



The Center for Collaboration on
Climate & Community for Health

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WEATHERING CHANGE: A C4H NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM THE C4H CO-DIRECTOR, DR. ARDYTHE L. MORROW



Welcome to the latest edition of *Weathering Change*, the newsletter of the Center for Collaboration on Climate and Community for Health (C4H) at the University of Cincinnati.

We are deeply grateful for the energy, creativity, and commitment our C4H community continues to bring to the intersection of climate, environment, and health. Across our research, training, and community engagement efforts, we see growing momentum for collaborative, solutions-focused work that advances resilience and a climate-safe Greater Cincinnati region.

In this edition, you will find **highlights of recent C4H accomplishments, including faculty recognition, innovative climate and health coursework and study abroad, new community partnerships, and updates from our Weathering Change seminar series** on topics from vector ecology and air pollution to drought, water, and public health.

As C4H's mission is grounded in collaboration across disciplines and with local and regional partners, we invite you to stay connected and explore ways you and your networks can engage with C4H in the months ahead. Thank you for all that you do to advance healthier and more climate-resilient communities.

Warm regards,

Ardythe L. Morrow, PhD, Co-Director, C4H, University of Cincinnati

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Celebrating Excellence: C4H's Dr. Kelly Brunst Named 2025 Faculty Excellence Awardee

The C4H proudly congratulates **Dr. Kelly Brunst** on receiving the **2025 Faculty Excellence Award**. Sponsored by the College of Medicine, the Office of the Provost, and the UC Office of Research, this award recognizes exceptional faculty who demonstrate outstanding achievement in research, teaching, and service. As **Co-Director of C4H**, Dr. Brunst provides strategic guidance for pilot funding, trainee mentorship, and workforce development initiatives, including the innovative SURF-Climate program.



Dr. Brunst is an internationally recognized environmental epidemiologist, educator, and leader in graduate education at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She serves as **Director of Graduate Studies** for the Department of Environmental and Public Health Sciences and **Program Director for Epidemiology**, overseeing more than eleven PhD, MS, and MPH programs fostering a structured, equitable, and supportive training environment that advances excellence in graduate education.

Climate Health Course and Study Abroad Opportunity

Co-directors of C4H, Dr. Michelle Burbage and Dr. Kermit Davis are currently recruiting students for their Climate Health course at University of Cincinnati, which features a unique **climate-focused study abroad experience in Scandinavia**. The course explores how climate policy, adaptation strategies, and public health systems shape environmental and health outcomes across different global contexts.



The class begins with a study abroad trip, where students from University of Cincinnati visit research facilities, universities, and organizations leading climate initiatives. This immersive experience introduces students to Scandinavian approaches to public health, climate resilience, and environmental policy.

Following the trip, students continue their learning on campus through sessions with guest speakers from environmental and public health organizations, including members of C4H. Guest presentations covered topics such as community engagement in climate health, best practices in climate communication, and local climate initiatives. C4H leadership and members are invited to contribute as guest speakers. The 2025 course also included a visit to Green Umbrella, a CEC community partner, to learn about regional climate action efforts.



This course continues to offer students a powerful blend of global perspective, local engagement, and hands-on learning in climate and environmental health.

Recap of the 2026 Weathering Change Seminar Series

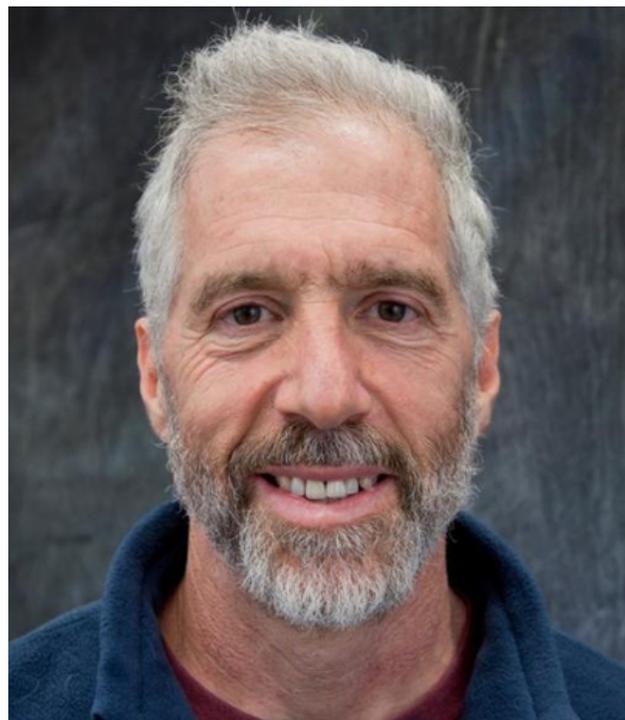
The C4H Weathering Change Seminar Series kicked off 2026 with three insightful presentations exploring climate-related health challenges— from drought resilience to vector ecology and air pollution exposure. Below is a brief recap of each session, along with resources shared by our speakers.

