From the Directors

Thinking of the gardening mantra of sleep, creep, and leap, we are quite pleased that we made steady progress through 2022, and we are now poised to for exponential growth. Even as we developed our own programs, we continued building relationships. While we are creating something new, we are fortunate to have an excellent foundation at Penn, and much of what we will accomplish will rely on the strength, creativity, and expertise represented in Penn’s schools, centers, and offices.

Highlights from 2022 include the launch of our new website, a set of events at the Climate Negotiations in Sharm El Sheikh, a new faculty fellow program, and a growing set of research communities. Perhaps our most notable accomplishment is that each of Penn’s 12 schools now has an academic climate commitment. Each of these statements is aligned with the disciplines and priorities of the school, so some are concise reflections of values and others offer details on ideas and actions. The important thing is that each one is authentic to the school, which gives us a firm foundation to unite and ignite around the theme of One Planet, One Penn.

This idea of One Planet, One Penn is to make constellations of our stars. Penn is home to extraordinary people and ideas, and our role is to elevate those assets and help build new and impactful relationships and outcomes. As we get to know our new President and new Provost, we hope to have the opportunity to collaborate with them to ensure Penn is leading the way to a more resilient society.

Finally, we are grateful to our team and to our partners within Penn for a productive year. At the same time, we can say with some confidence that the best is yet to come.

Kathleen D. Morrison
Faculty Co-Lead

Joseph S. Francisco
Faculty Co-Lead
**Our Work**

**Our Vision** is to inform the transition to a more resilient society and foster harmony with nature. **Our Mission** is to catalyze solutions to significant real-world environmental challenges.

We frame our work around the priorities of Stewardship of Nature, Climate Action, and Societal Resilience. As a program that is just entering its third year and is intended to be a catalyst, convenor, and amplifier for all of the University of Pennsylvania, we have identified four key tactics for our work:

- Elevate Penn’s impact by connecting our scholarly activities with today’s defining challenges and advancing the University of Pennsylvania as a leading resource.
- Address the social determinants of environmental challenges and develop effective solutions to human vulnerability by catalyzing transdisciplinary research.
- Develop models for transformative education that ensure that 100% of Penn students have the opportunity to learn about their capacity as changemakers.
- Foster collaboration and community across disciplines and boundaries through programming on campus, in Philadelphia, and in the world.

This report is organized by these priorities and tactics, with additional information on our team and our future at the end.
Elevate Penn’s impact by connecting our scholarly activities with today’s defining challenges.

We are at a pivotal moment in history.

We have created a website to both showcase what we do and guide users to schools, centers, etc. throughout Penn. With a blend of fresh and standing content and interactive tools, this site is intended to be a valuable resource to members of the Penn community and beyond.
Elevate Penn’s impact by connecting our scholarly activities with today’s defining challenges.

Challenges such as loss of biodiversity, our changing climate, and the resulting vulnerability of people and communities require multifaceted solutions. To leverage the distinctive strengths and priorities of Penn’s 12 Schools, the Environmental Innovations Initiative worked with each School to establish a set of Academic Climate Commitments, each one tailored to reflect the disciplines and academic priorities of School.
Address the social determinants of environmental challenges by catalyzing transdisciplinary research.

Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a classification system, we have mapped out correlations between global priorities and expertise at Penn. This graphic offers a visualization of Penn’s aggregate strengths – the size of the rectangle and the number in the corner indicate the number of faculty. We will use the data from this work to create a searchable database.
Develop effective solutions to human vulnerability by catalyzing transdisciplinary research.

The Initiative catalyzes collaboration through a set of Research Communities, each which consists of an interdisciplinary group engaged in studying a common theme of broad environmental significance. Each must include at least one public-facing outcome and offer opportunities for students to get involved. Our current communities are highlighted here.

