

Committee on Climate Justice Action Planning



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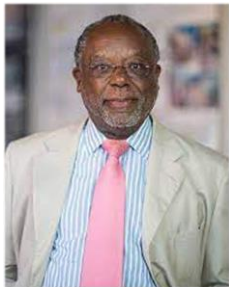
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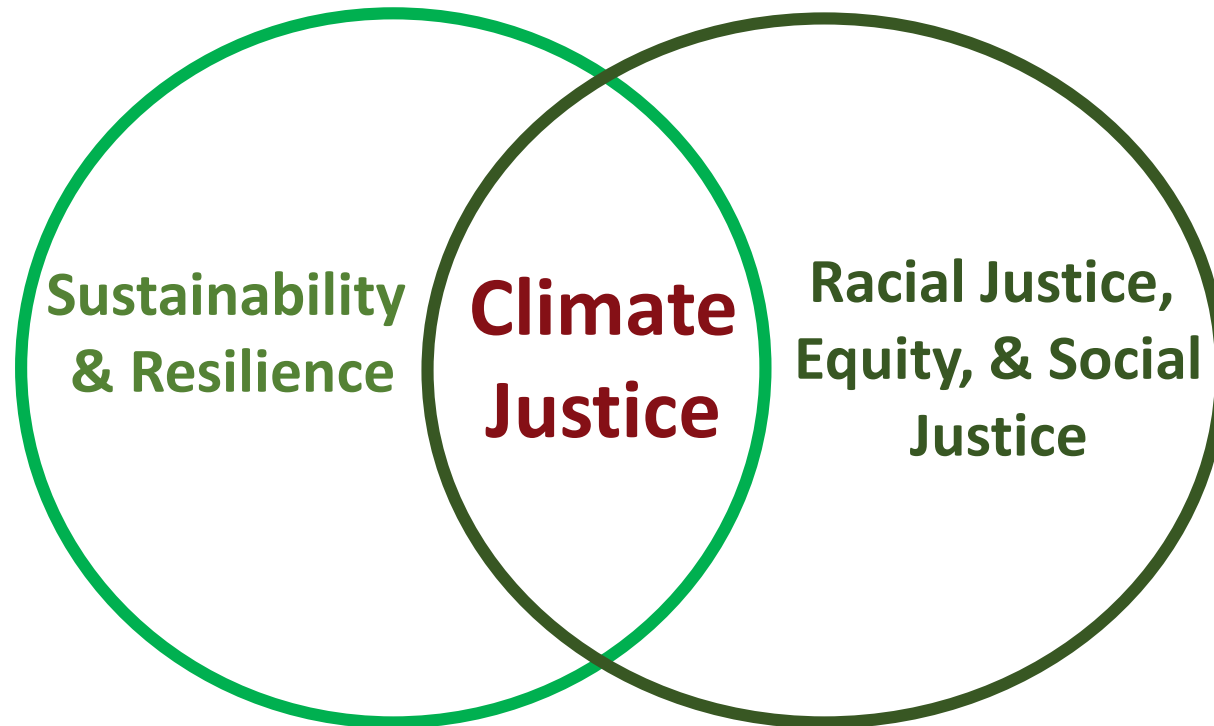
Shalanda Baker – Deputy
Director of Energy Justice,
Department of Energy,

Charge to the Committee

- Develop a **definition of climate justice action** within a global university such as Northeastern.
- Provide recommendations to update and expand on the University's **2010 Climate Action Plan** by including modifications that emphasize a university-wide commitment to climate justice action.
- Propose specific steps to enable Northeastern' to operationalize climate justice action, including suggestions on specific mechanisms for climate justice action to be integrated into the university's **strategic planning process**.