On January 20, 2026, **Dr. Joshua Benoit, Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati**, presented new research on how elevated drought and heat tolerance in mosquito eggs may increase human exposure risk. His work focuses on the integrative physiology of arthropods, including stress tolerance, dormancy, reproduction, and sleep processes. Watch the recording on the [Weathering Change YouTube playlist](#).



On January 27, 2026, **Dr. Anthony Wexler**, **Director of the Air Quality Research Center and Distinguished Professor at UC Davis**, discussed emerging evidence on the neurological and cardiovascular impacts of traffic-related air pollution (TRAP). His research spans air toxics measurement, thermodynamics of concentrated solutions, and wildfire early-warning systems.

This seminar was not recorded, but Dr. Wexler shared several related publications: [**Spatial and Spectral Mapping, Air Pollution and Alzheimer Disease, Responses to Traffic-Related Air Pollution in Rats, Impact of TRAP on Heart Rate and Cardiac Function in Rats.**](#)



On February 10, 2026, **Sylvia Reeves**, recently retired from NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and formerly a Senior Research Associate with the University of Colorado's CIRES program, led an interactive session on drought management tools and the public health impacts of drought events.

A recording of the seminar is available on the [**Weathering Change YouTube Playlist.**](#) Reeves shared the following valuable national and regional drought management resources: [**drought.gov, drought and public health engagement, drought and health messaging framework, Mid-Atlantic drought assessment, and drought assessment in a changing climate.**](#)



Community Engagement Spotlight: CEC Director Presents at OLLI

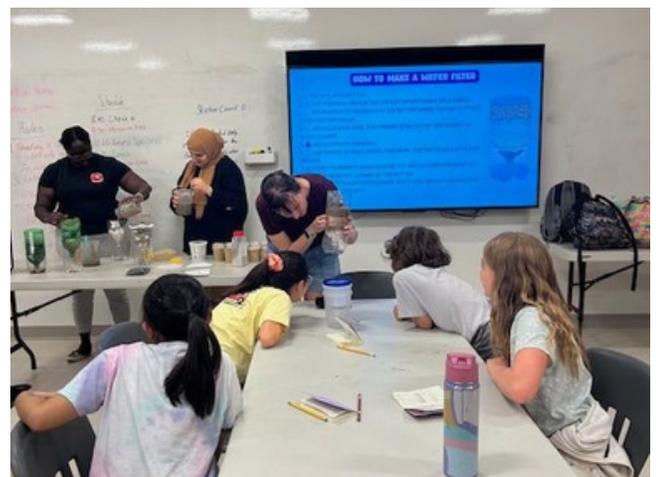
Dr. Michelle Burbage, Director of the Community Engagement Core (CEC), presented this fall at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Cincinnati. **OLLI offers non-credit courses for adults aged 50+** who are seeking meaningful learning opportunities and social connection.



Dr. Burbage’s session highlighted the landscape of public health in Cincinnati, with a special focus on the region’s long and influential history of environmental health work. Her presentation helped introduce OLLI participants to the ways local research, community partnerships, and public health initiatives continue to shape healthier environments across our city. [Learn more about OLLI programs here.](#)

C4H Launches Environmental STEM Partnership 2026 Training Cohort

The Community Engagement Core (CEC) has **officially launched training for the 2026 Environmental STEM partnership with the Cincinnati Museum Center and the UC Cancer Center.** This year’s cohort includes approximately 20 undergraduate and graduate students who will participate in a semester-long training program designed to prepare them for hands-on STEM education with youth.



Throughout the training, students will build skills in health literacy, designing engaging age-appropriate STEM lessons, implementing STEM education, and translating complex environmental and climate health concepts for youth audiences.

Mixed-level student teams will collaborate to develop their own educational lessons and activities. These lessons will be delivered during June and July at the Cincinnati Museum Center, bringing environmental and climate health learning directly to local youth. This partnership continues to strengthen CEC's commitment to community-centered education and workforce development in environmental health.

