

2022

MINNESOTA CLIMATE ADAPTATION AWARDS

Celebrating adaptation leadership

JANUARY 31, 2022 • 3-4:30 P.M. CT

*Presented by the **Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership**
in collaboration with **The Nature Conservancy** in Minnesota,
North Dakota, South Dakota, and the **Bell Museum**.*

Minnesota Climate
Adaptation Partnership

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Welcome to the 2022 Minnesota Climate Adaptation Awards Ceremony!

These awards, presented annually by the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP) since 2014, celebrate exceptional achievements in leadership, education, research, policies, and practices that improve resilience or climate justice through the development, advancement, or implementation of climate adaptation strategies and decisions. MCAP is the product of the combined efforts of experts and practitioners who bring expertise from sectors spanning from higher education, state, federal and municipal governments and tribal entities to private industry and non-governmental organizations. We are incredibly thankful for their contributions to our organization that have helped to create the legacy we are building on today.

With several recent funding successes, a rapidly growing team, and the establishment of our inaugural Advisory Board, MCAP is embarking on an exciting new chapter. The timing couldn't be more important as we continue to live through the impacts of a changing climate and see the ever increasing need for evidence-based, equitable climate adaptation and mitigation solutions.

Over the next year, in collaboration with our Advisory Board, we will develop a research and capacity-building agenda to help guide our work and momentum moving forward. Our research team and students will be tackling an exciting array of research and engagement projects from climate modeling for Minnesota to evaluation of adaptation planning outcomes in partnership with the 1854 Treaty Authority.

Our goal is to be the state's go-to source for evidence-based, useful and usable climate science information and adaptation resources, enabling Minnesotans to make necessary progress to prepare for a changing climate.

Thank you for joining us today and as we embark on this next exciting chapter of our work building climate resilience across Minnesota and beyond.

Dr. Heidi Roop

Director, Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership

PROGRAM

- 3:00–3:10 P.M. Welcome and introduction by
Dr. Heidi Roop, MCAP Director
- 3:10–3:20 P.M. Awards presented by
Dr. Mark Seeley
- 3:20–3:40 P.M. Keynote address by
Dr. Katharine Hayhoe on the
importance of climate leadership
- 3:40–4:20 P.M. Panel discussion featuring award
recipients and **Dr. Katharine Hayhoe**,
moderated by **Dr. Heidi Roop**
- 4:20–4:30 P.M. Closing remarks

2022 AWARDEES

Individual Adaptation Award

Sara Smith

Organization Adaptation Award

Ecolibrium3

Business Adaptation Award

Precipitate

Collaborative Adaptation Award

Tribal Adaptation Menu Team

Climate Communication Award

Katya Goodenough Gordon

2022 AWARDS COMMITTEE

Kenneth Blumenfeld

Committee Chair
Senior Climatologist,
Minnesota State Climate
Office

Suzanna Clark

Committee Co-Chair
Postdoctoral Associate,
Minnesota Climate
Adaptation Partnership

Leslie Brandt

Climate Change Specialist,
Northern Institute of
Applied Climate Science

Camilla Correll

Water Resources Engineer,
EOR Inc.

Howard Creel

Senior Government R&D
Specialist, 3M

Troy Goodnough

Sustainability Director,
University of Minnesota
Morris

Amie Hedblom

Corporate Sustainability
Marketing Manager,
Ecolab

Heidi Roop

Director, Minnesota
Climate Adaptation
Partnership

FEATURED SPEAKER

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe is an accomplished atmospheric scientist who studies climate change and why it matters to us here and now. In her role as Chief Scientist at The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Katharine is responsible for the TNC's wider portfolio of global climate advocacy and adaptation work.



Katharine has served as lead author on the Second, Third, and Fourth National Climate Assessments. She also hosts and produces the PBS Digital Series, *Global Weirding*, and serves on advisory committees for a broad range of organizations including the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, the Earth Science Women's Network, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Katharine is also a remarkable communicator who has received the National Center for Science Education's Friend of the Planet award, the American Geophysical Union's Climate Communication Prize, the Sierra Club's Distinguished Service award, and been named to a number of lists including Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People, Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Thinkers, FORTUNE magazine's World's Greatest Leaders and the United Nations Champion of the Earth in Science and Innovation.

MEET THE AWARD WINNERS

Sara Smith

Individual Adaptation Award

Sara Smith has served as the Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison for the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center/College of Menominee Nation since 2017. She uses her expertise in research, natural resources, ecology, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and indigenous communities to engage with indigenous people across the upper Midwest and their climate adaptation efforts.



Through her work as tribal liaison, Sara conducted multiple site visits with more than 8 Tribes and helped to draft 3 vulnerability assessments in just 3 years, but her work has not stopped there. She also serves in a lead role for the Northeast Indigenous Climate Resilience Network, which makes climate change tools and science available to indigenous communities, and she is a member of the Tribal Adaptation Menu (TAM) Team, which authored *Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad - A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu*.

