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# ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

## Earth Week speaker Susan Joy Hassol to discuss “The Climate Crisis: Reasons for Hope”

BY: KELLY HARER

Susan Joy Hassol, award-winning climate change communicator, will speak at Elon University on April 19 at 7:30 pm in McKinnon Hall

Susan Joy Hassol is an award-winning climate change communicator and author known for making complex issues accessible to the public for 30 years. She was the writer of the first three U.S. National Climate Assessments, an HBO documentary and recent articles in The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The LA Times and Scientific American. Climate change is a manmade problem, and it has manmade solutions. Because the world has so far failed to act with the necessary urgency, we now face a climate emergency. But crises can also present opportunities, and many of the solutions to the climate crisis solve other problems too, resulting in a safer, healthier, more equitable world. In this wide-ranging keynote, Susan will share a vision of the future we can create and discuss pathways for reaching it. She will help us see that our actions matter, and the future is in our hands. This talk is one of many events happening throughout [Earth Week](#).

*Sponsored by the Office of Sustainability; Center for Environmental Studies; Doherty Center for Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Kernodle Center for Civic Life; and the Strategic Communications Department.*

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# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL STRICKLAND

BY: TESSA GLADWELL

Michael Strickland is the Director of the Center for Environmental Studies and lecturer in environmental studies and English. He teaches a variety of courses, including Writing: Argument and Inquiry; American Literature before 1865; a Senior Seminar in Literature and Garden Studio. The Garden Studio course is a student favorite; it provides students with the opportunity to dive into learning about home-scale gardening and food production with a focus on humanities. Students are engaged in experiential learning with opportunities to explore Loy Farm, the Elon Community Garden and Elon's very own high-tunnel greenhouse and are also expected to cultivate their own garden!

Professor Strickland was exposed to the concept of sustainability- particularly within food production- from a very young age. Growing up adjacent to his grandparents' farm, he was able to gain a greater appreciation for the hard



work that goes into food production, as well as understand practical ways to implement sustainability in this facet of his life. During his higher education, there were not nearly as many programs focusing on Environmental Studies as there are today, especially during his time undergraduate school. In graduate school, he became involved in several research projects, one of which pioneered the idea of farmers' markets, a concept almost alien at that time. He also worked on a project working to develop methane digesters using pig manure to create fuel for cooking stoves in developing countries.

Professor Strickland loves teaching within his subject; he proudly notes the dedication

and passion his students have for sustainability, which offers him hope in this upcoming generation. Outside of work, Professor Strickland practices sustainability through things like composting, recycling, gardening and harvesting wood from his land as a back-up heat source.

He is patiently waiting for further developments in electric vehicles so he can convert to this eco-alternative. Strickland is also working on a new house for himself and his wife, which will utilize passive solar design, a solar-based electrical system and solar hot water. Professor Strickland is eager to continue to aid students in their sustainability journey, as well as continue to learn and grow himself.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: CHEF MYLES HAMILTON

BY: ALISSA KAPP

Chef de Cuisine Myles Hamilton has been working hard to introduce more plant-based meals into the dining halls at Elon, including many of the options at Clohan Dining Hall. Chef Myles says that he enjoys the challenge this project has presented him and feels that it is a great way to get inspiration for his plant-based lifestyle outside of his job.

“Sustainability and the food service [industry] go hand in hand,” says Chef Myles. “As the operator of a food establishment, I have control of what I order and the food I put on my menu. It can be as small as using the whole vegetable whether it’s for soups, pesto or other fun recipes to utilize it in [its] entirety.”

Chef Myles’ interest in sustainability started with a personal goal to get healthy and fit for the new year. As he researched more on the topic, he learned about the effect the food service industry has on the environment.

From there, he wanted to do his part in making a difference, one meal at a time. In addition to eating vegan, he also tries his best to live sustainably outside of work by using smart lights to control energy usage and using reusable bags at the grocery store. He enjoys educating people on plant-based living and teaching people that vegan food is delicious and can be much more than just tofu and vegetables.

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# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: WINNIE CARLTON

BY: LAUREN HILL



Winnie Carlton, sophomore biology major from Annapolis, Maryland, is thrilled to be one of the Maker Hub’s 2022 Kickbox recipients. Her project “Sustainable Hair Care” is exploring making shampoo and conditioner bars that are green alternatives to buying these products in big plastic jugs. Carlton began adding shampoo and conditioner bars into her personal routine about a year ago but was disappointed to not find any locally made in Alamance County. “It felt a bit counterintuitive,” Carlton reflected, “buying these ‘sustainable’ products and then having them shipped across the country to me. So why not make my own?”

Kickbox has connected her with sponsor Kelly Harer, Assistant Director of Sustainability for Education and Outreach, as she explores sustainable sourcing and works through the actual recipe behind these shampoo and conditioner bars. Involving a lot more chemistry than originally planned, this process has been a nice complement to her coursework with help from Dr. Kathy Matera, Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Department of Chemistry.

