



Climate Change
Preparedness
Conference

Conference Program

VENUE

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas Resort & Casino
3667 Las Vegas Blvd S
Las Vegas, NV 89109
866-919-7472

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

CONFERENCE DAY 01

WEDNESDAY | 08:00AM-04:55PM

7
|
11



CONFERENCE DAY 02

THURSDAY | 08:00AM-04:10PM

12
|
15

WORKSHOP DAY 03

FRIDAY | 08:00AM-03:45PM

16
|
17

SILVER SPONSOR

Recycle Me

RecycleME

As packaging regulations evolve and expectations around sustainability continue to grow, brands face increasing pressure to balance environmental performance with regulatory compliance. RecycleMe was founded to help organizations navigate this complexity. Combining deep technical expertise with practical implementation experience, our team works alongside global brands to design packaging solutions that meet Extended Producer Responsibility requirements while advancing circular economy goals. Our approach bridges strategy and execution, helping companies move beyond compliance toward measurable, system-level impact.

www.recycle-me.us

Jason Bergquist

jbergquist@recycle-me.us
207-710-8268



Who We Are

RecycleMe is your partner in EPR, plastics regulation, and sustainable packaging, whether scaling sustainability programs or managing multi-market compliance. We ease your load with expert guidance, efficient reporting, and practical insight, embedding into your workflows to deliver clarity, compliance, and cost-effective results.

Built On Experience Driven By Results

With decades of global experience across five continents, our team has designed and operated producer responsibility systems, advised governments, and guided brands from startups to Fortune 500s.



EPR Strategy

Whether you're setting goals, responding to new reporting obligations, navigating compliance or translating results into business outcomes, we help teams manage risk and move forward with confidence.

Compliance Gap

Identify which of your products are regulated (or soon will be) across North America. Validate that you're completing the right reports, and map exposures and risks so you're not caught off guard.



Reporting Services

We handle product and packaging reports to make sure you're proceeding accurately and efficiently. From material categorization to custom calculators, we ensure every submission is timely, accurate, and audit-ready.



Packaging Consulting

We assess your full packaging mix — weighing, measuring, and analyzing formats to drive smarter decisions and downstream savings.

Good Strategy Needs The Right Inputs & Good Follow-Through

We also offer:

- Policy Monitoring** We track federal, state, and local changes and notify you when action is needed.
- Vendor Chargeback Support** We calculate and allocate EPR-related charges for fair, transparent recovery.
- Retainer-Based Services** Use us as needed — we're on call as an extension of your team.

We know these systems inside and out, and put that expertise to work for you.

Test Drive Our Expertise

Whatever your role, in finance, packaging, procurement, or sustainability, we've built quick tools to help you navigate EPR from your perspective.



Scan the QR code to tell us who you are, and we'll recommend the right resources to show how we work and how we can help.

Ready To Get Started?

Let us show you where your compliance exposure is, where the opportunities are, and how we can help.



