

San Francisco State University Climate HQ

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# Annual Report 2022-2023



# OUR MISSION

Climate change is the defining social justice and sustainability issue of our time. People around the world, including here in the Bay Area, must act now to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

As part of the CSU, the **largest 4-year public university system in the country**, SF State University plays a central role in training California's leaders, voters, and workforce.

**Climate HQ and the Climate Justice Leaders Initiative** were created to support SF State's exceptionally diverse students, staff, and faculty to become climate justice leaders while advancing the economic interests of California.

**Guided by our core value of climate justice**, we are investing in people and community by cultivating an equity-minded, interdisciplinary leadership team. By training student leaders, creating empowering events, and reaching across SF State to the broader CSU system, we are sowing the seeds for broader action.

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*"California has the 5th largest economy in the world. By working together, we can change California. If we can change California, we can change the world."*

-Kai Burrus

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# MEET OUR TEAM



**Kai Burrus**  
*Professor of  
Biology  
Co-Director of  
Climate HQ*

**Adrienne Cool**  
*Professor of  
Physics &  
Astronomy  
Climate Action  
Fellows*

**Gopal Dayaneni**  
*Lecturer faculty in  
Race & Resistance  
Studies  
Climate Certificate  
Capstone  
Experience*

**Geoff Desa**  
*Professor of  
Management*

**Alcides Fuentes**  
*Program &  
Communications  
Specialist*



**Lisa Galli**  
*Budget Specialist*

**Sheldon Gen**  
*Professor of Public  
Administration*

**Constance  
Gordon**  
*Assistant  
Professor in  
Communications  
Climate  
Ambassadors*

**Savita Kumari  
Malik**  
*Director of  
Curriculum &  
Faculty  
Development,  
Metro College  
Success Program*

**Erica Pulley**  
*Lecturer faculty in  
Broadcast &  
Electronic  
Communications  
Annual Climate  
Events*

**Charli Sakari**  
*Assistant  
Professor of  
Physics &  
Astronomy  
PK-12 Climate  
Justice Certificate*



**Aritree Samanta**  
*Associate  
Professor of  
Environmental  
Studies  
Co-Director of  
Climate HQ*

**Kevin Simonin**  
*Professor of  
Biology*

**Stephanie  
Sisk-Hilton**  
*Professor of  
Elementary  
Education  
PK-12 Climate  
Justice Certificate*

**Caitlin Steele**  
*Director of  
Sustainability &  
Energy  
Climate  
Symposium*

**Autumn Thoyre**  
*Associate  
Professor of  
Environmental  
Studies  
Co-Director of  
Climate HQ*

# MILESTONES

**AUG 2021**

**CLIMATE CHANGE CERTIFICATE LAUNCHED**

One of the first of its kind in the country, Climate HQ created this new Certificate to develop student expertise in climate change & climate justice.

**MAY 2022**

**ACTIONABLE HOPE**

Sponsored by Climate HQ & Astronomers for Planet Earth, this event brought together students, faculty, staff, & community members to promote climate change solutions & hope.

**NOV 2022**

**CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY**

Sponsored by Climate HQ & ECO Students, this event explored the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the Bay Area.

**NOV 2022**

**CLIMATE ENTERS CSU'S FEDERAL PRIORITIES**

Climate HQ's advocacy elevated climate change to the Chancellor's Office 2023 Federal Priorities, which guide the CSU's lobbying efforts.

**JAN 2023**

**FIRST CLIMATE CHANGE FLC**

The first climate change-centered Faculty Learning Community (FLC) at SF State launched, supporting faculty, staff, & students to design our proposed new urban teaching farm & incorporate it into coursework.

**FEB 2023**

**CLIMATE CHANGE CERTIFICATE UPDATED**

The new Certificate curriculum includes an action component so students gain experience in applied climate change work.

**FEB 2023**

**NEW CLIMATE JUSTICE COURSES APPROVED**

Students complete the new Certificate action component by taking one of these new courses, created by Climate HQ:

- BIOL 681: Practicum for Certificate in Climate Change
- COMM 675: Climate Ambassadors Practicum

**FEB 2023**

**FIRST CSU-WIDE CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING**

Climate HQ convened this meeting of 37 faculty across 15 CSUs to focus on collaborations in teaching, research, & action.

**APR 2023**

**EARTH WEEK**

Climate HQ supported community-centered Earth Week events including a launch, film festival, & STEAM day.

