



EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION
2024 VIRTUAL SUMMIT



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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 • 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. ET
VIA ZOOM

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Welcome and Opening

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Welcome and Plenary: Rise & Grind: Starting Your Day with Conversations About Equity

Speakers:

Adam Ortiz, *Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Mid-Atlantic Region*

Tom Perez, *White House Senior Advisor*

Janet McCabe, *Deputy Administrator, U.S. EPA*

Cathy Libertz, *Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Mid-Atlantic Region*

Jessica Shirley, *Acting Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection (PA)*

Shawn Garvin, *Secretary, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DE)*

Serena McIlwain, *Secretary of the Environment, Department of the Environment (MD)*

Richard Jackson, *Director, Department of Energy and Environment (DC)*

Travis Voyles, *Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources (VA)*

Harold Ward, *Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection (WV)*

This opening plenary will feature White House and EPA leadership. The first half of the session will discuss issues of equity and how they are being addressed on a federal level. The second half of the session will engage our environmental state secretaries on issues within their respective states with questions from our stakeholders.

Session descriptions continued on the next page

Room A. What's Emergency Response?

Speakers:

Ashley Nilsen, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Michael Brandt, *FEMA R3*

G. Austin Harmon, *FEMA R3*

Joel Blanco-Gonzalez, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Jenna O'Brien, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Kevin Gaynor, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Learn about emergency response at the national level. We will compare a small-scale emergency response at the Reading Drum Site in Reading, PA versus a large national-level event, such as the Maui Wildfires. Gain a high-level view of how federal agencies are brought together to respond in support of a national-level event with an overview by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Learn about the various functions EPA may assist with in a large-scale response and where EPA Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic Region) has deployed previously. Hear from EPA Region 3 employees who recently deployed in support of EPA Region 9 at the Maui Wildfires Response.

Room B. Blue Skies Ahead: Climate Change Update

Speakers:

Dr. Matthew Konfirst, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Lexi Smith, *Payne Elementary School PTSA*

Rebecca C. Stack, *Design Green LLC*

Hear about EPA Region 3's FY23 Climate Priorities, get a glimpse into the EPA Region 3 priority climate action website, and receive a pre-view of the next climate adaptation/implementation plan to be published in the fall. This session will also include grantee insights from the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Room C. Cutting "Forever" Short- Taking Action on PFAS Today

Speakers:

William Richardson, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Laura Mohollen, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Casey E. Korbini, *West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection*

Autumn Crowe, *West Virginia Rivers Coalition*

Scot Mandirola, *West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (invited)*

Yen-Der Cheng, *Municipal Surface Discharge Division, Maryland Department of the Environment*

Naomi R. (Nony) Howell, *Wastewater Permits, Maryland Department of the Environment*

This session will cover PFAS regulatory updates from EPA on the new federal maximum contamination limit in drinking water. There will also be discussion about PFAS listed as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and West Virginia River Coalition will share on their Community Engagement Pilot Project in environmental justice communities overburdened with PFAS contamination in drinking water. The Maryland Department of the Environment will present the survey results establishing PFAS baseline levels in wastewater treatment plant effluents and biosolids.

Room D. Don't be Salty! Best Practices to Keep Waterways Fresh

Speakers:

Sujay Kaushal, *Department of Geology, University of Maryland, College Park*

Stanley Grant, *Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech*

John Jastram, *Virginia and West Virginia Water Center*

Steve Bieber, *Director, Water Resources Program, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC)*

Tylor Krolik, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Salinity is rising across many of the Mid-Atlantic Region's most iconic inland freshwaters. The rise in salinity has an impact on water quality and the structure and function of soil, stream, and riparian ecosystems. It also threatens vital drinking water supplies and agricultural productivity. In this session, we will discuss how government-community-researcher partnerships across the region are leading to new insights into the drivers and impacts of inland freshwater salinization and spurring new approaches to manage this emerging challenge.

Room E. Leading Green Cities- Making the Environment a Priority

Speakers:

Danene Sorace, *Mayor of Lancaster, PA*

Steve Williams, *Mayor of Huntington, WV*

Juandiego Wade, *Mayor of Charlottesville, VA*

The mayors of Lancaster, PA; Charlottesville, VA; and Huntington, WV will discuss how they have prioritized environmental protection for their communities in their day-to-day work. They will highlight environmentally beneficial projects that have taken place, like green infrastructure, stormwater management, climate action planning, and more.

Break

11:50 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

Lunch Session: Two Parts Perspective to One Part Equity: A Conversation with Dar Williams and Russell Armstrong

Speakers:

Gail Scot , *Director, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. EPA Region 3*

Dar Williams, *Artist and Activist*

Russell Armstrong, *Policy Director for Climate and Environment, Hip Hop Caucus*

Patrick Beckley, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Climate issues impact everyone regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or community. Diverse voices are needed to share the different perspectives. Artist and activist Dar Williams, and activist Russell Armstrong from the Hip Hop Caucus, are using their voices to get others to take action to protect our planet for generations to come. Hear first-hand the work they are doing to galvanize others to act.

