

Final program: USYD Climate Research Forum | 20th August 2024, The Refectory, University of Sydney, Camperdown

9 – 10:10am	<p>Plenary session One of the key purposes of the Climate Research Forum is to support the development of multidisciplinary teams working on complex climate related issues and enable climate researchers to build the relationships that will allow them to more powerfully achieve their research goals. This plenary session will first showcase examples of how Sydney researchers are doing this and then involve an interactive team building activity.</p>		
10:10 – 10:40am	<p>Morning tea</p>		
10:40 – 12:10pm	<p>S1: Centring nature in the transformation of urban spaces <i>(The Refectory)</i></p> <p>As cities face housing shortages and urban heat, integrating attention to supporting nature into urban planning is crucial. In groups, researchers will explore how multispecies justice can guide nature-based solutions, balancing human development and care for the environment.</p> <p><i>Co-hosts: Sydney Environment Institute; Henry Halloran Research Trust</i></p>	<p>S2: Building resilient local food systems <i>(Sutherland Room)</i></p> <p>Australia is a major contributor to the global food bowl, yet its food systems have become vulnerable to climate change and biodiversity collapse. This session will reimagine Australia's food systems by exploring agroecology practices, incorporating Indigenous food knowledge, and building food sovereignty for resilient local systems and more.</p> <p><i>Co-hosts: School of Life and Environmental Sciences; Charles Perkins Centre; Sydney Institute of Agriculture; Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies; Integrated Sustainability Analysis</i></p>	<p>S3: Mental health impacts of climate change <i>(Cullen Room)</i></p> <p>The climate crisis is having detrimental impacts on people's mental health, spanning from existential dread to the distress of losing homes and livelihoods to extreme climate disasters. This interactive workshop will explore various mental health impacts of climate change and discuss methodologies for improving mental well-being.</p> <p><i>Co-hosts: Brain and Mind Centre; University Centre for Rural Health; Ecological Emotions Research Lab; CREATE Centre</i></p>
12:10 – 1:10pm	<p>Lunch</p>		
1:10 – 2:40pm	<p>S4: Can the net zero transformation be nature positive? <i>(Cullen Room)</i></p> <p>As the world races to decarbonise its energy systems, it's vital that ecological impacts are considered. Society currently perceives net zero and nature to be in conflict, so how can we ensure that nature isn't negatively impacted by the net zero transition? And how can nature repair contribute to net-zero ambitions?</p> <p><i>Co-hosts: Net Zero Institute; Australasian Wildlife Genomics Group; Sydney Environment Institute; Marine Studies Institute</i></p>	<p>S5: Political inertia in planning solutions for sustainable transport <i>(Sutherland Room)</i></p> <p>In Australia, private cars continue to shape multiple landscapes and lives, claiming hegemony over transport policy, planning and practices in multiple jurisdictions. This workshop asks why? Groups will brainstorm what are the cultural, political and policy roadblocks that are stopping a sustainable transport future from being realised.</p> <p><i>Co-hosts: Henry Halloran Research Trust; School of Architecture, Design and Planning; School of Social and Political Sciences; Transport Lab; Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies</i></p>	<p>S6: Climate x Health <i>(The Refectory)</i></p> <p>This session explores how climate change impacts human health, examining environmental effects on public health and strategies for adaptation and mitigation. It will include examples from current research, a group discussion to identify key multidisciplinary activities in this area, and a case study from the Heat and Health Research Centre in the Faculty of Medicine and Health, focusing on research solutions and future directions while helping to identify opportunities for researchers to get involved.</p> <p><i>Co-hosts: Heat and Health Research Centre; Sustainability, Climate and Health Collaboration</i></p>
2:40 – 3:10pm	<p>Afternoon tea</p>		
3:00 – 3:45pm	<p>Group activity: Reflections and new horizons After being inspired by thought-provoking breakout sessions, we'll reconvene to reflect on the day's discussions, identifying key insights and any overlooked topics. These group discussions at your tables will inform future funding bids, external partnerships and research support for multidisciplinary collaborations.</p>		
3:45 – 4:00pm	<p>Next steps Learn how the Research Portfolio will support the ideas and relationships emerging from the Forum, including internal and external funding opportunities and support networks for fostering further research collaborations.</p>		
4:00 – 5:00pm	<p>Networking with drinks and canapes</p>		