Growing Together: A Community-Based Initiative for Greening and Nutrition
Akira Rodriguez
Weitzman School of Design
Community: SAS-EES, Netter Center, Temple U, Clean Air Council

Penn Regenerative Ag Alliance
Tom Parsons
School of Veterinary Medicine
Community: Weitzman, SAS, SEAS, Annenberg, Kleinman, Perry World House, Center for Stewardship Agriculture and Food Security

Project-Based Learning for Global Climate Justice
Zachary Herrmann
Graduate School of Education
Community: Wharton, SAS, Annenberg, PPEH, Urban Teaching Assistantship Program, Collaboratory for Teacher Education, Center for Professional Learning, South Asia Center

Adapting to Extreme Heat in Philadelphia to Increase Human Vitality
Russell Composto
School of Engineering and Applied Science
Community: Weitzman, Wharton, Penn IUR, Singh Center for Nanotechnology
Support models for transformative education that ensure that 100% of Penn students have the opportunity to learn about their capacity as changemakers.

Courses are at the heart of this commitment, so the Initiative published an online curated collection of environment-related courses available to undergraduate and graduate students. Based on the most recent course catalog, the list has been cross-checked with academic units. It is possible to sort the inventory using over 16 topics including water, health, and climate, among others.
Foster collaboration and community across disciplines and boundaries through programming on campus.

We created a faculty fellowship program that includes representatives from each of Penn’s 12 schools and from varied career stages. It is designed to foster community for incoming faculty and catalyze transdisciplinary dialogue for all.
Foster collaboration and community across disciplines and boundaries through programming on campus and in Philadelphia.

This was the third year for Penn Climate Week, and our first year as its administrative lead. With co-leadership by Penn Sustainability, faculty, and students, we highlighted the role of indigenous knowledges in addressing the climate crisis. The line-up of over 30 events included panel discussions, teach-ins, and hands-on volunteering activities. Several also incorporated collaboration with community groups and other Philadelphia universities.
Foster collaboration and community across disciplines and boundaries through programming in the world.

At the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP27) our presence included collaboration with Penn Global on the first-ever Penn networking reception at a COP and a seat on an official side event that explored how engaging citizens in science and empowering youth could contribute to climate action.
Foster collaboration and community across disciplines and boundaries through programming in the world.

Over 70 students from nearly 30 countries participated in the fifth iteration of the Global University Climate Forum this year. The Forum encourages students to implement their own ideas for local-scale projects with measurable outcomes in advance of global negotiations. The final reports will be featured in our online publication, The Knowledge Sector: The role of Higher Education Institutions in addressing Global Environmental Challenges.

Global University Climate Forum Participants
(COP 15, 2009; Rio+20, 2012; COP21, 2015; COP26, 2021; COP27, 2022)
What to expect in 2023

Elevated Impact
- We are launching the One Planet, One Penn series to unite and ignite activity throughout the University.
- We will partner with the 12 schools to substantiate the Academic Climate Commitments with baselines and key performance indicators.

Transdisciplinary Research
- Our research communities will grow and evolve, furthering Penn’s impact and enriching opportunities for students.
- We will work with Penn’s Institutes, Centers, and Offices on campus to current and advance a suite of applied research programs.

Transformative Education
- We will continue to showcase Penn’s academic strengths and support filling the gaps.
- Our course, Humans and the Earth System: How it Works, How We Got Here, and How to Save Our Planet, will become an annual offering in the School of Arts & Sciences.

Collaboration & Community
- We will create additional fellowships and leadership opportunities for students.
- We will lead the effort to create a peer network of pan-university academic environmental programs.
- In collaboration with the International Sustainable Campus Network, we will lead the next iteration of the Global University Climate Forum.
Our Internal Advisory Committee

Nikhil Anand
Anthropology, School of Arts & Sciences

Katherine Baillie
University Communications

Katie Barott
Biology, School of Arts & Sciences

Eugénie L. Birch
Penn Institute for Urban Research

Dawn Bonnell
Office of the Vice Provost for Research (ex officio)

Michael Borda
Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Melissa Calvert
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Cary Coglianese
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Ocek Eke
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Jared Farmer
History, School of Arts & Sciences

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Andrew Hoffman
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