

RCE North Texas Summit 2022

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Keynote

Jeff Kavanaugh

Jeff Kavanaugh shared insights from the sustainability journey to resource efficiency and carbon neutrality modeled by Infosys. Practical sustainability is a science-based approach to solve the wicked challenges faced by sustainability. The model of decarbonize, democratize, and digitize focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon offsets involving collaborating with stakeholders and supporting rapid innovation.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger Panel

Vidya Ayyr

Vidya Ayyr began the SDG 2 Zero Hunger Panel connecting the root social and economic contributors to food insecurity along with the health implications it causes. With North Texas having two of the top ten food insecure cities in the U.S., the importance of health systems in addressing food insecurity is evident with hospitals being able to address physical, behavioral, and socioeconomic health issues. Parkland, the community of Dallas' public health system is leading efforts to identify food insecurities in patients and the community, increase access to nutritious food, provide nutrition education, and connect community resources to those in need.

Lauren McMinn Clarke

With 40% of the U.S. waste stream being food waste, Lauren McMinn Clarke founded Turn to transform would be waste into resources for local communities. Turn's business model offers commercial and residential food waste collection that is either used as animal feed or composted along with providing metrics of customer waste diversion and sustainable home products. Building off her own interest in composting, Lauren dug into the reasons why Turn customers compost and what would motivate non-customers to begin composting.

Julia Lindgren

To cultivate community and lasting impacts through engagement, Julia Lindgren highlighted a project in Joppa, a physically isolated neighborhood in southern Dallas. Joppy Momma's Farm is a community farm and garden created to address Joppa's food desert and partnered with architecture students from UT Arlington to revitalize vacant lots in the community. The partnership focused on working with residents to determine needs and carry out projects to grow the farm and community.

Jeff Williams

Jeff Williams founded the Taste Project, a non-profit restaurant where all are welcome regardless of means creating the only sustainable solution to end hunger in Fort Worth. Taste Project guests have the option to pay what you can afford, pay what you would typically pay, or pay what you would typically plus extra, all while partnering with local growers and providing a living wage to staff. The success of the

Taste Project is allowing for the expansion of an additional location increasing how many individuals that will be fed.

SDG 4 – Quality Education

Brad Bell

As an Associate Professor and Director of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Arlington, Brad Bell focuses on how UTA and the School of Architecture have made great strides towards diversity, growth, and excellence. Building off that institutional context, the value of increasing awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically quality education, is represented by the number of sustainability related actions and collaboration taken by UTA.

Dustan Compton

Dustan Compton detailed the value of water conservation amid a rapidly growing population in the North Texas Region. With conservation being the best way to make water go further, rather than building new reservoirs, communicating the value of water is a priority for the Tarrant Regional Water District. Water conservation strategies, mainly concerning outdoor water usage, are being communicated through media campaigns, educational programs, and partnerships across the region.

Kay Curtis

Kay Curtis and HKS Inc. are bringing a diverse and innovative prospective to architecture by creating a cycle of active learning in the workplace, encouraging active participation in local projects, and fostering community involvement. To continue the cycle, disseminating knowledge to others through communicating effectively is crucial by understanding your audience and drawing interest with methods including a visual toolkit, short presentations and passion stories.

Janette Monear

President of Texas Trees Foundation, Janette Monear describes the foundation's work is underpinned by education and focused on awakening people to the fact that trees are an essential part of our environment. Texas Trees Foundation focuses on several outreach programs that prioritize education along with action. Being able to support the education with data is vital to successful outreach along with knowing your audience and applying different styles of learning.

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Lori Pampell Clark

As a resource of the U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technology Office, the Coalition Network includes the Regional Planning Agency, Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Local Clean Cities Coalition. Together, the Coalition provides support, planning, and awareness regarding emerging transportation technologies, alternative fuels, electric vehicles, and EV infrastructure. With EV adoption rapidly gaining traction, the Coalition is working to create cleaner and more efficient cities.

