starbard>

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Room*	C120 A	C120	C120 B	N128	S228
Theme	Private Sector Sustainability Solutions	Water Advocacy	Enhancing Climate Resilience	Local Government in Action	Powering the Future
10:00-10:30am	Buttnski	Boulder Watershed Collective	Colorado State Forest Service & Governor's Office of Climate Preparedness	Denver's Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency Office	Colorado Electric Transmission Authority
10:30-11:00am	Riverside Natural Foods	Aspen Global Change Institute	Front Range Native Plants	City of Westminster	OneEnergy Renewables
11:00-11:30am	Stratifyx, Inc	New Mexico Acequia Association	Boulder County Farmer's Market Food Hub	Town of Erie	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
11:30am - 12:00pm	Z2 Entertainment	Colorado Water Trust	National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition	Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure	Boomtown Innovation
12:00pm-12:30pm	Frutera Produce	Audubon Rockies	Protect Our Winters	Town of Hayden	Third Derivative

***Maps to find these rooms in SEEC are at the end of this program.**

SESSION 1

10:00AM - 10:30AM

C120 A

Buttnski

**Ashe Orr
Devon Campbell
Kamea Merkouris**

**Buttnski Upcycle and
Recycle Program**

Advised by: Natalie Ooi & William Shutkin

C120

**Boulder Watershed
Collective**

**Amanda Opp
Colin McDonald
Jack Carter**

**The Social & Ecological
Considerations for Beaver
Coexistence & Relocation Projects
Along the Front Range**

Advised by: Meghan McCarroll

C120 B

**Colorado State Forest Service
& Governor's Office of Climate
Preparedness**

**Ash Lehto
Matt Carson
Olivia Quagliani**

**Growing Resilience In the Face of
Extreme Heat in Colorado Through
Community-Informed, Data-Driven
Urban Forestry**

Advised by: Alice Reznickova

N128

**Denver's Climate Action,
Sustainability, and
Resiliency Office**

**Lisa Shi
Erin Spencer
Muriah Summer**

**Electrifying Denver's
Neighborhoods**

Advised by: Josh Radoff

S228

**Colorado Electric
Transmission Authority**

**Chris Hendrick
Jim Haensly
Rai Sparks**

**Long Duration Energy
Storage in Colorado**

Advised by: Derek Fehr

SESSION 2

10:30AM - 11:00AM

C120 A

Riverside Natural Foods

**Jonny Maier
Leah Glidden
Megan Chan**

Future-Proofing Organics: A
Strategic Environmental Risk and
Resilience Framework for Riverside
Natural Foods

Advised by: Joel Hartter

C120

Aspen Global Change Institute

**Andrew Fant
Colin Kinsman
Rachael Stein**

Snow Metrics and Water
Management in the
Colorado River Basin

Advised by: Gregor MacGregor

C120 B

Front Range Native Plants

**Erin Bucchinn
Ilana Gipple
Jesse Stahl**

Regionally-Native Greenhouse
Feasibility Study

Advised by: Damien Thompson

N128

City of Westminster

**Kate Williams
Lindsay Knight
Tara Sullivan**

Planning Waste Diversion
Initiatives for the City of
Westminster

Advised by: Leslie Blood

S228

OneEnergy Renewables

**Annika Cederstrand
Casey Chabot
Kaylie Larson**

New Strategy Analysis
for Utility-Scale Solar
Development

Advised by: Josh Radoff

SESSION 3

11:00AM - 11:30AM

C120 A

Stratifyx, Inc

**Dominic Corradino
Lauren Fellner
Lexy Schneider**

Leveraging Software to
Support Nature Based
Solutions in Land
Development

Advised by: Brian Kennedy

C120

New Mexico Acequia Association

**Jennie Lynch
Tati Eldridge**

Protecting Traditional
Acequia Irrigation Rights
Through Real Estate
Disclosure Requirements

