United Nations Regional Centres of Expertise Greater Atlanta YOUTH NETWORK

The 3 Powerpoint Sections

- RCEs
- RCE GREATER ATLANTA
- YOUTH NETWORK

What are RCEs?



Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs)

The RCE program is a global initiative of the United Nations University (UNU), designed originally to support the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). As of January 2018, there were 164 RCEs worldwide. 6 in the USA.

Core Goal of RCE

- Advance 17 Sustainable Development goals
- Network that connects local and global
- Meet goals by 2030

RCE Participants

Organizations providing education for sustainable development within a region participate in RCEs. This includes higher education institutions, K-12 schools, businesses, government, the media, museums, zoos, gardens, and civic associations. Many individuals also participate, from scientists, researchers, students, and teachers to community members and life-long learners.



"Spelman's historical mission of promoting ethical leadership and commitment to positive social change is very much in line with the goals of achieving social justice, protecting the planet, ending poverty and ensuring prosperity for all as articulated in the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),"

– Dr. Fatemah Shafiei



Officially acknowledged

The final application was submitted to the UN in mid-September 2017 and The ATL RCE was officially acknowledged by UNU in December 2017.

Georgia State University, Institute for Urban Studies, Atlanta Metropolitan State College, Division of Social Sciences - Vance Gray, Dean Andrew Young School of Public Policy - Johannes Nijman, Director Georgia State University, College of Arts and Sciences Atlanta Regional Commission - Douglas Hooker, Executive Director - Sara Rosen, Dean Atlanta Student Sustainability Council Greenhouse Accelerator, Inc. - Bernie Burgener, Executive Director Kennesaw State University, President's Commission Captain Planet Foundation - Courtney Kimmel, Director of Strategic Partnerships on Sustainability - Vanessa Slinger-Friedman, Chair, Prof, Geography Morehouse College - William Taggart, Interim Center for Sustainable Communities - Garry Harris, Executive Director President City of Atlanta - Kasim Reed, Mayor Ray C. Anderson Foundation - John Lanier, Executive Director and Vice President Clark Atlanta University - Felicia Davis, Sustainability Saving Our Sons & Sisters International - Chuck Coordinator Barlow, Jr., Co-Founder/Executive Director Corporate Volunteer Council - Cheryl Kortemeier, Southface - Andrea Pinabell, President Executive Director Emory University - Claire E. Sterk, President Spelman College - Mary Schmidt Campbell, President Georgia Institute of Technology - Rafael Bras, Provost United Nations Foundation - J. Rutherford Seydel, II Georgia Institute of Technology, Ray C. Anderson University of Georgia, Office of Sustainability -Kevin Center for Sustainable Business, Scheller College of Kirsche, Director Business - Michael Oxman, Managing Director

Our application to the UN included letters of support from the following:



The Vision

Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology and Spelman College are co-leading the RCE Greater Atlanta. The institutions envision a robust and engaged network of all sectors of Greater Atlanta society, collaboratively working towards a region where the principles of sustainability - equity and justice, resilient ecosystems, health and wellbeing, and economic opportunity - are ingrained in its continued development; where opportunities for greater progress are realized through connected local partners and knowledge centers; and where the students in the region have expanded opportunities to learn about sustainability locally and globally, and participate first-hand in shaping a sustainable future.

The Goals and Objectives

Objective 1: Accelerating local and regional solutions to sustainability issues Objective 2: Re-orienting higher education for societal transformation into sustainable development goals Objective 3: Developing sustainable development and education for sustainable development competencies and capabilities as well as a science-policy Interface.

Education for Sustainable Development focus points

- Infuse K-12, higher education and informal and non-formal education curricula with the SDGs in local context
- Empower local youth to create and execute ESD strategy through an RCE Youth Network

Membership Diversity

RCE Greater Atlanta is a network of multidisciplinary stakeholders, including higher education institutions, businesses, non-governmental organizations, community associations, and local, regional, state and federal government. All RCE partners are committed to developing and advancing a comprehensive approach to sustainable development, focused on implementing the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the region. Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology and Spelman College are the founders of the RCE Greater Atlanta.

Geographic Region

10 counties Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale counties - as well as the City of Atlanta

How to get involved?

Jennifer Hirsch

Director, Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain Georgia Institute of Technology jennifer.hirsch@gatech.edu 224-392-5608

Ciannat Howett

Director, Sustainability Initiatives Emory University <u>ciannat.howett@emory.edu</u> 404-727-5020

Fatemeh Shafiei Chair of Political Science, Associate Professor Spelman College <u>fshafiei@spelman.edu</u> 404-270-5653





9 months old

Birthday December 2017



Current Leads

PROJECT	LEADS	DESCRIPTION
Youth Network (College)	<u>Kris Chatfield</u> (GT) <u>Isabella Stubbs</u> (GT student) <u>Nathan Lindsay</u> (Emory student)	Coordinates activities with RCE members for students from the universities and colleges in the RCE, including networking, professional development, and SDG trainings. Led by student members of the RCE, with support from staff mentors.

Objectives of Youth Network

- Collaboration
 - With students & faculty from a multitude of schools in Greater Atlanta
 - With different RCEs (in the US and globally)
- Professional Development & Networking Opportunities
 - Collaborations with RCE partners, including not-for-profits and businesses
 - YN-specific certificates, badges, and/or recognitions
- Student Experience in Network Operations:
 - Communications & publicity
 - Event management
 - Project & program development
- Acts as a platform to showcase SDG related projects through the UNU

Youth Network 2018-2019

Current Goals

- Increase student engagement & publicity across all campuses
- Partner with student orgs at each member school
- Provide sustainability resources & opportunities to members
- Provide a link to RCE Greater Atlanta and the global network
- Provide professional development opportunities
- Develop 1-3 signature Youth Network events/programs

Current Events

Conference *When:* August 2017 *Where:* Georgia Campus Sustainability Network

Internal Launch Event *When:* April 2018 *Where:* CARE Headquarters Atlanta

Official RCE Launch Event *When*: October 10, 6:30-9 pm *Where*: The Center for Civil and Human Rights Showcase our Youth Network at the **RCE Meeting of the Americas** (Oct 25-27)

Back to School Event *When*: September 16th, 12:00- 4:30 *Where*: Atlanta Beltline Opportunity for non-RCE students to share their about **the future of sustainability**

How to get involved?

Email Isabella Stubbs (<u>istubbs3@gatech.edu</u>)



Thank you.