Carlton originally came to Elon interested in environmental science. Her dad helped spark her love for nature as a kid. As a first-generation college student, she wanted to help preserve the environment that she was raised to treat with respect. After getting into the biology track, she found this project was a way to reinvolve her passion for environmental science into her life. And what’s not to love about fun smelling soaps and oils? She hopes to bring this creative outlet to a small business, eventually selling at local farmers’ markets. Carlton is currently developing her lavender rosemary eucalyptus bar.

## WHAT IS KICKBOX?

Elon Kickbox is a box, stuffed with guidance, resources and a \$300 Visa gift card to help you make your idea a reality, sponsored by The Maker Hub.

Click [here](#) to read more about the 2022 Kickboxes!

# EARTH WEEK PREVIEW: APRIL 19-24

## TUESDAY 19

**Plant Walk** | 1:00-2:00 pm

**Keynote Speaker: Susan Joy Hassol**

*The Climate Crisis: Reasons for Hope* | 7:30pm

## WEDNESDAY 20

**S'Mores with Outdoors** | 9:00 pm

**The Elm Dance: Honoring our Grief  
for the Earth and for Ukraine** | 9:00 pm

## THURSDAY 21

**Pop Up Swap Shop** | 12:30-5:00 pm

**Party for the Planet** | 4:00-8:00 pm

## FRIDAY 22

**Potluck for the Planet** | 2:00 pm

**Wellness Walk** | 3:30 pm

**DIY Nature Tote Bag** | 4:00 pm

## WEEKEND, 23-24

**Carolina Farm Stewardship Council  
Farm Tour** | 2 pm, Saturday or Sunday  
Register using [this form](#).

Learn more on the Earth Week [Website](#).

## FOLLOW US!

### LINKEDIN

Our group, [Sustainability at Elon University](#), is for students, faculty, staff and alumni who are interested in information and opportunities related to sustainability.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay up to date on campus events, and learn more about Elon's sustainability initiatives

### INSTAGRAM

[@ElonSustainability](#)

### FACEBOOK

[@ElonSustainability](#)

### TWITTER

[@SustainableElon](#)

# RESOURCES

## SHARE THE RIDE

### What is it?

STRNC is a free, secure and user-friendly online tool that helps find ridesharing options for commuting or single trips to the airport, beach or wherever else you travel. It also allows users to log their trip to learn about dollars saved and emissions reduced. Sign up [here!](#)

### How to Join:

**REGISTER:** There is an Elon-specific program for students, faculty, and staff. Using your Elon email, register for a free account and create a profile!

**FIND A RIDE!** Enter some info about where you want to go so you can view and communicate with potential matches through the system.

## EMERGENCY RIDE HOME PROGRAM

This program reimburses eligible faculty/staff commuters for a qualified emergency ride home a maximum of 4 times in a fiscal year.

### To be eligible, participants must:

1. Be a part-time or full-time employee *and*
2. Have carpooled, biked, walked, taken the train or a bus to work on the day a ride is needed.

### It's available for commuters when:

1. They or an immediate family member gets sick or has a crisis
2. Their carpool driver has to unexpectedly leave early or stay late OR
3. They must work unscheduled overtime

Learn more [online!](#)

## SUBMIT TO THE DATABASE!

### What is it?

Online platform of past or current student projects related to sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS DATABASE  
STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY AT ELON



### Why submit?

This is an opportunity to showcase your work and offer research ideas to interested undergraduates

### How to submit:

1. Go to [“The Sustainability Projects Database”](#)
2. Log in with Elon username & password
3. Click “To add a project click here”

# UCAPTURE

SAVE MONEY. SAVE THE PLANET.

Elon has partnered with UCapture, a green-tech company that funds environmental projects and applies coupon codes, at no cost to you, when you shop with online partners.

### How Does It Work?

When you shop using UCapture, partner stores pay commissions. UCapture uses 66% of these commissions toward high-quality, third-party verified carbon offset projects, which are then retired on Elon's behalf, reducing Elon's carbon footprint.

### Follow These Steps to Utilize UCapture:

**Step 1:** Visit [www.ucapture.com/elon](http://www.ucapture.com/elon)

**Step 2:** Click 'Add UCapture' to install the browser extension and set-up your account

**Step 3:** Activate UCapture when you visit online partner stores.

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Elaine Durr**  
Director of Sustainability

**Kelly Harer**  
Assistant Director of Sustainability  
for Education and Outreach

**Alissa Kapp '23**  
Sustainability Intern

**Lauren Hill '24**  
Volunteer Intern

**Tessa Gladwell '24**  
Outreach Intern

**Hannah Miller '23**  
Communications Intern