Community Engagement Core Participates in UC Sustainability Week

In January, the Community Engagement Core (CEC) took part in the Sustainability@UC Week Student Poster Session and Community Tabling Event, hosted by the Center for Public Engagement with Science (PEWS) and the UC Office of Sustainability.

CEC Director Dr. Michelle Burbage, Program Manager Abby Cuyler, and student volunteers Gabrielle Kroger, Success Odigie, and Dawson Kottkamp represented the center at the event.



The student volunteers created and presented a poster highlighting ongoing CEC research, while the CEC table offered informational materials about C4H and the Community Engagement Core.

This event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with students, faculty, staff, and local organizations thereby strengthening awareness of C4H's work and expanding community engagement around environmental and public health initiatives.

Visit our Website and Follow C4H on LinkedIn to Stay Connected to Climate and Health Innovation!

We encourage you to visit [our website](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page often to stay informed about our initiatives and explore meaningful opportunities that may be of interest to you. Through our website and LinkedIn, we will share timely information and updates on our work, research and grant opportunities, climate and health collaborations, and the many ways we can work together to make the Greater Cincinnati region a climate-safe haven.

UPCOMING EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Weathering Change Lecture Series: March 2026 Schedule

This March, C4H is hosting three virtual seminars highlighting cutting-edge research at the intersection of climate, environment, and health. Below is a brief overview of each session.

March 3, 2026 (12:30–1:30 PM ET, virtual): Climate-Sensitive Health Counseling in GP, Obstetrics and Gynecology settings: Integrating Climate Considerations into Everyday Clinical Practice

Presenter: Dr. Nikolaus Mezger, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)



Dr. Mezger will discuss how climate considerations can be integrated into everyday care in general practice, obstetrics, and gynecology. A medical doctor and environmental epidemiologist, he brings global experience in climate-health strategy, resilience planning, and planetary health education. [Learn more at C4H Website.](#)

[Virtual – Register here](#)

March 10, 2026 (12:30–1:30 PM ET, virtual): From Exposure to Impact: Mapping Air Pollution's Effects on Adolescent Brain Development

Presenter: Dr. Megan Herting, University of Southern California



Dr. Herting will share new findings on how air pollution shapes brain and cognitive development during adolescence, drawing on multimodal MRI research and her leadership roles in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study and ENIGMA Environment Working Group. Dr. Herting's research focuses on environmental and lifestyle factors that influence brain and cognitive development in children and adolescents. [Learn more at C4H Website.](#)

[Virtual – Register here](#)

March 24, 2026(12:30–1:30 PM ET, virtual): Long-term Patterns of Extreme Weather: Cumulative Health Impacts and Nature-based Adaptation

Presenter: Dr. Ray Yeager, University of Louisville



Dr. Yeager will explore how extreme weather patterns and urban environments influence cardiometabolic health. His work integrates geospatial data, greenspace research, and climate-health policy translation in partnership with national environmental organizations. [Learn more at C4H Website.](#)

[Virtual – Register here](#)

Upcoming Webinars from UTHealth Houston School of Public Health

Consider registering for the seminar titled “First Detection of Xylazine in Texas Wastewater and Its Association with Fentanyl Use” to be presented by Katherine Joseph, MPH, EOHS PhD Candidate on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 12:00 PM CT, Online via Microsoft Teams. [Register and learn more here.](#)

Hyperscale Data Centers in the U.S.: Data and Tools to Study the Potential Impacts on Water, Air Pollution, and Health on March 5, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET | Online

This webinar introduces open datasets, reproducible pipelines, and community-facing tools that can be used to assemble and analyze data center inventories, link them to electricity generation and water demand, and enable downstream research. [Register and learn more here.](#)

NAM Climate and Health Summit 2026: April 8, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ET | Washington, D.C. and Online

This full-day hybrid event will bring together leaders across the health sector to explore the latest insights, innovations, and opportunities at the intersection of climate and health. [Register and learn more here.](#)

SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHTS WITH US

The Center for Collaboration on Climate and Community for Health (C4H) wants to highlight your impact!

We know you are all doing incredible work in your different cores and the C4H newsletter provides a great opportunity for you to share that with our network. If you have a story, research projects, an upcoming event to highlight, or climate news and resources (conferences, fellowships, awards, volunteering, etc.), please let us know at cincinnati4health@gmail.com.

Our [LinkedIn](#) page is live. Ensure you follow us!

**Stay up to date with C4H Weathering
Change Newsletter!**

See you next month!