**APR 2023**

**CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM**

Climate HQ organized the inaugural Climate Symposium, focusing on local action, art, activism, & food sustainability. All panels showcased student speakers.

**MAY 2023**

**FIRST CLIMATE ACTION FELLOWS AWARDED**

The cohort of 7 Fellows were selected, each receiving \$5,000 per semester to carry out their proposed work in AY 23-24.

# OUR IMPACT

Students reached  
through Earth Week &  
Symposium events.

800

Students have earned  
the Climate Change  
Certificate since its Fall  
2021 launch

68

Students gained  
leadership experience by  
helping plan events  
& curriculum.

18

Climate justice-themed  
Earth Week events  
created or supported.

14

Climate Action  
Fellowships awarded to  
undergrad & grad  
students.

7

SF State colleges  
represented among  
Climate HQ programs &  
leadership.

6

New climate justice  
courses created to  
support the Certificate's  
new action component.

2

New staff hired to  
support Climate HQ's  
efforts.

2

# MEET THE 2023-24 CLIMATE ACTION FELLOWS



**Karina Lopez**, Undergraduate student, International Relations

*Mobilizing youth through education*

Mentor: Gopal Dayaneni, Lecturer Faculty in Race & Resistance Studies



**Taraisa Keeton**, Graduate student, Family & Consumer Sciences

*The ultimate upcycle*

Mentor: Ivana Markova, Assistant Professor of Family & Consumer Sciences



**Alyssa Miller**, Graduate student, Integrative Biology

*Characterizing leaf & floral trait adaptation in climate in California Clarkia species*

Mentor: Kevin Simonin, Professor of Biology



**Jessica Solis**, Graduate student, Geography: Resource Management & Environmental Science

*Investigating the impact of wildfire disturbance & microclimate on carbon & water fluxes in a coastal fog-influenced grassland ecosystem*

Mentor: Sara Baguskas, Associate Professor of Geography & Environment



**Monique Scott**, Graduate student, Public Health

*Combating climate change through community capacity building*

Mentor: Zubaida Qamar, Associate Professor of Nutrition & Dietetics



**Samantha Walls**, Graduate student, Zoology

*The impacts of climate change on hummingbird foraging behavior*

Mentor: Derrick Groom, Assistant Professor of Biology



**Imani Ware**, Undergraduate student, Astrophysics

*Off-grid, eco-friendly, low-cost, & resilient mobile tiny home*

Mentor: Adrienne Cool, Professor of Physics & Astronomy



# PROJECT SNAPSHOTS

## **Karina Lopez**

### *Mobilizing Youth through Education*

We now know that the largest contributor to climate change is the fossil fuel industry. Our reliance on fossil fuels has created an issue that threatens our very existence and life on this earth. It often seems like the fossil fuel industry has a chokehold on our government and those abroad, preventing them from passing the type of legislation we need to begin to transition away from fossil fuels into clean energy. Throughout history we have seen many movements create power from the ground up. The climate justice movement is Karina believes is key to adequately addressing climate change. For their project, they aim to create a coalition of schools, students, and educators throughout California who will actively push for a climate justice curriculum to be taught in schools.

## **Jessica Solis**

### *Investigating the Impact of Wildfire Disturbance and Microclimate on Carbon and Water Fluxes in a Coastal Fog-Influenced Grassland Ecosystem*

My thesis research aims to understand how coastal fog and wildfire disturbances impact carbon and water fluxes in coastal grassland ecosystems, an ecosystem that is highly vulnerable to increased wildfire risk driven by anthropogenic warming. Advancing our understanding of vegetation recovery postfire and the associated carbon dynamics is key to improve climate-adaptive land management. Field research will be conducted in a coastal terrace located in one of the CSU-Natural Reserves, Swanton Pacific Ranch (SPR), in Santa Cruz County. SPR land managers are keen to use science-based decisions to improve carbon sequestration potential at a landscape scale. I will also be developing a burn severity map for the study area, which is exactly the resource needed to link the science to policy.

## **Imani Ware**

### *Off-Grid, Eco-Friendly, Low-Cost, and Resilient Mobile Tiny Home*

My project aims to create a low-impact, environmentally conscious, and resilient home using advanced technological systems and human adaptability. The goal is to build a fully functioning, off-grid, and electric tiny home in a self-contained vehicle that can withstand diverse climates on Earth. The design incorporates modular and adaptive features, using repurposed, recycled, and environmentally-safe materials to reduce harmful construction materials and unnecessary waste. The project tests the resilience of homes using renewable resources and adaptable structures, and has the capacity to be transported to various climates to test resiliencies important to climate action. By utilizing renewable energy sources and efficient energy storage, the design aims to improve renewable construction methods and the resiliency of human habitats.