Room A. Stay Ready, So You Don't Have to Get Ready: Preparedness & Planning for Emergencies

Speakers:

Myles Bartos, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Carl Pelligrino, *U.S. EPA Region 2*

Keith Winslow, *National Park Service*

Contingency planning is not only a good idea, but also a requirement. Learn how agencies work together to identify response strategies and build relationships prior to an event. The U.S. EPA, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and several state and local agencies participated in a full-scale exercise in the Delaware River in the fall of 2023. The exercise was conducted as part of an area planning effort to be prepared in the event of an environmental incident. Objectives included creating an effective unified command, deploying effective booming, and developing public information.

Room B. Grants Funding 101: Success is in the Bag

Speakers:

Vanessa Davies, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

This session discusses how to find, apply for, and manage EPA grants. If you are thinking about funding opportunities, tune in for this overview of the process, designed to guide you through the main points from start to finish.

Room C. Looking out for the "Little Guy": Ensuring Equity for Small Farmers

Speakers:

Wanda Johnson, *Small Farm Outreach Program*

Gloria Montano Greene, *Farm Production and Conservation, U.S. Department of Agriculture*

This session will describe some of the challenges that urban and rural farmers face. Speakers will share how policy makers, community organizations, and stakeholders are working together to create more sustainable, resilient, and equitable conditions for all farmers.

Room D. Today's Forecast: Climate Change from Regional Meteorologists

Speakers:

Scot Williams, *Fox 29 News, Philadelphia, PA*

Jason Samenow, *Washington Post*

Tammie Souza, *CBS 3, Philadelphia, PA*

Ron Smiley, *KDKA, Pittsburgh, PA*

Matthew Konfirst, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

The signs of climate change are all around – longer droughts, glaciers melting, and temperatures rising around the globe. But you don't have to travel the world to see things are changing right here at home. We've gathered some of our region's top meteorologists to share their expert perspectives.

Room E. It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: A Superfund Case Study in Successful Community Engagement

Speaker:

Josh Barber, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Brenda Whitfield, *Community Advisory Group (CAG)*

Derron LaBrake, *Community Advisory Group (CAG)*

Marilyn Howarth, *Community Advisory Group (CAG)*

Angela Ithier, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

A panel of speakers from EPA and community organizations will discuss the history of EPA and neighborhood interactions at the Lower Darby NPL Site, and the path that led to a successful and collaborative partnership benefitting the community.

Break

1:50 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Session 3. Concurrent Workshops

2:00 P.M. – 2:50 P.M.

Room A. Engaging Rural Eastern Shore Communities in Climate Solutions

Speakers:

Karen McGlathery, *UVA Environmental Institute*

Barbara Brown Wilson, *UVA School of Architecture and UVA Equity Center*

The University of Virginia's Environmental Institute stands at the forefront of environmental research and community engagement. This panel will dive into the Institute's work on the Eastern Shore of Virginia as they partner with community leaders to ensure that academic insights translate into actionable solutions that resonate at the local level.

Room B. We Secured the Bag: Hearing from EPA Grant Recipients

Speakers:

Robert Kell, *Appalachian Voices*

Lorna Rosenberg, *Women for a Healthy Environment*

Sydney Adams, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Anthony Clements, *Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle*

Juan Garret , *Northside Panhandle*

Join us to hear how EPA provides funding to grant recipients and how this financial assistance has helped organizations and external stakeholders make improvements in their communities. During this session, we will hear from a panel of speakers who will share their success and experience as an EPA grant recipient.

Room C. How Does Your Garden Grow? Farming to Sustain Communities

Speakers:

Jordan Johnson, *City Schoolyard Garden Program*

Adam Hill, *Pennsylvania Horticultural Society*

This is a two-part session regarding community gardens. Join PHS's Director of Community Gardens, Adam Hill, for an overview of PHS's work supporting community gardens and growers across the Philadelphia region. Adam will provide a brief history of community gardening in Philadelphia and will detail the need for community gardens and the multi-faceted ways PHS provides support for gardens at

all stages of their life cycles, ensuring they continue to thrive for years to come. Cultivate Charlotte is a community garden helping to engage people of all ages helping to build equitable and sustainable food systems, but not only educating but also program healthy food, amplifying community leaders, and advocating for food justice. In this session, representatives from Cultivate Charlotte will discuss the work and processes towards genuine community engagement with those most affected by our food system. Cultivate Charlotte will share details about its paid youth internship cohort and community advocates program. A Q&A and group discussion will complete the session.