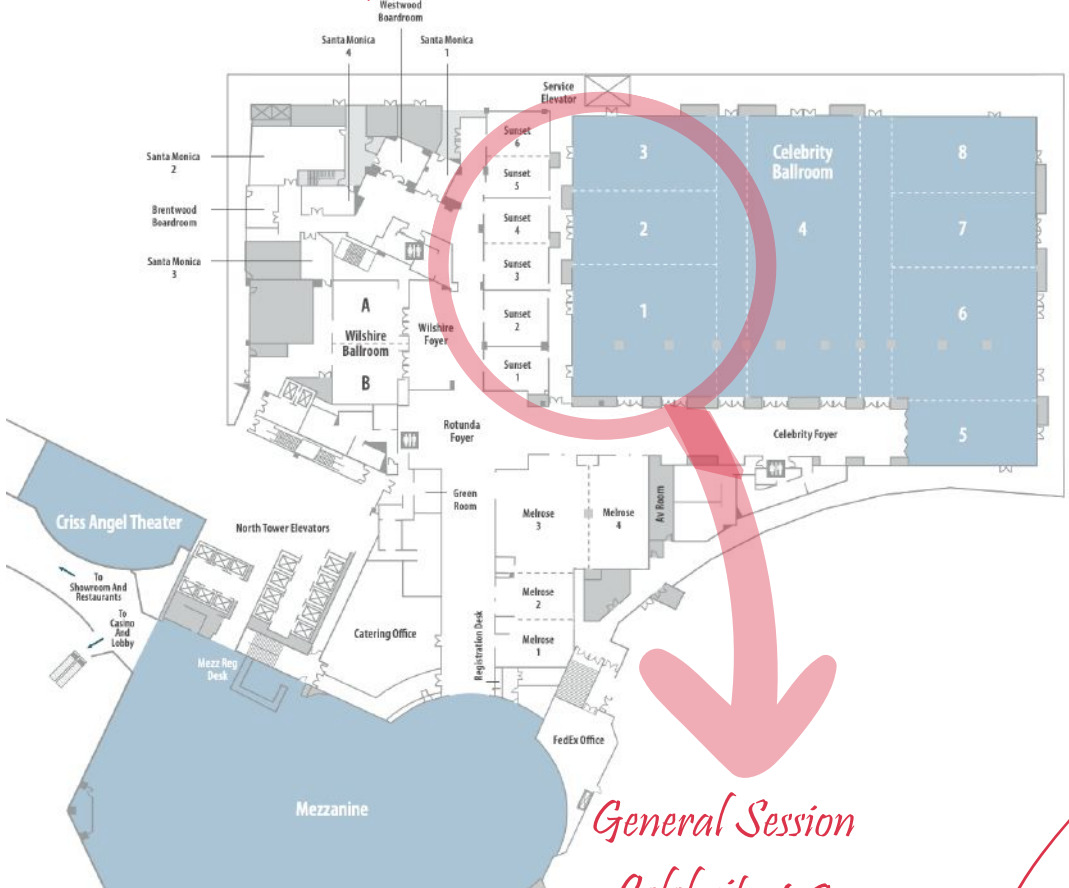
Contact us at: info@recycle-me.us

Visit our website: recycle-me.us

Recycle Me

CONFERENCE MAP

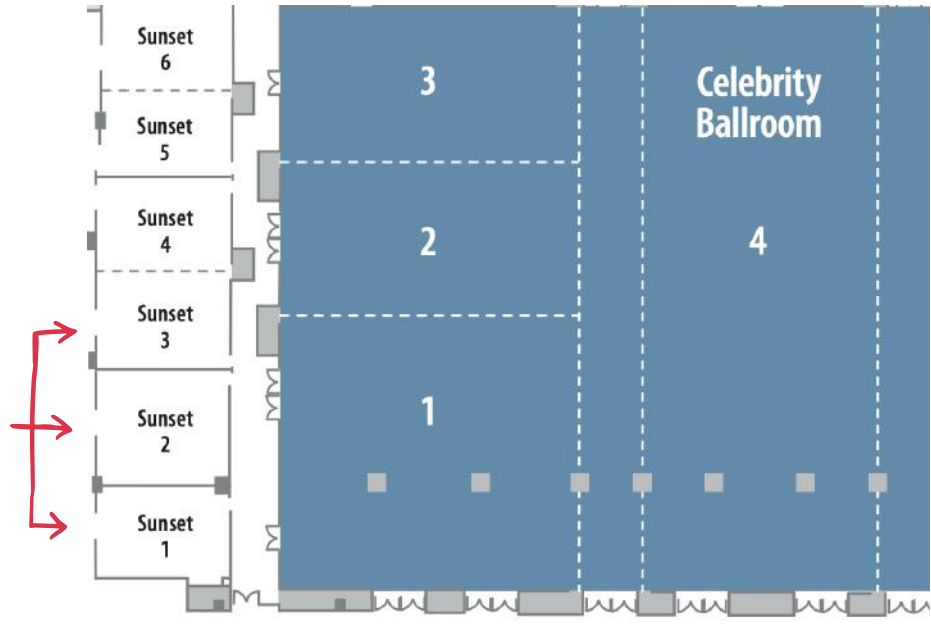
The Corporate Convention Center



*General Session
Celebrity 1-2*

*Luncheon
Celebrity 4*

*Breakout Session
and Workshops*



Registration Desk →

Celebrity Foyer

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Emmanouil Anagnostou, PhD
Distinguished Professor and Tech Park Director
University of Connecticut



Shanoy Anderson, PhD
Environment Director
Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska



Julie Benabente
Deputy Director
City of San Jose - California



Jason Bergquist
CEO
RecycleMe - North America



Robert Burgy
Climate and Sustainability Program Manager
Clark County Department of Environment and
Sustainability (DES)



Dr. David Edwards
Chief Deputy Director
State of California Office of Environmental Health
Hazard Assessment



Darien Fernandez
Council Member
Town of Taos, New Mexico



Angela Hodges-Gott
Director and Chief Resiliency Officer
City of Dallas' Office of Environmental Quality
and Sustainability



Rachel Gray
Sustainability Manager
Shelby County Health Department



Angela Hill
Deputy Administrator of Environmental
Health & Sustainability
Shelby County Health Department



