



Colorado State University

# Climate Transitions Dialogue

## MONDAY, 9/25 PROGRAM

### REGISTRATION

9:00 AM

### WELCOME FROM CSU & SPUR

10:00 AM

### PLENARY TALKS AND Q&A

EAN TAFOYA, GREEN LATINOS  
RUSS SCHUMACHER, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

10:30 AM

### PANEL: REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

OLGA WILHELMI, NATIONAL CENTER  
FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH  
ANGELA BOAG, COLORADO DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
TAYLOR WINCHELL, DENVER WATER  
FACILITATOR: COURTNEY SCHULTZ,  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

11:15 AM

### LUNCH

12:30 PM

### BREAKOUT SESSION

1:30 PM

### BREAK

2:30 PM

### PANEL: OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR ACTION

KEVIN BRINKMAN, BRINKMAN REAL ESTATE  
SARAH JANE (SJ) MAXTED, DELOITTE  
LIZ HUNT, SYNGENTA  
JACK FRITZINGER, TIMBERLINE STRATEGIES  
FACILITATOR: SCOTT SHRAKE,  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

2:45 PM

### PLENARY TALK & CLOSING

PRESIDENT AMY PARSONS,  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

4:00 PM

### RECEPTION

5:00 PM

MONDAY - TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 25 - 26, 2023

Confluence Theater  
CSU Spur Campus  
Denver, Colorado





## Climate Transitions Dialogue

### TUESDAY, 9/26 PROGRAM

#### WELCOME

9:00 AM

#### PANEL: VIEWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT

ANNE MILLER, COLORADO RESILIENCY OFFICE  
JONATHAN ASHER,  
COLORADO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CLIMATE  
PREPAREDNESS & DISASTER RECOVERY  
CINDY LAIR, COLORADO DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
FACILITATOR: PETER BACKLUND,  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

9:15 AM

#### BREAK

10:30 AM

#### PANEL: ADAPTATION AT THE LOCAL & COMMUNITY LEVEL

HEIDI PRUESS, LARIMER COUNTY  
LIS COHEN, CITY OF DENVER  
CATHIE PAGANO, GUNNISON COUNTY  
FACILITATOR: MARGUERITE HARDEN, COLORADO  
RESILIENCY OFFICE

10:45 AM

#### LUNCH

12:15 PM

#### BREAKOUT SESSION

1:30 PM

#### NEXT STEPS

2:30 PM

#### ADJOURN

3:00 PM

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# Climate Transitions Dialogue

## Plenary Speakers



### **Ean Thomas Tafoya, Green Latinos**

Ean is active in Denver Public Affairs, Colorado Public Policy, and Federal Environmental Policy. He has worked for three branches of local government, worked at three levels of American government, run for Denver City Council, and has directed many local and state political races. Currently, he serves as the Colorado State Director for GreenLatinos. Ean has received recognition for his work from both the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Denver Regional Air Quality Council, and most recently was named a River Hero by the National River Network. He loves to dance whether it be at a concert or in politics! As Mr. Denver, a local music DJ and radio host, he uses the media to uplift locals in the community. Follow Ean @believeEan on all platforms. Ean is a water protector that holds a B.A. in Political Science with a Minor in Native American Studies, a Water Studies Certificate, and Early Childhood Education Certificate from Metropolitan State University of Denver as well as a Horticultural Therapy Certificate for Colorado State University.



### **Russ Schumacher, Colorado Climate Center**

Russ Schumacher received his B.S. with majors in meteorology and humanities from Valparaiso University in Indiana in 2001. He received his M.S. in 2003 and Ph.D. in 2008 from the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. His graduate research examined the processes that cause mesoscale convective systems to produce extreme precipitation. Russ received an Advanced Study Program Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and spent 2008-09 at NCAR in Boulder. From 2009-11, Russ was Assistant Professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University. He joined the CSU faculty in August 2011. He received the CAREER award from the National Science Foundation in 2010, and was selected as Outstanding Professor of the Year by the students of the department in 2012. He was selected to receive the Editor's Award for the journals Monthly Weather Review and Weather and Forecasting in 2015. Russ was promoted to Associate Professor at CSU in July 2016 and Professor in July 2022. He currently serves as Editor of the journal Monthly Weather Review. Along with his faculty position in the Department of Atmospheric Science, Russ serves as the Colorado State Climatologist and director of the Colorado Climate Center.



