

A Conversation: The Power of Centering Equity in Climate Action

MONDAY OCTOBER 7

11am – 12:15pm



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Sparking a broad conversation about the role of equity and social justice in all work, this session poses ways the ASLA Racial Equity Plan of Action and the Biodiversity + Climate Action Plan can structure equity as the umbrella. The power of bringing science and social justice together in our collective work and the Plans' goals and initiatives will be discussed by leaders of BlackLAN and the Biodiversity + Climate Action Plan. Rooted in historic context and project approach examples, this conversation will highlight the urgent need to structurally integrate the ASLA Climate Action Plan and the ASLA Racial Equity Plan.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the inequity that exists regarding climate action

2. Identify how science and social justice together can guide the goals and initiatives of the ASLA Biodiversity + Climate Action Plan and what the benefits are.
3. Get familiar with the ASLA Racial Equity Plan and ASLA Biodiversity + Climate Action Plan and the benefits to practitioners and projects.
4. Consider equity as an umbrella that applies to all work.

OUTLINE

I Speaker Introductions

5 minutes (all)

- a. **Why we are doing this – ASLA is updating the Biodiversity + Climate Action Plan**
- b. **We hope this conversation about the power of equity and social justice informs revisions**

II. Audience poll: *What does equity mean to you?*

5 minutes (Matt)

III. Overview of the Session

15 minutes (Diane)

- a. Examples of the differences between science-based approaches and social justice-based approaches addressing climate equity
- b. Evolution of the ASLA Racial Equity Plan

10 minutes (Matt)

Overview of Current Racial Equity Plan of Action

1. *Diversifying the Pipeline: Equipping Students and Institutions to Lead*
2. *Acknowledging Racism in the Profession and Honoring the Forgotten*
3. *Reshaping the Conversation and Transforming Frameworks*
4. *Leading Through Education, Conversation and Policy*
5. *Accountability*

V. Idea Generation

15 minutes (Jean)

- a. Equity is at the heart of climate action
- b. How is the B+CAP advancing equity today?
- c. What should the B+CAP look like in the future?
- d. Invitation to roundtable discussions on ASLA Biodiversity+Climate Action Plan 2025-2030:

Expo Session Tuesday 10:15-11:15am

- e. What if we don't act?

Overview of Current Climate Action Plan

i. Goals

1. *Practice; Scale up Climate Positive Approaches*

2. *Advocacy: Build Coalitions for Climate Action*
- ii. *Initiatives*
 1. *Carbon Drawdown; Attain zero emissions by 2040 and double carbon sequestration*
 2. *Climate Resilience: Enhance capacity, biodiversity and resilience of livable cities and communities*
 3. *Climate Agency: Advocate for climate justice and social well-being*
 4. *Cultural Empowerment: Learn from cultural knowledge systems and practices of care*
 5. *Climate Leadership; Galvanize climate champions*
 6. *Global Alliance: Advance the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and expand international collaboration.*

IV. Audience poll:

10 minutes (Matt)

“What has it taken for equity to be effective in your work? When is it a challenge?”

VI. Call To Action

5 minutes (Diane)

Restructure equity as the umbrella in the B+CAP to intentionally bring science and social justice together in all actions.

Address equity in work and practice as a continuous learning process that requires intentional work. This is a call to action to identify the ways you will do that intentional work in your day-to-day practice and the advocacy you are willing to take on.

VII. Moderated Response with Panel and Wrap Up

10 minutes (Matt)