Tory Jackson, PE
Sustainability & Climate Manager
City of Henderson



Fouad Khan, PhD
Specialist Leader – Climate &
Sustainability

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Kimberly Koriath
Chief Resilience Officer
State of Rhode Island



Oliver Kroner
Director, Office of Environment &
Sustainability
City of Cincinnati



Kim Lundgren
CEO
Kim Lundgren Associates



Nathan Lunstad, PhD, PE
Director, Division of Drinking Water
Utah Department of Environmental
Quality



Nylah Oliver, MPA
Sustainability Director
Savannah, Georgia, United States



Annette Olson
Founder and Executive Director
Climate Steps



George Rhee, PhD
Professor of Physics and Astronomy
University of Nevada
Las Vegas



Ava Richardson
Sustainability Director
City of Baltimore



Diana Chaman Salas
Director of Climate and Resiliency Department
Hennepin County
(Virtual)



Michael Shank, PhD
Adjunct Faculty, Center for Global Affairs
New York University



David Silver
VP of External Affairs
California Volunteers Fund



Ron Swanson
Business Development Lead
Sustainable H2O Technologies

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Tara Tisopulos
Deputy Director of Environmental
Sustainability
OC Waste & Recycling



Camille Calimlim Touton
Former Commissioner of U.S.
Bureau of Reclamation
University of Nevada
Las Vegas



Fernando Treviño
Special Deputy Secretary,
Environmental Justice
Department of Environmental
Protection



Nicholas Vallejo
Recycling Specialist, Environmental
Services Department
City of San Diego



Marco Velotta
Planning Project Manager and Chief
Sustainability Officer
City of Las Vegas



Katherine Wiles
Region Analyst
California Conservation Corps



Brent Woodworth
Chairman and CEO
Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness
Foundation

POSTER SESSION

Poster No.	Presenter Name	Poster Title
1	Mandy Mountain	Beyond the Flight Season: Hidden Reproductive Timing and Moisture-Dependent Egg Survival in the Nevada Endemic Dune Beetle <i>Pseudocotalpa Giulianii</i>
2	Dr. Hanqing Pan	Electrochemical Carbon Dioxide Reduction and Per- and Polyalkylfluoro Substances Degradation for a Sustainable Future
3	Kal Perera	Long-Term Memory Behavior in Colorado River Streamflow and Implications for Drought Under Prolonged Warming
4	Babak Ghazi	Projecting Future Hydroclimatic Conditions in California's Central Valley
5	Sara Khorramshagol	Stress Responses of Chihuahuan Desert Soil Cyanobacteria to Heat
6	Emily Reese	Evacuation and Resilience Center Design (ERCD) Study
7	Dr. Nicole Pietrasiak	Biopriming as an Emerging Dryland Ecosystem Restoration Technology



08:00AM–09:00AM

Celebrity Foyer

Registration and Breakfast

Bon Appétit

Delightful breakfast to fuel a Great Day!



09:00AM–09:30AM

Celebrity 1&2

Welcome Remarks & Preparedness 101: How to Build Resilient Infrastructure

Dr. Michael Shank (Co-Chairman)

Adjunct Faculty, Center for Global Affairs, New York University



09:30AM–10:00AM

Celebrity 1&2

The Challenge of Managing the Colorado River in the Twenty-First Century

Camille Calimlim Touton

Former Commissioner of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, UNLV



10:00PM–10:30AM

Celebrity 1&2

Resilient Rhody 2025: Rhode Island's Statewide Resilience Plan

Kimberly Koriath

Chief Resilience Officer, Environmental Management, State of Rhode Island



10:30AM–11:00AM

Celebrity Foyer

Poster Session & Networking Coffee Break

Poster Session Topics and Abstracts

Click to view the topic of each poster and presenter





Speaker names are listed left to right, beginning from the top-left corner.

11:00AM – 12:00PM

Celebrity 1&2

Uncertainty as a Key Element for Climate Change

Dr. George Rhee (Moderator)
Professor of Physics and Astronomy, UNLV

Tara Tisopulos
Deputy Director of Environmental Sustainability, OC Waste & Recycling

Angela Hodges-Gott
Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability, Dallas City

Jason Bergquist
CEO – North America, RecycleMe

Diana Chaman Salas (Virtual)
Director, Hennepin County

Camille Calimlim Touton
Former Commissioner of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, UNLV



12:00PM–1:00PM

Celebrity 4

Luncheon

Bon Appétit
Enjoy Lunch While Learning and Exchanging Ideas



01:00PM–1:30PM

Celebrity 1&2

Built to Inspire: How California is Creating Lasting Impact for Their Communities

Katherine Wiles (Moderator)
Region Analyst, California Conservation Corps

Nicholas Vallejo
Recycling Specialist, Environmental Services Department, City of San Diego

David Silver
VP of External Affairs, California Volunteers Fund



01:30PM–02:00PM

Celebrity 1&2

On the Move: How Cincinnati Is Thinking About Climate Migration

Oliver Kroner

Director of the Office of Environment & Sustainability, City of Cincinnati



02:00PM–02:30PM

Celebrity Foyer

Networking Coffee Break

Recharge and connect

Grab a cup and mingle!