Dr. Janell Hills

Interstate Renewable Energy Council works to build the foundation, rapid adoption, and access to clean energy technology to benefit society, the economy, and the environment. After observing that

community and commercial workers had limited awareness of clean energy pathways, the National Clean Energy Workforce Alliance sought to unite energy workforce stakeholders with more effective and inclusive recruitment, education, training and job placement.

Dr. Justin Ruths

To build resilient infrastructure and automation, the risks of cyber-attacks on physical infrastructure control systems connected by networks must be detected and mitigated. Dr. Ruths' research focuses on studying such systems and developing resilience through digitization of control systems, non-uniform security guidelines, real-time requirements of control loops, planning and detecting for the capabilities of attackers.

Kent Sharp

Kent Sharp represents the important role local government plays in sustainable development and the value of local elected officials understanding the value of Sustainable Development Goals, specifically encouraging and incentivizing SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. Sherman, Texas is an example of building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusivity, and sustainable industrialization while fostering innovation.

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Keynote

Dr. Bruno Basso

Dr. Basso highlighted the global food and water paradox – what it will look like to feed a growing population with less resources and a changing climate. The key to addressing interconnected issues of food insecurity cannot be done by solely focusing on a single Sustainable Development Goal but rather incorporating innovative technologies and conservation practices to correlate all SDG's to reach sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

Steven Duong

The value of prioritizing holistic regional planning to create sustainable cities and communities is crucial but challenges existing thinking. By not incorporating regional planning, transit development creates social and environmental issues seen by using Dallas as a transportation study. Holistic regional planning leads to improved return on investment incorporating the triple bottom line of people, profits, and the planet.

Jennifer Harris

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and administered by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program works to provide high-speed internet access for all Americans by funding

partnerships to build infrastructure. Access is allocated to prioritize underserved locations to increase digital equity.

Benjamin Magill

Dallas College is a regional education anchor, bringing students together from across DFW and beyond providing resources resulting in employment growth within DFW. Dallas College is incorporating sustainability through the Sustainable Development Goals while better serving students and the community.

Alex Pharmakis

Alex Pharmakis uses the sustainability work done within the city of Farmers Branch as a template for how to make a sustainable impact in local government. Farmers Branch adopted a Sustainability Plan that works to propel community progress by incorporating environment, economic, and social benefits. This progress is seen through many successful projects already implemented with several plans for future projects.

SDG 13 – Climate Action

Susan Alvarez

Due to the rate of natural disasters that Texas has been facing in the past several years resulting in the state leading in disaster costs, the City of Dallas has heightened focus on climate resiliency. Climate change impacts society disproportionately, and Dallas must prioritize low income, communities of color, children, and elderly who are affected the most. The City of Dallas is taking an approach that intersects mitigation, equity, and adaptation.

Dr. Katherine Jack

The Nature Conservancy leverages nature, policy, and clean energy to advance durable, equitable, and science-based policies and practices. With Texas being the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the U.S., climate change mitigation and adaptation is the priority with several projects utilizing nature-based solutions for climate action while providing benefits such as biodiversity and watershed protection.

Jessica Janzen

SmithGroup uses both engineering and architecture to deliver sustainable solutions to clients and has found a number of points to consider while building innovative campuses including how students are concerned about global climate issues. To incorporate student values, proper planning along with evolutionary thinking and regenerative systems is prioritized.

Dr. Mario A. Rotea

Dr. Rote presented the level of wind energy in the U.S., Texas, and at UT Dallas as well as what a future incorporating wind energy will look like. The Center for Wind Energy at UT Dallas strives to be a leader in transforming research to advance wind power while bringing together researchers develop cutting edge science, train the next generation of wind energy innovators, and establish private-public partnerships.

Youth Network

The Youth Network focused on elevating young voices in sustainability and addressed the value of youth as drivers in sustainability and environmental justice. Discussion involved what intergenerational collaboration could look like and what skills are important as a young sustainability leader. As beacons of hope for the future, the importance of hearing from young voices adds energy and innovation to the topic of sustainability.