# EARTH WEEK AND CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM 2023

SFSU ClimateHQ is proud to present its inaugural

## Earth Week 2023

### Schedule of Events

April 17th - 21st



In collaboration with the Environmental Resource Center and the Office of Sustainability

#### Monday, April 17th

##### Flea Market

Hosted by the Environmental Resource Center  
12 - 4pm  
Jack Adams Hall

##### Earth Week Launch at The Depot

6 - 9pm  
The Depot  
\* Free food from Alicia's Tamales!  
\* Discounts from the Pub!

#### Wednesday, April 19th

##### Love to Breathe, Save the Trees

Tabling event hosted by Aafreen Sikandar  
11am - 1pm  
Malcolm X Plaza

##### Musical Performance by Audiopharmacy

12pm - 1pm  
Malcolm X Plaza

##### Climate Symposium

1pm - 4:30pm  
Library 121  
\* Topics include: Local Action, Art and Activism, and Food Sustainability

##### Business Ethics Dinner

5pm - 6:15pm, See website for details

#### Tuesday, April 18th

##### Student Performances and Music

Malcolm X Plaza  
12 - 3pm  
\* Kabob Trolley Food Truck on Centennial Walkway

##### Yoga, Meditation and Mindfulness

11am - 12pm  
Mashouf Wellness Center, Studio 122

##### Navigating our Environmental Anxiety

hosted by Kora Spiak  
3:30 - 5pm  
ROMC Conference Room in Cesar Chavez Student Center

#### Thursday, April 20th

##### STEAM Day

11am - 3pm  
Malcolm X Plaza  
\* Featuring SETI, California Academy of Sciences, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, AISES, and more!

##### Earth Week Inaugural Film Festival

4pm - 7pm  
Coppola Theater  
\* Featuring student films  
\* Screening Season 1 of "The North Pole"  
\* Q & A with Josh Healey and Donte Clark from "The North Pole"

#### Friday, April 21st

##### Future of Healthcare Conference; From Polarization to Integration: A New Vision of Health, Activism & Cultural Evolution

9:30am - 5pm  
Library 121  
Or via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3Usn772>

Scan for  
more info!



All Week: Business Ethics Conference  
<https://cob.sfsu.edu/sustainable-center/2023-events-calendar>



# CLIMATE HQ IN ACTION – EARTH WEEK 2023



*Students and staff tabling in the Malcolm X Plaza during Earth Week.*



*Students from Starr King Elementary celebrating Earth Week with Astronaut Dr. Yvonne Cagle.*



*Earth Week launches! Our planning team kicking off the week at our Launch Party.*



*Students lining up to get food from our local vendor, Alicia's Tamales. They were a hit!*



*Students from SF State's Environmental Resource Center welcoming attendees to their Flea Market clothing swap.*



*Professor Erica Pulley speaking on the importance of climate justice at our Earth Week Launch Event.*

# ABOUT OUR DONOR



## Neda Nobari

*Founder and President, MOZAIK Foundation*

Neda Nobari's inspiring journey began in 1978 when she left Iran and embarked on a remarkable career in the United States. In 1984, she graduated from San Francisco State University with a BS degree in Computer Science.

Her dynamic career started in software engineering but soon transitioned into fashion, where her leadership at bebe was deeply transformative. In 2015 she earned a Master's in Liberal Studies from Dartmouth College.

In 2007, Nobari's commitment to social and environmental justice led her to create the Neda Nobari Foundation, which advances social justice and sustainability through art, media, advocacy, and education. In 2020, the foundation evolved into MOZAIK, which is dedicated to innovative philanthropy and democratizing change.

Neda Nobari has taken on multiple leadership roles at San Francisco State University. As a member and now Chair of the SF State Foundation's Board of Directors, she has worked to elevate the University's profile and raise funds to advance its mission. Notably, her influence within the investment committee has resulted in more socially and environmentally responsible investment policies, including the development of a "Green Fund" focused on environmentally responsible investments.