Climate Justice Action

Uniquely Positioned for Global Leadership



April 21, 2021

NORTHEASTERN 2025



Resolution

WHEREAS Northeastern University is a *global leader in experiential education and research* with intersecting commitments to sustainability, resilience, social justice, and racial justice,

WHEREAS *anchor institutions* like Northeastern are contributing to both climate change and racial inequities through our policies, processes and practices

WHEREAS the impacts of climate disruptions and the capacity to adapt are distributed unequally among and within local and global communities

WHEREAS equitable climate adaptation and strengthening climate resilience requires new *transformative investments, innovations, and actions* to rectify the disproportionate burdens on those who are most vulnerable

WHEREAS climate justice action involves striving for transformative systemic changes that link *technological and social innovation* prioritizing social, racial, and economic justice

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate calls on University leadership to:

Establish a standing faculty committee on climate justice action appointed by the faculty senate to provide continual assessment and feedback on university strategy, investments, policies, practices and processes. We call on senior leadership to collaborate, consult and engage with that committee.

Demonstrate leadership in climate justice through our actions as an anchor institution in our research, teaching, experiential learning, investments (managing our endowment), campus operations, and our engagement with the cities and communities in which our campuses are located.



Climate Justice Action

New Leadership Opportunities With Shifting
Societal Priorities

Pre-Pandemic



- Individualistic
- Private Sector Dominated
- Focus on Technology

Pandemic & Post-pandemic

- Collective
- Increase in Public Sector Investment
Students & organizations innovating and mobilizing for the public good
- Focus on Structural Racism, Social Equity & Social Justice

New Era Brings New Opportunities for Impact

Innovative Climate Justice Leadership for Global Impact

Accelerate Research to Practice

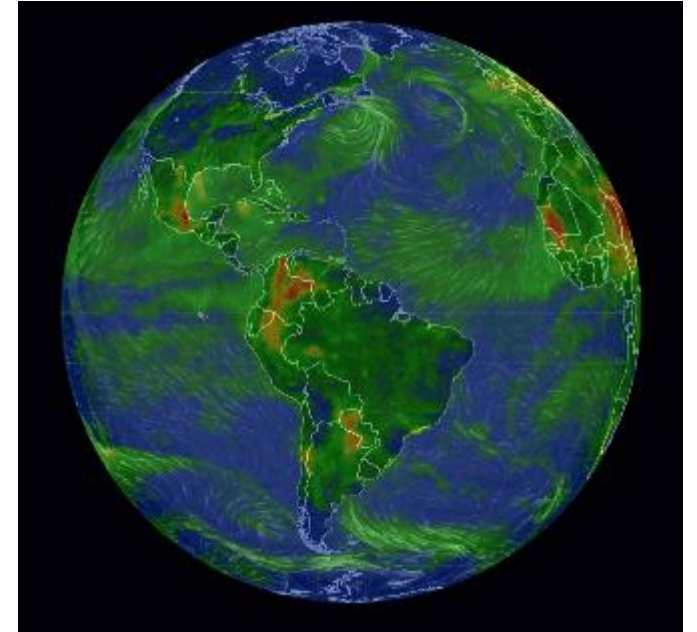
Leverage faculty & students to engage
Expand organizational & community partnerships

Prepare Students for Changing Job Prospects

Nimbly adapt curricular offerings

Requires Convergence & Integration at Every Level

Linking strengths in Sustainability, Resilience, Health, Equity, & Racial Justice



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What is Climate Justice Action?

Moves beyond traditional climate action focused narrowly on goals for emissions reductions, climate justice action recognizes that:

- (1) many policies, processes, and practices of established institutions are drivers of climate change
- 2) the impacts of climate disruptions and the capacity to adapt are distributed unequally among and within local and global communities
- 3) equitable climate adaptation and strengthening climate resilience requires new transformative investments, innovations, and actions to rectify the disproportionate burdens on those who are most vulnerable

Requires: An inclusive university community

Distributed participatory governance

Transparency and accountability

So that all members of the Northeastern community – including students, alumni, faculty, staff, our global university networks, partnering organizations, and neighboring communities - all have a voice in shaping and evaluating our university's commitments.