# Climate Transitions Dialogue

## Plenary Speakers



### President Amy Parsons, Colorado State University

Amy Parsons is the 16th President of Colorado State University. Prior to being named the President of Colorado State University, Amy Parsons served in various senior executive leadership roles at CSU and the CSU System and combines her higher education experience with a private sector background. Prior to her most recent role as CEO of Mozzafiato, LLC, Parsons was executive vice chancellor of the CSU System from 2015-2020; vice president for university operations at CSU from 2009-2015; deputy general counsel and associate legal counsel at CSU Fort Collins from 2004-2009. As vice president of operations at CSU, she helped navigate through the fiscal challenges of the Great Recession, supported the first comprehensive salary equity survey to uncover and remedy gender-based inequities, and oversaw an historic physical transformation that included construction and renovation of state-of-the-art classroom buildings, parking structures, research facilities, and an on-campus stadium. She worked as a litigation attorney for Denver-firm Brownstein, Hyatt, & Farber (now Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck) from 1999-2004. Parsons holds a bachelor's degree in political science from CSU and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado.

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## Panelists & Moderators



### **Angela Boag, Colorado Department of Natural Resources**

Angela serves as the Assistant Director for Climate, Forest Health and Energy for the Department of Natural Resources. Angela has diverse experience in the private, nonprofit and academic sectors as a consultant and research scientist. At the University of Colorado Boulder, Angela evaluated the impacts of climate change on forests and grasslands, and studied how private landowners adapt forest management to climate change. For 2 years, Angela co-chaired the Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Mitigation Group for the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Angela has a Doctorate in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado-Boulder, a master's degree in forestry from the University of British Columbia, and a bachelor's degree in Biology from Queen's University in her native Canada. The Assistant Director for Climate, Forest Health and Energy position at the Department acts as a policy advisor to the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Director of the Colorado State Forest Service, and Director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, regarding issues, legislation, and state and national policy developments concerning climate change, forest management, energy, and related natural resources that may impact Colorado.



### **Olga Wilhelmi, National Center for Atmospheric Research**

Olga "Olya" Wilhelmi is a geographer whose research interests focus on interactions among weather, climate and society across scales, with the main emphasis on understanding societal risk, vulnerability and adaptive capacity to extreme weather events and climate change. She is a project scientist in the Research Application Laboratory and is the head of NCAR's Geographic Information Science Program. Olga is a graduate of Lomonosov Moscow State University where she majored in physical geography. She completed her Ph.D. in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1999. Olga has been leading and participating in numerous research activities and has written peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and reports addressing societal aspects of weather extremes and climate change; urban extreme heat and human health; drought vulnerability and water management; extreme precipitation events and flash floods; and the methodologies for integration of physical and social sciences in a GIS.



# Climate Transitions Dialogue



## **Taylor Winchell, Denver Water**

Taylor Winchell works on climate change adaptation and water supply planning at Denver Water, where he focuses on translating climate change threats to on-the-ground adaptation efforts. Taylor has additionally worked in the environmental non-profit sector and on water-focused international development projects. He received his MS in water resource engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his BS in environmental engineering science from the University of California, Berkeley.



