

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES & UNIVERSITIES IN CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING & ACTION

[Jennifer L. Hirsch, Ph.D.](#)

Director, Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain, Georgia Institute of Technology
Applied Cultural Anthropologist & Community Sustainability Specialist



Asset-based and Cultural Approaches to Sustainability Engagement

[Guest Lecture](#) as part of the University of Michigan Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), [Act on Climate: Steps to Individual, Community, and Political Action](#).

“Our Climate, Our Change: Using Visual and Interactive Practices to Expand Participation and Leadership in Climate Action,” with Abigail Derby Lewis, Ryan Lugalia-Hollon, Lisa See Kim, Sarah Sommers, and Alexis Winter. In [Systemic Crises of Global Climate Change: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender](#). Eds. Phoebe Godfrey and Denise Torres. New Jersey: Rutgers, 2016: 230-242.

[“Engaging Diverse Communities in Climate Action: Lessons from Chicago,”](#) with Alexis Winter. *Solutions*, January-February 2014, Vol.5, Issue 1. Special issue edited by David Orr and colleagues at Oberlin College.

[“What’s Culture Got to Do With It? Engaging Chicago Communities in Climate Action.”](#) Climate, Mind, and Behavior Conference, Garrison Institute (Garrison, NY). February 2012.

[“Re-thinking ‘Place’ as a Strategy for Climate Engagement.”](#) Climate, Mind, and Behavior Conference, Garrison Institute (Garrison, NY). June 2013.

[“Linking Climate Action to Local Knowledge and Practice: A Case Study of Diverse Chicago Neighborhoods,”](#) with Sarah Van Deusen Phillips, Edward Labenski, and Christine M. Dunford. In *Environmental Anthropology Today*. Eds. Helen Kopnina and Eleanor E. Shoreman. New York: Berghahn Books, 2011:267-296.

Collaborative Governance for Sustainability

[“Forging City-Community Partnerships for Climate Action: Lessons from the Social Sciences and Chicago.”](#) Climate, Cities, and Behavior Symposium, Garrison Institute (Garrison, NY). March 2013.

[“Putting the CAP \[Cleveland Climate Action Plan\] into Action: An Asset-Based Approach to Neighborhood Engagement.”](#) October 2013. Presentation at the 2013 Sustainable Cleveland Summit, introduced by Jenita McGowan, Former Chief of Sustainability, City of Cleveland.

[Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network](#). Panel discussion at Greentown conference (Chicago, IL). June 2014.

I helped found this network that brings City and institutions into collaborative partnerships with grassroots community associations, in an “in between” space focused on sustainability.

[The Power of Multi-stakeholder Collaborations in Centering Equity and Working for a Just Transition.](#) Panel discussion at AASHE conference (virtual). October 2020.

[“Reducing Inequalities and Empowering Youth through the Multi-Stakeholder SDG Network, RCE Greater Atlanta,”](#) with Na’Taki Osborne Jelks and Lolade Owokoniran. *Sustainability and Climate Change*, June 2021, 14(3):193-199.

Climate & Sustainability Education & Engagement Toolkits

[Connect: Community+Climate+Action](#) (Chicago Botanic Garden)

[Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit](#) (City of Cleveland)

[Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit](#) (The Field Museum)

[Preparing for Rainy Days: Culturally-Inspired Smart Grid Education in 3 Communities](#) (Institute of Cultural Affairs/ISEIF)

[SLS Teaching Toolkit](#) (Georgia Institute of Technology)

Publications about My Work

“From information provision to participatory deliberation: engaging residents in the transition toward sustainable cities,” by Michaela Zint and Kimberly S. Wolske. [The Elgar Companion to Sustainable Cities: Strategies, Methods and Outlook](#). 2014. Overview of sustainability engagement strategies in cities around the world, citing our Chicago work as one of a few examples implementing what many agree is needed: a participatory approach.

[“A Toolkit for Building Climate Efficacy,”](#) by Cara Pike. August 8, 2012. Blog post on Climate Access about the Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit.

[“On Shooting Polar Bears: Communicating Climate Visually,”](#) by Liz Banse, Resource Media. October 8, 2012. Blog post on Climate Access on visual communication for climate action; calls the Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit “One of the best examples I have come across of instigating action on climate ... over the past four years.”