*"My mind was blown away when I learned that all six Colleges at SFSU had made a commitment to the Climate Justice Leaders Initiative with its equity-based interdisciplinary approach to cultivating leaders to solve the biggest challenge of our time. All they needed to scale was money. I was like 'how much?'"*



# GET INVOLVED WITH CLIMATE HQ

**Follow us on Instagram**  
**@sfsuclimatehq**

**Check out our website**  
***climatehq.sfsu.edu***

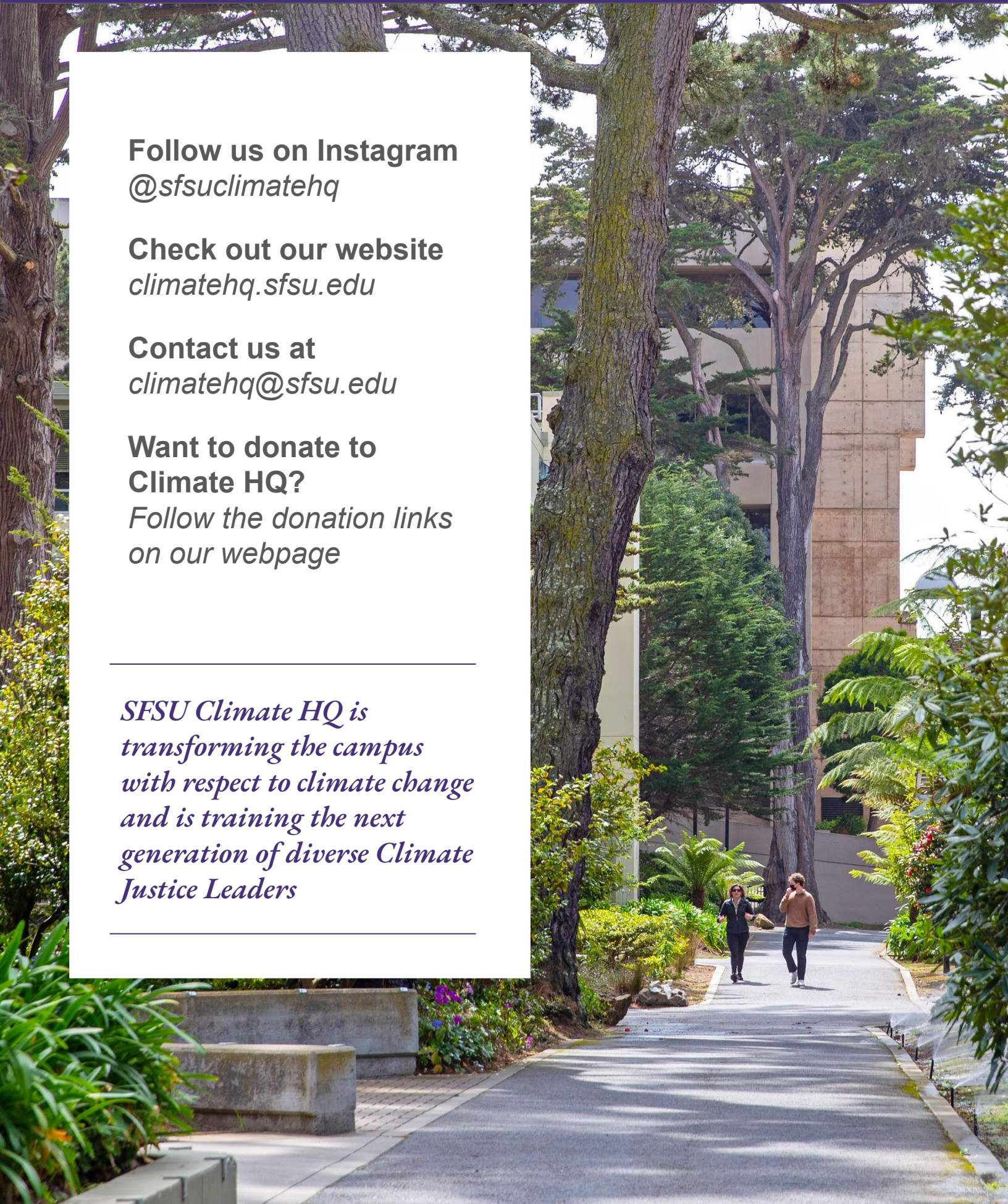
**Contact us at**  
***climatehq@sfsu.edu***

**Want to donate to**  
**Climate HQ?**  
*Follow the donation links*  
*on our webpage*

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*SFSU Climate HQ is  
transforming the campus  
with respect to climate change  
and is training the next  
generation of diverse Climate  
Justice Leaders*

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SAN FRANCISCO  
STATE UNIVERSITY