Room D. Mission Possible: Meet the State Directors for Environmental Justice

Speakers:

Delaney Crosley, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

John Forren, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Aneca Atkinson, *Maryland Department of the Environment*

Katera Moore, *Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environment*

Dennis O. Stottemyler, *West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection*

Fernando Treviño, *Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection*

Melanie Davenport, *Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*

Join us for a conversation with top state officials to learn how agencies are placing the emphasis on environmental justice work. We will hear how new changes in agency structures and leadership are increasing the impact these agencies have in disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.

Room E. Charging Our Energy Future

Speakers:

Robin Blakeman, *Energy Efficient West Virginia*

Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite, *Clearly Energy*

Terry Hollandsworth, *Energy Efficient West Virginia and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers*

Building Performance Standards (BPS) are emerging as one of the most potent policy tools available to help communities meet their energy and climate goals while also delivering many co-benefits. BPS reduce the operating costs of buildings and grow the clean energy workforce. However, it is no secret that BPS programs can be resource intensive. Designing and implementing building emissions reduction programs can be difficult to achieve for even the largest and most well-resourced of jurisdictions. Small, rural, and/or underserved communities with limited funding and staffing bandwidth need solutions to streamline implementation and compliance tracking.

This interactive session will feature an overview of a new Department of Energy-funded project to support jurisdictions at many diverse locations in the country, so they can achieve emission reduction goals by aligning efforts towards energy monitoring and energy efficiency upgrade planning, growing the workforce and increasing administrative capacity.

Room A. Get the Lead Out: Updates of EPA Assessments in Residential Soil

Speakers:

Sharon Cooperstein, *U.S. EPA*

Martin Gehlhaus, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

John Banks, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Erik Armistead, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

How is EPA looking at residential soils at Superfund sites with the issuance of the new handbook? Lead risk assessment and modeling, x-ray fluorescence (XRF)- how do they work? This session will delve into lead in soils and the latest information.

Room B. Building Environmental Workforce Diversity

Speakers:

Brit any Clark, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Eimy Bonilla, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

John Brandt, *Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*

Ruben Delgado, *Hampton University*

Anna Hull, *Lincoln University*

Ethan Daguisan, *Cheyney University*

Diversity in the environmental workforce is severely lacking, yet it is crucial to successfully address environmental justice disparities. In this session, attendees will learn about how EPA has promoted partnerships between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)/Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) and state agencies to provide internship opportunities to underserved communities. Attendees will hear from our partners at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Hampton University, Lincoln University, and from a rising senior student intern from Cheyney University.

Room C. The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership: Charting a Course Beyond 2025

Speakers:

Martha Shimkin, *Chesapeake Bay Program Office, U.S. EPA*

Eric Hughes, *Chesapeake Bay Program Office, U.S. EPA*

Anna Killius, *Chesapeake Bay Commission*

Chuck Herrick, *New York University*

Larry Sanford, *University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science*

Jill Whitcomb, *Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection*

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) was formed in 1983 to coordinate the restoration of the Bay and its watershed in partnership with various federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions. As the CBP partnership nears 2025 for several of the goals and outcomes under the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement, there are many successes to celebrate. At the same time, emerging issues and changing conditions (e.g., climate change, growth, and new scientific data) have impacted the levels of effort needed to meet collective restoration priorities. The CBP partnership is now charting a critical path forward to outline the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Agreement leading up to and Beyond 2025. You will hear from representatives of CBP and the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee about the development of this critical path forward and what it will mean for the ongoing restoration of the Bay.

Room D. Equity, Liberation, Focus, and Power Sharing: The Story, Voice, and Vision of Virginia Community Voice

Speakers:

Alex Mandell, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Lea Whitehurst-Gibson, *VA Community Voice*

Delaney Crosley, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

In this session you will learn about how Virginia Community Voice (VACV), a Richmond, Virginia based non-profit centers the voices of those who have been directly impacted by inequity in the fight to right the wrongs of the past. In this session, you will hear how VACV is doing on the ground organizing work as well as training and coaching other organizations to join in mindset shifts toward liberation focused community change.

Room E. Empowering Communities with Environmental Tools to Use

Speakers:

Andy Dinsmore, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Camille Lukey, *U.S. EPA Region 3*

Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) and the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) are two information sources providing valuable information to the public about the environment around them. ECHO provides the public with information about regulated facilities under many statutes, as well as a snapshot of their compliance status and history. ECHO is also an excellent source of information relating to environmental justice. TRI provides information for communities to learn about toxic chemicals that industrial facilities are using and releasing into the environment, and whether those facilities are doing anything to prevent pollution. Both ECHO and TRI have interfaces that allow the public to access a wealth of data in an approachable and easy-to-use way. Users can become more knowledgeable about facilities in their communities and use the data to support informed decision-making.

Closing Remarks

3:50 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.