Sara is recognized for her commitment to respecting the perspectives and rights of indigenous communities, and ensuring their voices are heard in climate change adaptation conversations. She has shown an exceptional ability to engage, organize, and facilitate partnerships with and within tribal communities, which has led to her becoming a regional leader in just a few short years. Because of her "knowledge, drive, and commitment", she is an invaluable figure in the Minnesota climate adaptation community, and deserving of the Individual Adaptation Award.

Ecolibrium3

Organization Adaptation Award

Ecolibrium3 is based in Duluth's Lincoln Park neighborhood, an Environmental Justice Zone and home to a large percentage of vulnerable populations. The organization has a two-pronged focus, serving as the neighborhood convening organization in Lincoln Park and focusing on community sustainability and resiliency.



Throughout their over ten years as an organization, Ecolibrium3 has implemented several programs that focus on community resiliency, from disaster response to energy stability to community health. The Energy Efficiency Program's goal is to bring Lincoln Park residents out of energy poverty and it has established the Lincoln Park Community Solar Garden array, which provides clean energy and a source of income to the entire community. They coordinated the Duluth Citizens Climate Action Plan and increased community capacity by establishing an AmeriCorps cohort in Duluth. Their work is continuously evolving to meet community needs, such as with their Pay it Forward PPE project that provided personal protective equipment to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the development of the Lincoln Park Resilience Hub, a community center to address health and economic disparities in the neighborhood.

Ecolibrium3's work is community-driven and community-focused, with an emphasis on equity and environmental justice. As an organization, their goal is to lead and inspire change toward an equitable and sustainable future, which they achieve by bringing residents together to work toward a common goal. They exemplify the qualities that embody the Organization Adaptation Award.

Precipitate

Business Adaptation Award

Precipitate was founded in 2017 to respond nimbly to the pressing social, economic, and

ecological justice issues of today through deep listening and engagement, leading to holistic, systemic design at the intersection of architecture, research, and education. Their work combines carbon neutral architecture, advocacy, and research to work toward climate justice. They believe that a just transition to carbon neutrality requires input from women and under-represented ethnic and racial groups, so we all share in the benefits of decarbonization.

precipitate
ARCHITECTURE | PLANNING RESEARCH

This firm was nominated by Bemidji State University for their efforts as planning consultants for the Bemidji State University's updated Climate Action and Resilience Plan. Precipitate conducted building assessments, procured financial assessments, and engaged diverse stakeholders to contribute to the Plan's final form.

Precipitate centers people in their work. In their own words, "At the heart of their business is the belief that good design should be accessible to all and that we can achieve more, quicker, and more equitably, through collaboration." Their clients appreciate this approach and their focus on inquiry, because of "the need for inclusive adaptation and resilience-building" in the face of vast climate challenges. Because of their work and their focus on an inclusive solution, Precipitate is the recipient of this year's Business Adaptation Award.

Tribal Adaptation Menu Team *Collaborative Adaptation Award*

Many climate adaptation planning tools fail to address the unique needs, values, and cultures of indigenous communities. *Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad: A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu* (TAM) provides a framework to integrate indigenous and traditional knowledge, culture, language, and history into the climate adaptation planning process. Primarily developed for the use of indigenous communities, tribal natural resource agencies, and their non-indigenous partners, the Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu was designed to bridge communication barriers between non-tribal persons or organizations interested in indigenous approaches to climate adaptation and the needs and values of tribal communities.



This collaborative effort was nominated not only because it is a usable document that focuses on climate adaptation strategies, but also because it centers the experiences, knowledge, and needs of tribal communities, which are often underserved and excluded from climate adaptation conversations. The TAM is the result of a collaboration between tribal, academic, intertribal, and government entities, and had 20 co-authors.

The team that created the Tribal Adaptation Menu epitomizes the community approach that is necessary for climate adaptation, and we are proud to present the Collaborative Adaptation Award to those involved.

Katya Goodenough Gordon
Climate Communication Award

Katya Gordon lives in Two Harbors, Minnesota with her husband and daughters. She has worked for over 10 years as a community leader, climate activist, and science communicator. She has made a significant impact on the Northland in education, engagement, recruitment to action, social justice, and broader awareness and understanding of the need for climate adaptation.



Katya was nominated for 13 years of work across multiple projects. She is perhaps best known for her family's non-profit sailing program Sea Change Expeditions. She is also a volunteer State Coordinator for the Citizens' Climate Lobby, a board member for her local community radio station, and a former columnist for the Lake County Chronicle. She hosts a weekly radio interview addressing weather and climate, and in 2020 she and her husband hosted webinars for high school students across the country. She has led community engagement sessions to help people understand how climate change affects them personally, and meetings for local conservatives to ask questions and grow in a friendly environment.

Katya brings climate science to her community, engaging everyone "from students through senior citizens; from community leaders and local officials to formal and informal educators; from agency partners to communities of faith; from farmers to outdoor enthusiasts; as well as skeptics and members of the climate-change choir." Her long-term, cross-sectional work is inspiring and worthy of this year's Climate Communication Award.

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