Advised by: Gregor MacGregor

C120 B

Boulder County Farmer's Market Food Hub

**Alexandra Rodriguez
Sam Cochrane**

Strengthening Boulder
County's Local Food Future

Advised by: Damien Thompson

N128

Town of Erie

**Adam Arata
Sean Lee
Stephany Correa-Diaz**

Resilience Action Plan
Development

Advised by: Leslie Blood

S228

CU Boulder, advised by National Renewables Energy Lab

**Cass Mendoza
Peyton Furr
Shefali Chandra**

Enhancing Community
Acceptance of Hydrogen Fuel
& Infrastructure

Advised by: Brian Kennedy

SESSION 4

11:30AM - 12:00PM

C120 A

Z2 Entertainment

**Haylee Grace
Lydia McElderry
MikeyJ
Nicholas Cordova**

**Greening the Gig: Building a
Music Sustainability Action Plan**

Advised by: Mara Rose

C120

Colorado Water Trust

**Caleb Cullen
Chelsea Perts
Gisela Merino-Soler**

**Restoring Flows In Urban
Colorado**

Advised by: Meghan McCarroll

C120 B

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

**Audrey Reininger
Emery Fontenot
Lauren Connolly**

**Strengthening Conservation
Compliance**

Advised by: Alice Reznickova

N128

Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

**Kasrah Eslami
Monroe Roush**

**Implementation of Denver
Department of Transportation and
Infrastructure's Greenhouse Gas
Reduction Targets**

Advised by: Taber Ward

S228

Boomtown Innovation

**Anna Brooks
Danniel Tigreros
Riyansh Jain**

**Sustainable Cities Innovation
Platform**

Advised by: William Shutkin

SESSION 5
12:00PM - 12:30PM

C120 A

Frutura Produce

Lexi Weintrob
Rajan Patel
Sophia Angleton

Evaluating Social and
Environmental Risks in Frutura's
Global Supply Chain

Advised by: Meghan McCarroll

C120

Audubon Rockies

Leah Bilski
Josie Rivero
Pearl McLeod

The Landscape of River
Restoration in Colorado

Advised by: Karen Bailey

C120 B

Protect Our Winters

Angie Balish
Lexi Sheehan
Sydney Paschall

The Cost of Inaction

Advised by: William Shutkin

N128

Town of Hayden

Brooke Miller
Samuel Krause
Yihui Zuo

The Hayden Resiliency
Project

Advised by: Gregor MacGregor

S228

Third Derivative

David Forest
Nate Reynolds
Owen Wilson
Cole Thompson

Accelerating Climate
Innovation in the Built
Environment

Advised by: Josh Radoff

SEEC Floor 1: Symposium Rooms



SEEC Floor 2: Symposium Rooms

The floor plan of SEEC Floor 2 shows a complex arrangement of rooms. A compass rose in the top left corner indicates the orientation: North (N) is up, South (S) is down, East (E) is to the left, and West (W) is to the right. The plan is divided into several sections. The top section contains rooms N290, N292A-H, N285A-D, N283, N279-H, N263, N239-H, N236C, N232, N231, N230, N221, N226, N224, N201-H, N202, N203, N204, N205, N206, N207, N208, N209, N210, N211, N212, N214, N216, N217, N218, N219, N220, N221, N222, N223, N224, N225, N226, N227, N228, N229, N230, N231, N232, N233, N234, N235, N236, N237, N238, N239, N240, N241, N242, N243, N244, N245, N246, N247, N248, N249, N250, N251, N252, N253, N254, N255, N256, N257, N258, N259, N260, N261, N262, N263, N264, N265, N266, N267, N268, N269, N270, N271, N272, N273, N274, N275, N276, N277, N278, N279, N280, N281, N282, N283, N284, N285, N286, N287, N288, N289, N290, N291, N292, N293, N294, N295, N296, N297, N298, N299, N300, N301, N302, N303, N304, N305, N306, N307, N308, N309, N310, N311, N312, N313, N314, N315, N316, N317, N318, N319, N320, N321, N322, N323, N324, N325, N326, N327, N328, N329, N330, N331, N332, N333, N334, N335, N336, N337, N338, N339, N340, N341, N342, N343, N344, N345, N346, N347, N348, N349, N350, N351, N352, N353, N354, N355, N356, N357, N358, N359, N360, N361, N362, N363, N364, N365, N366, N367, N368, N369, N370, N371, N372, N373, N374, N375, N376, N377, N378, N379, N380, N381, N382, N383, N384, N385, N386, N387, N388, N389, N390, N391, N392, N393, N394, N395, N396, N397, N398, N399, N400, N401, N402, N403, N404, N405, N406, N407, N408, N409, N410, N411, N412, N413, N414, N415, N416, N417, N418, N419, N420, N421, N422, N423, N424, N425, N426, N427, N428, N429, N430, N431, N432, N433, N434, N435, N436, N437, N438, N439, N440, N441, N442, N443, N444, N445, N446, N447, N448, N449, N450, N451, N452, N453, N454, N455, N456, N457, N458, N459, N460, N461, N462, N463, N464, N465, N466, N467, N468, N469, N470, N471, N472, N473, N474, N475, N476, N477, N478, N479, N480, N481, N482, N483, N484, N485, N486, N487, N488, N489, N490, N491, N492, N493, N494, N495, N496, N497, N498, N499, N500. The central area is labeled 'TERRACE'. The bottom section contains rooms S298, S296, S297, S299, S295, S298A, S298B, S298C, S298D, S298E, S298F, S298G, S298H, S298I, S298J, S298K, S298L, S298M, S298N, S298O, S298P, S298Q, S298R, S298S, S298T, S298U, S298V, S298W, S298X, S298Y, S298Z, S299A, S299B, S299C, S299D, S299E, S299F, S299G, S299H, S299I, S299J, S299K, S299L, S299M, S299N, S299O, S299P, S299Q, S299R, S299S, S299T, S299U, S299V, S299W, S299X, S299Y, S299Z, S300A, S300B, S300C, S300D, S300E, S300F, S300G, S300H, S300I, S300J, S300K, S300L, S300M, S300N, S300O, S300P, S300Q, S300R, S300S, S300T, S300U, S300V, S300W, S300X, S300Y, S300Z, S301A, S301B, S301C, S301D, S301E, S301F, S301G, S301H, S301I, S301J, S301K, S301L, S301M, S301N, S301O, S301P, S301Q, S301R, S301S, S301T, S301U, S301V, S301W, S301X, S301Y, S301Z, S302A, S302B, S302C, S302D, S302E, S302F, S302G, S302H, S302I, S302J, S302K, S302L, S302M, S302N, S302O, S302P, S302Q, S302R, S302



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS AND MENV PROGRAM!

Inclement Weather/Snow Day Contingency:

In the event of inclement weather closing Campus on Friday, October 31st, 2025, the Capstone Symposium will be held virtually with the same session times. Zoom links will be shared with all registered attendees.



Masters of the Environment
University of Colorado **Boulder**