02:30PM–03:10PM

Sunset 1

AI in Supply Chain Decarbonization

Dr. Fouad Khan

Specialist Leader – Climate & Sustainability



02:30PM–03:10PM

Sunset 2

The Greatest Snow on Earth: Securing Utah's Drinking Water Amid the 2026 Record Snow Drought

Dr. Nathan Lunstad, PE

Director, Utah Division of Drinking Water



02:30PM–03:10PM

Sunset 3

ALL-IN Clark County: A Case Study in Community and Interlocal Climate Action

Robert Burgy

Climate and Sustainability Program Manager, Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES)

Five Minutes Transition



03:15PM–03:55PM

Sunset 1

Restoring Drought-Impacted Soils to Support Local Agriculture

Darien Fernandez
Council Member, Town of Taos



03:15PM–03:30PM

Sunset 2

EPR in the U.S.: Key Developments & What They Mean For Producers

Jason Bergquist
CEO, North America, RecycleMe



03:15PM–03:55PM

Sunset 3

Regional Collaboration

Kim Lundgren
CEO, Kim Lundgren Associates

Robert Burgy
Climate and Sustainability Program Manager, Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES)

Five Minutes Transition



04:00PM–04:40PM

Sunset 1

Diverse Climate Impacts on Communities and the Diverse Solutions That Involve Citizens' Actions

Dr. Annette Olson
Founder, President



04:00PM–04:40PM

Sunset 2

Sustaining Las Vegas

Marco Velotta, AICP

Planning Project Manager and Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Las Vegas



04:00PM–04:40PM

Sunset 3

Recycling, Nature-Based Solutions, and Climate Resiliency

Tara Tisopulos

Deputy Director of Environmental Sustainability, OC Waste & Recycling



04:40PM–04:55PM

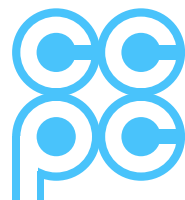
Celebrity 1&2

Day 1 Wrap-Up

Dr. Michael Shank

Adjunct Faculty, Center for Global Affairs, New York University

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



Climate Change Preparedness Conference
May 19–21, 2027 | Las Vegas



08:00AM–09:00AM

Celebrity Foyer

Breakfast

Bon Appétit

Delightful breakfast to fuel a Great Day!



09:00AM–09:30AM

Celebrity 1&2

Welcome Back

Dr. George Rhee (Co-Chairman)

Professor of Physics and Astronomy, UNLV



09:30AM–10:00AM

Celebrity 1&2

California's CalHeatScore: A Heat Wave Ranking System

David Edwards

Chief Deputy Director, State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



10:00AM–10:30AM

Celebrity 1&2

Proactive Community Engagement: The Perfect Tool for Environmental Justice and Climate Preparedness

Fernando Treviño

Special Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



10:30AM–11:00AM

Celebrity Foyer

Poster Session & Networking Coffee Break

Poster Session Topics and Abstracts

Click to view the topic of each poster and presenter





11:00AM–12:00PM

Celebrity Foyer

Data Centers: The Conversation Cities Are Having Internally

Dr. Michael Shank (Moderator)

Adjunct Faculty, Center for Global Affairs, New York University

Ava Richardson

Sustainability Director, City of Baltimore

Julie Benabente

Deputy Director, City of San Jose, California

Nylah Oliver, MPA

Sustainability Director, City of Savannah, Georgia

Dr. Nathan Lunstad, PE

Director, Utah Division of Drinking Water



12:00PM–1:00PM

Celebrity 4

Luncheon

Bon Appétit

Enjoy Lunch While Learning and Exchanging Ideas



01:00PM–01:30PM

Celebrity 1&2

Leading in Climate Resiliency During Regulatory Uncertainty

Angela Hodges-Gott

Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability, Dallas City



01:30PM–02:00PM

Celebrity 1&2

Resilience by Design: The Importance of Quantifying Climate Vulnerability Before Crisis

Shanoy Anderson, PhD

Environment Director, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska



02:00PM–02:30PM

Celebrity Foyer

Networking Coffee Break

Recharge and connect
Grab a cup and mingle!