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Collaborating with the Sustainability Office

Climate Justice Action Planning Process

- Engaged in the formation of the Climate Justice Action Planning Working Group (students, faculty and staff)
- New annual reporting - Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System STARS – submitting end of May 2021
- New Associate Vice President of Sustainability being hired in summer 2021

Fall 2021 university-wide community engagement process

- Engaged in the formation of the Climate Justice Action Planning Working Group (students, faculty and staff)

Engaging with Students

Canopy – new umbrella group student group
Sunrise Northeastern – Green NU Deal
HEAT – Husky Environmental Action Team



Acknowledging previous work of 2019 Sustainability & Resilience Advisory Team



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Spiegelman
Campus Planning

Co-chairs



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School of Public Policy & Urban
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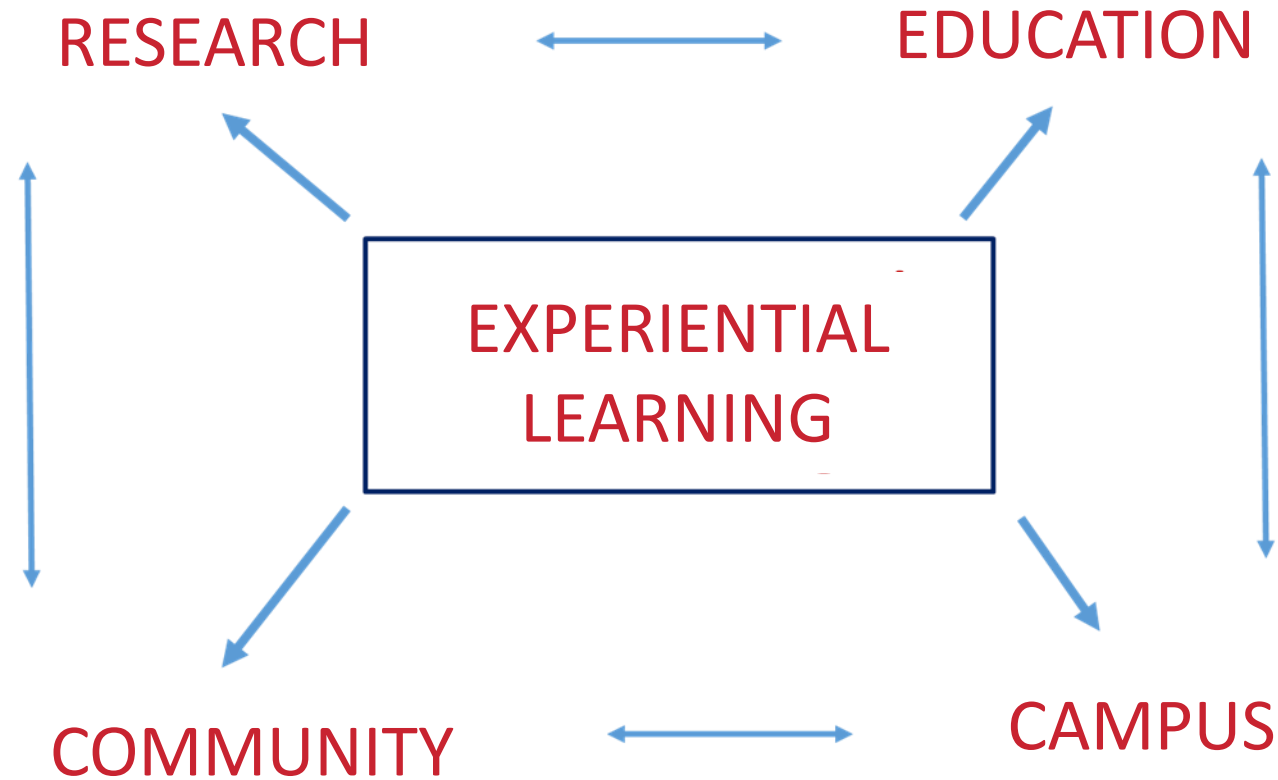
Edmund
Yeh
College of Engineering

