

OCT. 8, 2026, HOUSTON, TX

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University of Houston Alumni Center | 3204 Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX 77204

Web users: Select a session title to view additional details.

Agenda

9:00 a.m.	Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Welcome Remarks Start your day by checking in, picking up materials, and enjoying a light continental breakfast. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow attendees and begin networking before sessions start.			
	Keynote Address: State of Air Quality - Connecting Weather, Climate, and Clean Air <i>Speaker: Lance Wood, Meteorologist, Harris County Flood Control District</i> Meteorologist Lance Wood will take us inside the latest regional air quality trends, exploring what the data—and the weather—can tell us about the air we breathe.			
10:00 a.m.				
	Keynote Address: From Planning to Action: Implementation in Practice <i>Speaker: Elizabeth Carlson, Sustainability Subcommittee Lead, World Cup Host Committee</i> Elizabeth Carlson will share lessons and outcomes from the HOU26 World Cup Sustainability Plan, offering a real-world look at how ambitious sustainability plans become action.			
11:00 a.m.				
	Networking Activity, Student Poster Showcase, and Vendor Exhibits Connect with fellow participants, student research presenters, and industry exhibitors. Use this time to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and continue conversations sparked by the morning’s discussions.			
11:40 a.m.				
	Networking Lunch Take a break and continue networking with fellow participants over lunch catered by Local Foods.			
12:00 p.m.				
	Choose 1 Dynamic Breakout Per Time Session			
Location	Breakout A: O’Quinn Great Hall	Breakout B: Melcher Boardroom	Breakout C: Douglass Library	Breakout D: Blomstrom Conference
Session 1 1:00 p.m.	Community Air Monitoring to Action	Economic Benefit through Clean Air Action	Community Solutions in Action: SEED	Public Health Impacts from Air Quality Action
Session 2 2:15 p.m.	Industry in Action	Transportation in Action	Nature-Based Solutions in Action: Urban Trees	Action in Buildings & Energy Sector
3:30 p.m.	Networking & Snacks Break Enjoy a snack break, continue networking with peers, and visit with student and vendor exhibits			
	AI and Air Quality: Tools for the Future of Clean Air <i>Speaker: Dr. Tammy Yuan, Assistant Professor, University of Houston</i> Dr. Yuan will showcase how artificial intelligence and online regional resources can put new tools and information in the hands of communities and decision-makers.			
3:40 p.m.				
	Closing Reflections We will conclude the summit summary of key takeaways from the event, reflections from panelists, and next steps for continued collaboration on air quality improvements			
3:55 p.m.				

Air Quality

HOUSTON REGIONAL SUMMIT

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The State of Air Quality
Keynote Speaker

Lance Wood

Meteorologist, Harris Co. Flood Control District

With over 30 years of experience as a meteorologist, including tenure in the National Weather Service, Mr. Wood supports the Harris County Flood Control District through applying data, models, and analytics to better understand storm behavior and improve how we prepare for and respond to severe weather.



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

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From Planning to Action
Keynote Speaker

Elizabeth Carlson

Chief Sustainability Officer, Tricon

Elizabeth Carlson is Chief Sustainability Officer at Tricon International and Chair of the FIFA World Cup 26 Houston™ Sustainability Committee. She brings more than 15 years of global experience advancing sustainability, resilience, and responsible business growth.



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Breakout Session

Community Air Monitoring to Action

Learn how community monitoring efforts and local data are helping residents, researchers, and public agencies better understand air quality and turn information into action



Dr. Denae King

Associate Director, Bullard
Center for Environmental
and Climate Justice

**Texas Southern
University**



Bridgette Murray

Founder, Executive
Director
ACTS



Nguyen Ly

Bureau Chief of Public
Health - Pollution Control &
Prevention

**Houston Health
Department**

Moderated by: Grace Tee Lewis, PhD

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Breakout Session Industry in Action

Hear directly from industry leaders about the innovations, partnerships, and practical steps businesses are taking to advance cleaner operations.



Ahmed Farghaly

Logistics Management
Professional

S.A. TALKE



Pending



Lisa Gianukos

Strategic Account and
Community Engagement
Manager

Moonshot

Moderated by: Andrew DeCandis

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Breakout Session
**Community
Solutions**
in Action:
SEED

See how Harris County's SEED initiatives are turning community priorities and local partnerships into meaningful solutions, **featuring SEED grant recipients** working on the ground.



Lisa Lin

Director of Sustainability
Harris County



Pilar Fuentes

Climate Justice Analyst
**Harris County
Office of County
Administration**



Alex Triantaphyllis

Managing Director
**Harris County Office
of County
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Breakout Session
**Public Health
Impacts**
from Air Quality
Action



Traci Gonzales,
MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner,
Texas Children's Hospital

Traci Gonzales will connect the dots between air quality and health, highlighting why cleaner air matters for the health and well-being of communities across the region.



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Introduced by: Heather Meyers

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Breakout Session
Economic Benefit
through Clean
Air Action



Panel Moderator

Marina Badoian-Kriticos

Vice President of Strategic Initiatives,
HARC

Explore how clean air investments can create economic opportunity, strengthen communities, and support a more competitive regional economy with leaders from across the Houston region.

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Breakout Session Transportation in Action

From community shuttles to innovative mobility technologies, hear how regional partners are putting cleaner, more accessible transportation solutions into action.



Ruthanne Haut
Transportation Director
The Woodlands Township



Robyn Egbert
Manager, TDM
H-GAC



Pending



Jason Smith
Deputy Chief of Staff
Montgomery County

Moderated by: Madeline Statkewicz, PhD

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Breakout Session Nature-Based Solutions in Action

This session will explore how urban trees and other nature-based strategies can help communities tackle air quality, heat, and resilience challenges.



Ryan Bare, PhD
Senior Research Scientist
HARC



Justin Bower
Director, Community &
Environmental
H-GAC

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Action in Buildings & Energy Sector

Breakout Session



Shaun Auckland

Sr. Manager, Government and
Community Engagement, SPEER

Shaun Auckland of SPEER will spotlight practical energy efficiency and building strategies that can reduce emissions, lower energy use, and help create healthier communities.



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Tammy Yuan, PhD

Assistant Professor,
University of Houston

Dr. Tammy Yuan is an Assistant Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Houston. Her research applies remote sensing, Earth system modeling, and interpretable AI to study land-atmosphere interactions, coastal resilience, wildfires, and environmental change.



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