## **Courtney Schultz, Colorado State University**

Courtney is a professor of forest and natural resource policy. She investigates topics at the intersection of science and policy, and her recent work has focused on policy innovations to support collaborative landscape restoration, effective fire management, and climate change adaptation on US forestlands. She directs the Public Lands Policy Group, a research group focused on US public lands policy and governance. Courtney is also the Lead of Colorado State University's President's Climate Change Initiative, where she is excited to be co-creating curriculum for future climate leaders and working to launch a Spur Climate Hub. She is Team Lead of the Climate Adaptation Partnership (CAP) at CSU, which serves to coordinate and accelerate interdisciplinary research and to facilitate science-informed, just, and holistic, social and ecological adaptation policies in the face of a changing climate.



## **Kevin Brinkman, Brinkman Real Estate**

Kevin Brinkman is the Founder and CEO of OneCanopy, Colorado's first reforestation company. OneCanopy was founded in northern Colorado to address deforestation in our region. The company grows native plants for reforestation and restoration efforts throughout the Rocky Mountains. As a social enterprise, OneCanopy's profit is reinvested into the nursery to grow 500,000 to one million trees annually for reforestation. As CEO, Kevin leads the overall vision and direction of the company. He builds business and investor partnerships and develops effective operational processes to support the mission of the company. In addition to Kevin's focus on conservation, he continues to serve as CEO of Brinkman Real Estate, a commercial real estate investment company headquartered in northern Colorado that he co-founded in 2005. In addition to growing the company to over \$705 million in real estate investments, Kevin led the charge to becoming one of the first B Corp certified real estate companies in 2018. Kevin holds a master's degree in real estate finance from the University of Denver and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Colorado in Boulder.



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## **Jack Fritzing, Timberline Strategies**

Jack Fritzing is the Founder and CEO of Timberline Strategies, a consulting firm that supports early stage climate innovation and ecosystem building. Jack works with accelerator programs, venture capital firms, and educational platforms around the world to catalyze the positive impact that startups can provide in overcoming our planet's climate crisis. Prior to Timberline Strategies, Jack launched and ran the On Deck Climate Tech Fellowship program, bringing together a global community of entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers, and impact-focused builders to help them take the next step on their climate journey. In addition to Timberline Strategies, Jack runs several communities for executive-level climate leaders, and builds resources to facilitate the climate tech talent transition.



## **Sarah Jane (SJ) Maxted, Deloitte**

SJ Maxted works extensively with climate-forward organizations, ranging from startups and global philanthropic entities to governmental bodies. SJ is a key figure in the leadership of GreenSpace Tech by Deloitte, spearheading advancements within the climate technology ecosystem. In a previous role as a Principal at ADL Ventures, SJ specialized in energy venture development. Notably, she contributed to the management of a Task Force on the Work of the Future for the President of MIT and held the position of Director of Strategic Initiatives at The Engine, a venture capital fund affiliated with MIT, where the focus was on advancing tough tech and breakthrough technology. SJ's impact extends to the global stage, as she directed and expanded the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program across over 40 regions worldwide, nurturing their regional innovation ecosystems. During her tenure at the United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) in President Obama's Administration, SJ played a significant role as Special Assistant to Secretary Dr. Steven Chu. She was detailed to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, where she skillfully managed a tech transfer and commercialization portfolio. Her earlier career included a position working under former Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, serving as a member of the Senior Advisor for Energy team. SJ is a distinguished Colorado Governor's Fellow and occupies influential roles on the Advisory Council for Chain Reaction Innovation and the Boards of Forge Mass, LabStart, and Exponential Impact. She has provided invaluable senior advisory contributions to various climate-focused organizations, including Greentown Labs, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium, and LA Cleantech Incubator. SJ is an alumna of Duke University, with ongoing academic pursuits at Harvard, and she proudly hails from Durango, Colorado.



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## **Anne Miller, Colorado Resiliency Office**

Anne Miller, AICP is the Director of the Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) in the Department of Local Affairs. The CRO supports local governments in building stronger, safer, and more resilient communities in the face of natural disasters and other major challenges. She has over 25 years of community development experience in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Anne has worked in Colorado and across the nation to build adaptive and sustainable communities. She has a Master's of Urban Planning and Policy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and founding member of the American Planning Association's Sustainable Communities Division.