02:30PM–03:10PM

Sunset 1

Leveraging Community Partnerships to Implement Climate Action

Tory Jackson, P.E.
Sustainability & Climate Manager, City of Henderson



02:30PM–03:10PM

Sunset 2

From Historical Hurricanes to Modern Risk: A Multi-System Impact Analysis for Connecticut

Dr. Emmanouil Anagnostou
Distinguished Professor & Tech Park Director, University of Connecticut



02:30PM–03:10PM

Sunset 3

From Plan to Practice: Advancing Equitable Climate Action at the Local Level

Nylah Oliver, MPA
Sustainability Director, City of Savannah, Georgia

Five Minutes Transition



03:15PM–03:55PM

Sunset 1

The Colorado River and Climate Change: Navigating Chance, Ignorance, Risk, and Luck

Dr. George Rhee
Professor of Physics and Astronomy, UNLV



03:15PM–03:55PM

Sunset 2

**LA County Fire / LA Emergency Preparedness Foundation:
Lessons in Resiliency — the Palisades Fire and the Path Forward**

Brent Woodworth

Chairman and CEO, Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation



03:15PM–03:55PM

Sunset 3

**Water Sovereignty: Decentralized Potable Water for Immediate Disaster
Response, and Drought Resilience**

Ron Swanson

Business Development Lead, Sustainable H2O Technologies



03:55PM–04:10PM

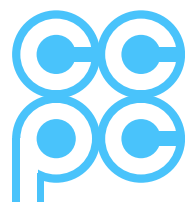
Celebrity 1&2

Closing Remarks

Dr. George Rhee

Professor of Physics and Astronomy, UNLV

See you next year!



Climate Change Preparedness Conference

May 19–21, 2027 | Las Vegas



08:00AM–09:00AM

Celebrity Foyer

Breakfast

Bon Appétit

Delightful breakfast to fuel a Great Day!



09:00AM–10:00AM

Sunset 1

Goats in the City: Sustainable Approaches to Soil Restoration in Drought-Impacted Communities

Darien Fernandez

Council Member, Town of Taos



09:00AM–10:00AM

Sunset 2

Imagining a Collective, Sustainable Future for All

Ava Richardson

Sustainability Director, City of Baltimore



10:00AM–10:30AM

Celebrity Foyer

Networking Coffee Break

Grab a cup and spark a conversation

Fuel up, connect, and let the conversations flow



10:30AM–11:30AM

Sunset 1

Engaging Community Members in Climate-Based Decision-Making

Shanoy Anderson, PhD

Environment Director, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska



10:30AM–11:30AM

Sunset 2

Navigating Transitions in Environmental & Public Health Grant Implementation: Insights from Air Monitoring & Sustainability Initiatives in Shelby County, TN

Angela Hill

Deputy Administrator of Environmental Health & Sustainability, Shelby County Government Health Department

Rachel Gray

Manager of Environmental Sustainability, Shelby County Government Health Department



Field Trip to Hoover Dam

11:30 AM - 3:45 PM | Bus and Shuttle Parking | Offsite Guided Tour & Exploration

Explore one of the Southwest’s most iconic engineering landmarks during this guided field trip to Hoover Dam. Attendees will gain insight into the dam’s critical role in water management, hydroelectric power generation, drought resilience, and climate adaptation efforts across the Colorado River Basin. Transportation will be provided from the conference venue, with time allotted for guided exploration, scenic viewing, and networking with fellow attendees.



Poster Number 1

Celebrity Foyer

Long-Term Memory Behavior in Colorado River Streamflow and Implications for Drought Under Prolonged Warming

Kal Perera

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Physics and Astronomy, UNLV



Poster Number 2

Celebrity Foyer

Projecting Future Hydroclimatic Conditions in California's Central Valley

Babak Ghazi

PhD Student, Geoscience, UNLV



Poster Number 3

Celebrity Foyer

Stress Responses of Chihuahuan Desert Soil Cyanobacteria to Heat

Sara Khorramshagol

Student, UNLV



Poster Number 4

Celebrity Foyer

Evacuation and Resilience Center Design (ERCD) Study

Emily Reese

Sustainability Director, Certifications & Compliance, Jacobs



Poster Number 5

Celebrity Foyer

Biopriming as an Emerging Dryland Ecosystem Restoration Technology

Dr. Nicole Pietrasiak

Advisor, UNLV

To Rank the Speakers and Poster Sessions, Click or Scan the QR Code.



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