



RCE

Greater Atlanta

Overview

RCE Greater Atlanta was acknowledged by the United Nations University on December 18, 2017 as a Regional Centre of Expertise on [Education for Sustainable Development](#). RCEs support implementation of the [U.N. Sustainable Development Goals](#) at the regional level through education and training. The designation makes Atlanta one of only eight RCEs in the U.S. and 174 worldwide. RCE Greater Atlanta brings together universities and colleges from across the Greater Atlanta region with nonprofit, community, government, and business partners - and we are the only RCE in the U.S. with strong leadership and participation from HBCUs.

Our primary work is to offer broad-based, multi-stakeholder educational and training programs to support regional sustainable development efforts. In particular, as shown by many of our priority SDGs (circled below), we focus on equity and justice issues related to sustainable development. We aim to create a new regional model for collective impact, by harnessing higher education capacity and knowledge for regional benefit – and in the process, better preparing our students to be sustainable development changemakers, in Greater Atlanta and beyond.



RCE Greater Atlanta's Priority SDGs

The Global RCE Network brings these multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary networks together to help create solutions to sustainability challenges through dialogue, education and learning. The Global RCE Service Centre, headquartered at the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability in Tokyo, Japan, provides assistance to individual RCEs and facilitates their communication and networking.

Who's Involved?

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.



UGarden Farm Tour, March 2018

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

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

Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology and Spelman College are co-leading the RCE Greater Atlanta for the first two years. Our [Steering Committee](#) includes leaders from the education, nonprofit, community, and government sectors.

Learn More

For more information:

- See our press releases: [Emory, Georgia Tech, Spelman](#)
- See [this article in Saporta Report](#)
- Visit our (temporary) [website](#)

Get In Touch!

Interested in learning more or signing up for our email list? Email RCEGreaterAtlanta@gmail.com and we will respond as soon as possible.



Celebration at CARE, April 2018

Work Groups & Collaborative Projects

To date, we have been collaborating via member-led Work Groups. Work Groups reflect the needs of the network and the interests of the leads and members. They are always looking for more participation. To learn more and get involved, contact the Work Group Leads.

WORK GROUP	LEADS
<p>Governance Committee Coordinates RCE Greater Atlanta Steering Committee, which sets network imperatives, oversees Network coordination, advances the work of RCE Work Groups, and directs fundraising.</p>	<p>Ciannat Howett (Emory) ciannat.howett@emory.edu</p>
<p>Networking Connects members to each other and creates opportunities for members to build relationships and to learn together. Maintains connections with and advances relationships among the Global RCE Network. Coordinates RCE Greater Atlanta operations, meetings, and internal communication. Tracks and help advance work group progress.</p>	<p>Jennifer Hirsch (GT) jennifer.hirsch@gatech.edu</p>
<p>Youth Network (College) Connects college students and young alumni from our higher education institution members to each other and to the other members of RCE Greater Atlanta to: 1) collaborate on sustainability programs and events across universities and colleges; 2) engage in professional development partnerships; and 3) engage in activities with other RCE Youth Networks in the United States (six total) and abroad (164 total), to maximize the value of the RCE Global Network.</p>	<p>Contact first: rceatlvn@gmail.com</p> <p>Isabella Stubbs (GT student) istubbs3@gatech.edu Kris Chatfield (GT) kchatfield30@gatech.edu</p>
<p>Environmental Justice Academy Leadership development institute that uses Appreciative Inquiry and the Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Model to teach community leaders how to identify and remedy the complex environmental justice challenges that disproportionately impact communities of color, poor communities, and vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. The first RCE EJA in Atlanta will be hosted by Atlanta Metropolitan State College and will be taught during the Spring Semester (January-May). RCE members will be solicited to enroll individually or as a team.</p>	<p>Garry Harris (Center for Sustainable Communities) gharris@csc-atl.org Sheryl Good (EPA Region 4) Good.Sheryl@epa.gov Anne Heard (AMSC) ahheard@atlm.edu</p>
<p>K-12 Engagement & SDG Curriculum Development Advances K-12 education on the RCE Greater Atlanta priority SDGs by: 1) identifying existing formal, non-formal, and informal education programs related to sustainability education and the SDGs; 2) sharing existing curricula and materials through a common platform; and 3) developing additional curricula to fill gaps. Our work together so far has revealed that there are quite a few programs that already exists – but people rarely know about each other’s programs. By bringing these together, we can partner together to have a greater impact.</p>	<p>Michael Bryan (GT student) mbryan120@gatech.edu Suzanne Haerther (USGBC) shaerther@usgbc.org Selen P. Beduk (UNA USA Atlanta Chapter) selenbeduk@gmail.com</p>

<p>Higher Education Learning Community Creating a repository of information, including best practices to support higher education institutions in implementing and integrating SDGs into all aspects of university activities, including teaching, outreach, and facility maintenance. This community of practice site will serve both the Atlanta institutions and the US (North American) Higher education community as a whole, by supporting case studies, webinars, white papers and other media and publications.</p>	<p>Sebnem Ozkan (GT) sebnem.ozkan@gatech.edu Michael Black (Urban Studies Institute, GSU) seawater@gsu.edu</p>
<p>Sustainable Development without Displacement Sustainable and equitable development is necessary to protect legacy communities and the history and culture of Atlanta neighborhoods. This group is creating an equity evaluation tool and training curriculum based on Greater Atlanta’s priority SDGs identified by the RCE for communities to use in pre- and post-development to allow them to play a more active role in developing their communities in ways that are sustainable but also ensure continuity of heritage and community culture and prevent displacement of existing residents to the greatest extent possible. The evaluator tool and training curriculum are intended to be used by communities, government, policymakers, developers, CDCs/CDFIs, etc. to help them better understand the development process, recognize the benefits of sustainable development, and advocate for equitable development.</p>	<p>Kevin Stam (Southface) kstam@southface.org</p>
<p>Business Engagement Reaches out to metro Atlanta-area businesses to increase their engagement with RCE Greater Atlanta. We aim to 1) connect them to initiatives already underway (e.g. the Youth Network’s professional development activities) and 2) establish new initiatives - such as a clearinghouse of faculty and other experts related to the SDGs. Our goal is to help businesses see the value proposition in the RCE, so that they will participate and contribute in ways that support the RCE and help them meet their business goals. We envision a thriving community of engaged corporate practitioners who see the RCE as a means for recruiting talent, accessing academic and other expertise and research resources, and raising awareness and sharing best practices on the SDGs and sustainability more broadly. Longer-term, we see the RCE becoming a collaborative platform for higher impact corporate social investment and volunteer partnerships</p>	<p>Leads: Michael Oxman michael.oxman@scheller.gatech.edu Andrea Pinabell apinabell@southface.org Cheryl Kortemeier cheryl@cvcofatlanta.org</p> <p>Facilitator: David Eady, david.eady@gatech.edu</p>
<p>Marketing & Communications Develops communications tools for the RCE, including a vibrant, consistent brand look, and messaging that reaches and compels a wide range of audiences to participate.</p>	<p>Claire Horn (independent) chorn.comms@gmail.com</p>