



**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AUX ÉTATS-UNIS**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Service pour la Science
et la Technologie
Office for Science and
Technology



**Global Council for Science
and the Environment**

Formerly the National Council for Science and the Environment

Initiatives by Research and Academic Institutions to Mitigate Environmental Impacts and Advance Sustainability

June 7-9, 2021

Virtual Transatlantic Symposium

The United Nations Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) latest reports emphasize the alarming situation that our planet is facing. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provide a roadmap marked by significant targets and benchmarks to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. With a primary target year of 2030, the SDGs provide a widely recognized and well-regarded framework with embedded targets for action to effectively address complex global environmental challenges including climate change, resource scarcity, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation to name a few.

The SDGs, along with the IPCC, IPBES and additional reports published by UN agencies are informed by science. Decision makers at all levels of government and across sectors rely on the reports and evidence embedded in the reports to inform the changes needed to effectively address complex environmental challenges across economic, social, political and technological factors.

Recently, a groundswell of multinational companies announced their intention to reach net zero carbon emissions with ambitious targets including 2030. On April 22, 2021, nation leaders marked the 51st Earth Day by announcing commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions and phase out fossil fuels at aggressive rates around the world. The role of universities and research institutions to support governments in meeting their targets is significant. Long before the most recent governmental and industry targets, universities and research institutes have been steadily leading by example and making progress to advance a strong environmental future through measures that support clean and accessible air and water, low-impact campus operations, and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions to name a few.

The Office for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France in the United States in partnership with the [Global Council for Science and Environment](#) (GCSE) are hosting a virtual symposium focused on sharing the work being led by French and American universities and research organizations to lower their environmental and carbon footprints.

This symposium is an opportunity for research institutions and universities to exchange best practices, lessons learned, and plans for future projects with an aim to explore potential opportunities to align work in future that leverages the value of sharing knowledge between France and the United States.

Symposium Agenda

June 7 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm (EDT)/ 3:30 - 6:00 pm CEST - **DAY #1**

- **Session 1:** Preliminary Learning from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Consequences for Academic and Research Institutions
- **Session 2:** Leading by Example and Scaling What Works: University Accelerators to Environmental Action

June 8 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm (EDT)/ 3:30 - 6:00 pm CEST - **DAY #2**

- **Session 1:** Creating an Ecosystem of Sustainability in Higher Education through Science and Action
- **Session 2:** Mobility of the Research Community

June 9 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm (EDT)/ 3:00 - 6:00 pm CEST - **DAY #3**

- **Session 1:** The Benefits of Partnership to Accelerate Positive Environmental Impacts
- **Session 2:** What's Different Going Forward: Perspectives from Academic Leaders

Transatlantic Symposium Leaders and Organization

Steering Committee

Nicolas Gratiot, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

Laurent-Emmanuel Brizzi, Université de Poitiers

Marianne Domeizel, Aix-Marseille Université

Agathe Euzen, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

Benoit Malpoux, Institut national de la recherche agronomique (INRAE)

Leah G Nichols, George Mason University

Gil Latz, Ohio State University

Peter Marra/Maria Petrova, Georgetown University

Helene Dillard, University of California, Davis

Rubin Patterson, Howard University

Michelle Wyman, Global Council for Science and the Environment (GCSE)

Stéphane Raud, Embassy of France in the United States

Support

Brenda Vitisia, GCSE

Shelley Kossak, GCSE

Julien Bolard, Embassy of France in the United States

Other Participants

Sylvette Tourmente, CNRS

Clémence Guiresse, CNRS

Juliette Paemelaere, INRAE