



The Center for Collaboration on Climate & Community for Health

FOURTH EDITION: NOV.-DEC. 2025

WEATHERING CHANGE: A C4H NEWSLETTER

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



Happy New Year from the Center for Collaboration on Climate and Community for Health (C4H) at the University of Cincinnati

As we celebrate 2026, we pause to reflect and express our heartfelt appreciation to all members, partners, and friends of C4H. **Your support, dedication, and collaboration over the past year** have made a remarkable impact in advancing climate and health research, creating meaningful opportunities for students and faculty, and strengthening connections across communities and our growing network.

In this edition, we are excited to share several key highlights: the announcement of the **Grassroots Collaboration Award**, the schedule for the **Weathering Change Lecture Series**, the launch of the **C4H website**, a call for Faculty Mentors for the **2026 SURF-CLIMATE Undergraduate Fellowship**, and updates on the many ways we continue to collaborate and engage with our partners and communities.



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This 2026, we reaffirm our commitment to deepening collaboration, amplifying community voices, and expanding our shared impact on climate and health across Greater Cincinnati and beyond. Together, we can continue building a climate-safe and thriving future for all. **We wish you a peaceful, joyful, and inspiring New Year!**

Green Umbrella and C4H Announce Grassroots Collaboration Award Recipients

Green Umbrella's Climate Research Incubator (CRI), in partnership with the Community Engagement Core C4H is excited to announce the **recipients of the Grassroots Collaboration Award**. Funded by the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, the program supports community-driven research on the health impacts of extreme climate in at risk communities. This year's two selected projects for funding are:

Understanding the Mental Health Needs of Those Experiencing Harm Due to Climate Change in an Economically Burdened, High-Risk Community led by **Nzingha Dalila**, EdD, LPCC-S, LCDC-III, Clinical Counselor and Instructor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati (UC), and **Earnest J. Davis Jr.**, PhD, President of the Mantle Center.

This project will explore the emotional, psychological, and practical effects of climate change on **residents of Cincinnati's Bond Hill neighborhood**.

Through the Grassroots Collaboration Award, Green Umbrella's CRI and C4H seek to strengthen equitable partnerships between academic and community stakeholders, generate actionable data, and uplift community voices to improve health outcomes across Greater Cincinnati's most climate-vulnerable neighborhoods.



Ground Yourself in Green Space: Avondale led by **Anca Matyku, PhD**, Assistant Professor at UC; **Aisha Tzillah** of the Avondale Development Corporation; **Yingying Xie, PhD**, Assistant Professor at Northern Kentucky University; and **Crystal Russell**, Coordinator of Macklin Legacy Garden.

This project aims to connect **Avondale residents with local green spaces** through environmental data collection and community workshops designed to promote ecological awareness, biodiversity, and well-being.

Call for Faculty Mentors: 2026 SURF-CLIMATE Undergraduate Fellowship

The C4H Development Core invites faculty to join the mentor list for the 2026 SURF-CLIMATE Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Mentors will guide a funded undergraduate fellow (receiving a **\$4,000 stipend**) from approximately May 27 to August 1, providing positive research mentorship, a supportive learning experience, and guidance during summer activities and the Capstone Poster Symposium.



Interested faculty should email **Carly Shaheen** (shaheecy@ucmail.uc.edu) **by February 6** with the following information: Name, Department, College, Project Title, Project Details, and prior mentoring experience.

C4H and Cardinal Land Conservancy Strengthen Collaboration

In November 2025, C4H hosted representatives from the Cardinal Land Conservancy and discussed collaboration opportunities on greening and land use development initiatives. The meeting, with the aim to strengthen partnerships highlighted shared goals in advancing environmental and public health efforts for community impact.



C4H provided an overview of the Center's work in climate and environmental health, followed by presentations from Cardinal's **Executive Director, Andy Dickerson**, and **Director of Operations, Susan Sprigg**, highlighting the organization's mission and ongoing conservation efforts. The discussion concluded with the identification of potential joint projects to advance community-based environmental and public health initiatives.

C4H LAUNCHES WEBSITE

We are excited to announce the launch of the [C4H website](#). Through our website, 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. We encourage you to visit [our website](#) often to stay informed about our initiatives and explore meaningful opportunities that may be of interest to you.

C4H Engages Cincinnati Public Schools Students in Public Health Learning

In November 2025, C4H partnered with Cincinnati Public Schools' Career-Based Learning program to introduce high school students to public health careers and the work of the Center. Advancing its community engagement mission, C4H Community Engagement Core team, Dr. Michelle Burbage and Abby CCuyler, led the interactive session that highlighted the Center's work at the intersection of climate and health.



Students explored how environmental exposures influence health outcomes such as asthma and life expectancy and participated in a hands-on water filtration activity illustrating these concepts. Through initiatives like this, C4H continues to foster learning and engagement that connects local communities with global public health and environmental challenges.

CAFÉ Wildfires & Health Virtual Symposium

In November, the NIEHS-funded CAFÉ Research Coordinating Center hosted the virtual Wildfires & Health: From Research to Resilience symposium, bringing together experts to explore how wildfire smoke is reshaping climate and health risk across North America.

Talks by **Dr. Minghao Qiu** of Stony Brook University and **Dr. Sarah Henderson** of the University of British Columbia highlighted that smoke-related health damages may rival other climate-driven costs and that wildfire smoke's complex, episodic nature makes it especially difficult to monitor, regulate, and control.

Dr. Justin Morrow, Assistant Professor at UC, reflected that **"it is up to climate and health researchers to understand the true future cost of wildfire exposure and make convincing economic arguments to invest in solutions before disadvantaged communities ultimately pay the price instead."**

Weathering Change Lecture Series: January 2026 Schedule

We are thrilled to announce the official launch of the C4H Weathering Change Lecture Series. This series brings together leading researchers to examine critical connections between climate, environmental change, and public health. Join us for two thought-provoking sessions that highlight innovative research and its implications for communities and health systems.

January 20, 2026 (12:30–1:30 PM ET, hybrid), Elevated Drought and Heat Tolerance of Mosquito Eggs Are Critical to Increasing Human Preference



The first series will be presented by **Dr. Joshua Benoit**, a Professor at University of Cincinnati. His work on arthropod physiology offers critical insight into how a changing climate may affect mosquito populations and related health risks. Since 2003, he has authored over 200 research papers, more than 70 on blood-feeding arthropods, and received 43 scientific awards. **Join here: [Teams Link](#)**

January 27, 2026 (12:30–1:30 PM ET, virtual), Neurological and Cardiovascular Health Effects of Traffic-Related Air Pollution (TRAP)



The second series will be presented by **Dr. Anthony Wexler**, Director at Air Quality Research Center & Distinguished Professor at UC Davis. He will present on the neurological and cardiovascular health impacts of traffic-related air pollution (TRAP). Dr. Wexler's research examines the atmospheric processing and health effects of air pollution. His current work includes studying the health impacts of traffic-related air pollution, developing air quality instrumentation, and advancing wildfire early warning systems. **Join here: [Teams link](#)**

UPCOMING EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

Apply for Climate Action Fellowship by January 15, 2026!

Applications for Green Umbrella's 2026 Climate Action Fellowship are now open for both fellows and host governments! The program pairs students and professionals with Green Umbrella government members to develop practical plans and solutions for a changing climate. [Learn more and apply here!](#)

Sustainability @ UC Week 2026, January 2026

Save the date and consider joining the sustainability week events and activities at UC from January 26th-31st, 2026. The event will include a series of public talks, workshops and career panels for UC students, a critical walk around UC's campus, a student poster session and community tabling event, and much more! [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!