## **Jonathan Asher, Colorado Governor's Office**

Jonathan Asher, Director, Governor's Office of Climate Preparedness and Disaster Recovery. Jonathan grew up in Evergreen and returned to Colorado in 2020 after over fifteen years in Washington D.C. to serve as Governor Polis's Senior Policy Advisor. In D.C. he served for roughly half his tenure on Capitol Hill in senior energy, environment and natural resources policy roles. He went on to serve as an appointee in the Obama administration at the Environmental Protection Agency, and as Director of Government Relations at The Wilderness Society where he led the National Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition and was closely involved in the negotiation and passage of the Dingell conservation bill and Great American Outdoors Act. Jonathan is a former whitewater river guide on the Colorado River, former ski instructor and remains an avid climber, biker and lover of the outdoors.



## **Cindy Lair, Colorado Department of Agriculture**

Cindy Lair is the Deputy Director and Climate Resilience Specialist for the Conservation Services Division at the Colorado Department of Agriculture. She leads the Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience Office (ADCRO), which includes the Soil Health Program, STAR Agricultural Ranking Framework, Agricultural Water Policy, and the Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ACRE3) programs. Within her duties she also oversees the Colorado State Conservation Board and serves on the Colorado Natural and Working Lands Working Group for the US Climate Alliance. She works on agricultural water quality and quantity issues, including Salinity control and the Colorado PFAS Task Force. Cindy graduated from Colorado State University in Natural Resources Management and is an alumna of the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Class of 2014.



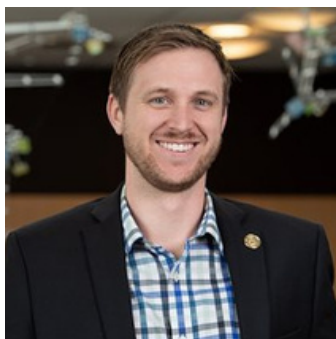


# Climate Transitions Dialogue



## **Liz Hunt, Syngenta**

Liz combines practical know-how and visionary partnerships to make sustainability accessible and real. She is here to work with you to bring to life insights on scaling sustainable agriculture across all cropping systems. Liz is able to do this thanks to her understanding of what moves the needle for sustainability and what doesn't, which cuts through the clutter and brings focus to what is essential for progress. Liz believes that sustainability must be attainable for farmers and the value chain. With a focus on day-to-day regional solutions, she is always on the lookout for opportunities to improve smallholder livelihoods through access to agronomic education and technology. "I'm grateful to work for a company that has a positive impact on farmers of all sizes and crops around the world." Liz has seen the world throughout her career and has a true appreciation for the needs of farmers globally. She participated in an experiential learning opportunity with Syngenta working with smallholder farmers in rural Bangladesh. "While there, I got first-hand knowledge of farmer needs and how access to agriculture technology can truly make a difference in farmer livelihoods." The root of her work stems from the fact that she loves all plants. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture and Business Management from Iowa State University, she spent 20+ years in the flower industry developing, producing and marketing plants for both indoor and outdoor gardening. "My passion for plants was easily transferred to sustainable agriculture and applying the same scientific principles and insights to agronomic crops – plants are plants!"



## **Scott Shrake, Colorado State University**

Dr. Scott Shrake serves as the Assistant Vice President for Strategy, and Executive Director for the Institute for Entrepreneurship in the College of Business at Colorado State University. Dr. Shrake promotes entrepreneurship, innovation, product development, and commercialization for students, faculty, and community members. Scott is also an affiliate faculty for the Richardson Design Center, teaching both the introductory and capstone courses in Design Thinking. Scott served as an engineering faculty member and the Executive Director of Entrepreneurial Advancement at Arizona State University, a leader in higher education entrepreneurship and innovation. Dr. Shrake's passion is social impact and launching innovative, cutting edge programming to promote venture creation, and personal development at universities across the globe. Dr. Shrake was the Co-founder and COO of Vicinity Health Inc., a digital health startup that was selected as a finalist for the TiE 50 Awards Program and recognized as one of the 100 hottest global tech startups in 2014. He served as a mentor and advisor to multiple startups in education technology, health care, and sustainability. Scott received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh's Sustainability and Green Design Group.



