Climate Leaders Program
2022 Scholar/Faculty Fellow Teams

Students and faculty members selected as part of the inaugural cohort of the Climate Leaders Program are approaching climate change in innovative ways through habitat assessments, carbon mitigation, sports, economics, renewable energy, community engagement and public policy and education. The teams will work with their internship partners to develop solutions that mitigate and adapt to the challenges of climate change. Learn more at climateleaders.kenan.ncsu.edu

**Climate Change Interests:**

- Public policy and public attitudes towards climate change policies especially around energy and transportation infrastructure.
- Intersection of engineering, public policy and community equity for water quality and accessibility.
- Biodiversity of plants, dendrology, evolution, invasive species, and waste management (recycling, terracycling, composting, etc.).
- Predicted future precipitation extremes and social science and community engagement with areas most at-risk of experiencing the impacts.
- Energy storage research to develop strategies and direct funding for renewable energy generation, sustainable sourcing, and energy justice.
- Alternative sports as a tool to foster pro-environment and pro-social behaviors to help achieve the SDGs.
- Socioeconomic impacts of climate change policy implementation, especially for marginalized communities.
- Intersection of engineering, public policy and community equity for water quality and accessibility.
- Calculation of capacity credits for variable renewable energies to provide reliable energy infrastructure in extreme weather events.
- Design, community engagement and rural economic development approaches to green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.
- Carbon capture research and development for the creation, optimization and implementation of gigaton-scale carbon capture systems.

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**Jon Barley**
Master’s student - 2023
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Climate Change Interests: Public policy and public attitudes towards climate change policies especially around energy and transportation infrastructure.

**Dr. Christopher Galik**
Associate Professor

**Laura Gomez Rodriguez**
Undergraduate - 2023
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Climate Change Interests: Intersection of engineering, public policy and community equity for water quality and accessibility.

**Dr. Natalie Nelson**
Assistant Professor

**Ishita Kamboj**
PhD student - 2024
College of Engineering
Climate Change Interests: Energy storage research to develop strategies and direct funding for renewable energy generation, sustainable sourcing, and energy justice.

**Dr. Veronica Augustyn**
Associate Professor
University Faculty Scholar

**Katy Hollinger**
PhD student - 2025
College of Sciences
Climate Change Interests: Predicted future precipitation extremes and social science and community engagement with areas most at-risk of experiencing the impacts.

**Dr. Gary Lackmann**
Professor

**Ishita Kamboj**
PhD student - 2024
College of Engineering
Climate Change Interests: Energy storage research to develop strategies and direct funding for renewable energy generation, sustainable sourcing, and energy justice.

**Dr. Veronica Augustyn**
Associate Professor
University Faculty Scholar

**Jethro Ssengonzi**
PhD student - 2025
College of Engineering
Climate Change Interests: Calculation of capacity credits for variable renewable energies to provide reliable energy infrastructure in extreme weather events.

**Dr. Jeremiah Johnson**
Associate Professor

**Brian Vaughn**
Master’s student - 2023
College of Design
Climate Change Interests: Design, community engagement and rural economic development approaches to green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

**Dr. Gavin Smith**
Professor

**Kyle Vogt-Lowell**
PhD student - 2025
College of Engineering
Climate Change Interests: Carbon capture research and development for the creation, optimization and implementation of gigaton-scale carbon capture systems.

**Dr. Fanxing Li**
Alcoa Professor
University Faculty Scholar

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**Rhianna Absher**
Undergraduate - 2025
College of Natural Resources
Climate Change Interests: Biodiversity of plants, dendrology, evolution, invasive species, and waste management (recycling, terracycling, composting, etc.).

**Dr. Marcelo Ardon**
Associate Professor

**Alexandra Hays**
Master’s student - 2023
College of Natural Resources
Climate Change Interests: Socioeconomic impacts of climate change policy implementation, especially for marginalized communities.

**Dr. Justin Baker**
Associate Professor

**Sonia I Preisser R.**
PhD student - 2024
College of Natural Resources
Climate Change Interests: Alternative sports as a tool to foster pro-environment and pro-social behaviors to help achieve the SDGs.

**Dr. Kyle Bunds**

**Dr. Jonathan Casper**

**Sonia I Preisser R.**
PhD student - 2024
College of Natural Resources
Climate Change Interests: Alternative sports as a tool to foster pro-environment and pro-social behaviors to help achieve the SDGs.

*Associate Professor