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Strategic Planning Working Groups	Potential Climate Justice Innovations
University Clusters: Mission, Makeup and Organizational Structure	The dynamic and complex challenges of advancing climate justice require this new structure to support cutting-edge, impactful, community-engaged research. Co-developing research with community (i.e., community based participatory research). Advancing co-design and co-ownership of research will lead to greater impact bridging the knowledge-to- action divide and demonstrating a commitment to authentic and respectful relationships with community partners.
Global University - Mobility, networks, partnership strategy and branding	<p>How to sustain global interconnected hubs while preparing for the potential of reduced future air-travel? Huge opportunities to enhance flexibility and expand access with more remote work options and reducing local travel and commuting expectations. Zero-waste and fossil-fuel free future for all campuses As global concern about climate justice grows, recruiting opportunities with new university identity/brand as global leader in climate justice, sustainability and resilience.</p>
Experiential and Lifelong Learning – Learning Science and Educational Technology	Climate disruptions will impact all future learners wherever they are around the globe. Some learners will be from lower-income countries and communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change. How can students learn in times of disruption? Preparation for global community-engaged learning requires culturally sensitive training about risks of working in communities outside one’s own lived experience. It requires maximizing capabilities and empowering students from marginalized groups.
Our Communities	We need to acknowledge the legacy of complex university-community interactions in each of our campuses. A commitment to climate justice provides mechanisms to repair a legacy of mistrust and re-establish trusting and mutually beneficial (rather than extractive) university-community relationships. Throughout the global network, in all 11 cities, climate justice provides a new way for Northeastern to show up and connect in productive, collaborative and beneficial ways. Research, learning and operations all offer opportunities for Northeastern to demonstrate a commitment to authentic and respectful relationships with community partners.
Curricular and Product Development: Delivery of Learning & Discovery Experiences, B2B, in-person and online	Our partners and our current and future students are looking to Northeastern for climate justice leadership and collaboration. Expanding curricular offerings, professional certificates, and degree programs that expand and link climate justice, sustainability, resilience and social and racial justice is a growth area that Northeastern is well-positioned to lead.
Operations & Technology	Demonstrating intention to climate justice in all of our practices and operations includes demonstrating the innovations that enable a large global organization to end fossil fuel reliance – to become fossil fuel free. Rather than being forced to make changes to comply with ambitious climate justice goals in the cities where we operate, there is a huge opportunity for us to lead by demonstrating what is possible with renewable energy and distributed power. Expanding our commitment to hiring locally from neighboring communities in all campus jobs, including facilities and operations, is also a way to demonstrate collaborative leadership in climate justice.

Climate Justice Action



Connected with Strategic Planning Working Groups – provided text/language to strategic planning process

Contributing to Environment Strategic Group led by Dean Hazel Sive – several faculty on both committees

Leveraging our institutional reputation in Sustainability & Resilience:
Coastal Sustainability Institute, Global Resilience Institute

Revised Resolution

WHEREAS Northeastern University is a *global leader in experiential education and research* with intersecting commitments to sustainability, resilience, social justice, and racial justice,

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WHEREAS equitable climate adaptation and strengthening climate resilience requires new *transformative investments, innovations, and actions* to rectify the disproportionate burdens on those who are most vulnerable

WHEREAS climate justice action involves striving for transformative systemic changes that link *technological and social innovation* prioritizing social, racial, and economic justice

WHEREAS we endorse the College of Science resolution to support the climate experts who warn of the serious consequences of global climate change caused by human activity, and we acknowledge that our continued investment in fossil fuels is undermining Northeastern's role as a leader in sustainability.

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Take the clear step of divesting itself from fossil fuels within two years.