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## **Peter Backlund, Colorado State University**

Peter Backlund has devoted his career to the planning, management and leadership of complex research organizations. His interests include the relationship of human activities, climate change, and other environmental changes; assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and response strategies; development and use of information and observational technologies for environmental research and education; use of scientific research for decision-making and public policy; and improving the communication of scientific information to non-technical audiences. Peter Backlund was part of the leadership team of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) from 2001-2013, where he led strategic planning, oversaw relationships with sponsors and other research organizations, and developed a series of interdisciplinary projects that combined atmospheric, social, health, ecological, and hydrological science. Before joining NCAR, Peter was a senior advisor in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy from 1995-2001, where he focused on climate change science, assessment and policy; evaluation, planning, and coordination of environmental science programs and budgets; and communication of environmental science and technology issues to senior officials, industry, the academic community, the public, and the Congress. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Peter Backlund helped manage Earth science activities at NASA HQ from 1991-1995, contributing to development of the Earth Observing System (EOS) and other projects with Japan, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, India, Brazil, Australia, Canada, Russia, ESA, EUMETSAT, and the United Nations. From 1988-1991, Peter held positions with SM Systems Research Corporation, LRS Associates, and Science Applications International Corporation, where he supported NASA and other agencies.



## **Heidi Pruess, Larimer County**

Heidi has a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Engineering and is a Certified Environmental Professional through the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals. Heidi has experienced a career as an environmental professional, specializing in sustainability policy since 1994 and has worked across the country in Oregon, Arizona, Ohio, North Carolina, and currently Colorado. Working in the realm of public policy, community advocacy, strategic planning, and organizational development, entails Heidi's decades of experience working with local governments. In addition to her professional career, Heidi has served as a Park and Recreation Commissioner and a volunteer environmental educator for many years.



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## **Elisabeth Cohen, City of Denver**

Elisabeth Cohen is the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Manager, in the Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency Program for Denver and teaches climate policy courses at TTU. Prior to this, Lis was a scientist at the University Corporation of Atmospheric Research, the science communications manager at NOAA in Boulder, and a training specialist for NPS's Climate Change Response Program. She's worked on climate adaptation in the White House Council on Environmental Quality during the Obama Administration and worked in the Utah Governor's Office on energy and climate policy. She completed her master's degrees at the University of Utah and Princeton University.



## **Cathie Pagano, Gunnison County**

Cathie Pagano is an accomplished manager and leader committed to solving complex challenges in service to the collective good through collaboration, and visionary, service-oriented leadership. Ms. Pagano has a clear breadth and depth of knowledge of the intersection of community and economic development, protection of quality of life, public policy and the role of government, private, and nonprofit sectors to achieve targeted outcomes. Most recently Ms. Pagano's work has focused on the development of workforce housing, sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation, and land use policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through connection to communities, transit, and utilities. She works to implement progressive and practical solutions that address a community's most pressing issues.



## **Marguerite Harden, Colorado Resiliency Office**

Marguerite Harden works with local governments and their partners as the Local Resiliency Manager for the State Department of Local Affairs, Colorado Resiliency Office. She manages a regional resiliency planning and implementation process with over 150 jurisdictions in Colorado (the Resiliency Roadmap Program) and currently leads a team working on Colorado's first microgrids grant program (Microgrids for Community Resilience). She has 13 years of experience leading social and environmental impact programs in nonprofit and government organizations while advancing clean energy, climate change, sustainability, and planning. She holds a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment.