You are cordially invited to participate in a conference dedicated to enhancing understanding, activism, and cooperation among Catholic universities in the area of sustainability. Your participation will help to contribute a valuable faith perspective to the national and international dialogue of university-based sustainability efforts and to provide an inspiration for the broader Catholic community.

“Solidarity…is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” – Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter on Social Concern, December 1987

“As Christians…we need to recognize and accept the intimate ethical and deeply religious implications of climate change. It is a matter of justice, it is a matter of equity, and it is a matter of love: love for God the Almighty, love for the neighbor, love for creation.” – Lic. Elias Abramides, speaking for the World Council of Churches at the Pontifical Council on Climate Change and Development, April 2007
Schedule Overview

Friday October 9th

9:00   Registration opens
9:00-9:45  Continental Breakfast
9:45-11:00  Keynote Address
    Daniel Misleh: *Renewing the Covenant with Creation: Catholic Teaching and Action on Climate Change*
11:10-12:40  Panel Discussion: Theologies of sustainability
12:45-2:00  Luncheon Buffet
2:15-3:30  Keynote Address: Dr. Kristie Ebi
    Climate change, human health, and the future of the developing world
3:40-4:40  Concurrent Workshops: Science and theology in conversation
4:45     Reception

Saturday October 10th

9:00-9:30  Continental Breakfast
9:30-10:45  Panel Discussion: Sustainability at a Catholic university: Teaching the theory and the practice
10:55-12:10  Panel Discussion: Sustainability at a Catholic university: Administrative leadership
12:10-1:30  Luncheon Buffet
1:40 -3:10  Plenary
    Reverend Charles Morris and Danielle Conroyd: *Living sustainability as part of spiritual practice: models for the Catholic university*
3:20-4:20  Panel Discussion: Sustainability at a Catholic university: Student activism
4:30-5:30  Concurrent Workshops: Implementing sustainable practices on campus
5:30     Dinner at Notre Dame eateries
Sunday October 11th

9:00-9:45  Breakfast and closing remarks
9:45-10:15 Small-group tours of Geddes Hall, first green building on campus expecting LEED-certification
10:15-11:30 Planning session for future collaboration among participating universities
11:45  Celebration of Creation Mass

Keynote Speakers

Kristie Ebi

Kristie L. Ebi is Executive Director of the Technical Support Unit for Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Prior to this position, she was an independent consultant. She has been conducting research on the impacts of and adaptation to climate change for more than a dozen years, including on extreme events, thermal stress, foodborne safety and security, and vectorborne diseases. She has worked with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, USAID, and others on implementing adaptation measures in low-income countries. She facilitated adaptation assessments for the health sector for the states of Maryland and Alaska. She was a lead author on the “Human Health” chapter of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, and the “Human Health” chapter for the U.S. Synthesis and Assessment Product “Analyses of the Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human Systems.” She has edited four books on aspects of climate change and has more than 80 publications. Dr. Ebi’s scientific training includes an M.S. in toxicology and a Ph.D. and a Masters of Public Health in epidemiology, and two years of postgraduate research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Daniel Misleh

Since 1982, Daniel Misleh has been involved in the social mission of the Church. He has served as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Director of Diocesan Relations for the Department of Social Development and World Peace. He has trained Catholic leaders around the country in the principles of Catholic social teaching, parish social ministry, community organizing, and the Catholic approach to issues such as agriculture, environment, criminal justice and the death penalty. As Executive Director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and with the endorsement of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other national Catholic organizations, he has engaged the Catholic community at the national, state and diocesan levels in a serious and sustained conversation about a Catholic approach to climate change focusing on the promotion of the common good, the protection of poor people and the exercise of prudence in order to more fully implement the U.S. Catholic bishops’ 2001 statement on climate change. Under his direction, the Coalition has launched a major new nation-
wide education campaign, *The Catholic Climate Covenant: The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor*. Unprecedented in scope and reach, this effort aims to reach as many US Catholics as possible to encourage them to embrace ancient teachings about the care of creation and our priority concern for the poor in the face of unfolding climate change. Mr. Misleh has written numerous articles on climate change for a variety of publications including *Catholic Health World, Today’s Parish Minister, Catholic Digest, US Catholic, Journal of Religion and Sociology, Catholic Charities USA* and *Monday Developments*.

**Plenary Speakers**

**Reverend Charles Morris**

Reverend Charles Morris is the founder of Michigan Interfaith Power and Light. The mission of this coalition, which now includes over 200 congregations across the state, is to involve communities of faith as stewards of God’s creation by promoting and implementing energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and related sustainable practices. Since 1998, Reverend Morris has also been on a mission to make his church, St. Elizabeth’s of Wyandotte, Michigan, a sustainable place to worship. On the roof of the building are solar panels and a wind turbine that provide electricity; other features include a solar collector that provides the building with hot water, a solar roof fan which removes hot air from the attic of the church, and solar netting for the stained glass windows that retains heat in the winter and lowers cooling costs in the summer. Reverend Morris holds graduate degrees in sociology, divinity studies, and urban planning.

**Danielle Conroyd**

Danielle Conroyd has been the project director for the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Sisters' Monroe Campus Long Range Master Plan since 1998. The purpose of the Master Plan is to ensure that the entire campus will express the mission of the congregation. The IHM community considers sustainability a moral mandate for the 21st century, and the first segment of the Plan’s implementation was the total renovation of the Motherhouse based on sustainable design principles. Convinced that the plight of the Earth is intimately connected to global poverty, violence and oppression, the Sisters committed to making their home a "living laboratory" to develop, refine and demonstrate Earth-restoring practices and systems. Faced with the choice of either rebuilding or renovating their antiquated home, the Sisters chose to reuse as much of the building as possible, salvage the construction debris, and incorporate sustainable technologies including geothermal heating and graywater recycling. The U.S. Green Building Council awarded the Motherhouse LEED certification, calling it “a pioneering example of sustainable design” that had earned “a place among the finest measured green buildings.” Previous to her work with the IHM Sisters, Ms. Conroyd was the senior vice president of Human Resources for Mercy Hospitals and Health Services of Detroit. Ms. Conroyd holds a bachelor's degree in English and theology from Marygrove College and a master's in behavioral psychology from Wayne State University.
Conference Fees

Participating universities: $350 for up to five attendees

Individuals: $95 per person

Reservations can be made by visiting our website, http://green.nd.edu/conference.

Travel and Lodging

Notre Dame is accessible via bus, Amtrak, and airplane. The Sound Bend Regional Airport is a 15-minutes taxi ride away. Free parking is available on campus.

Rooms are reserved at a discounted conference rate at several local inns; check our website http://green.nd.edu/conference for details. Arrangements will be made for students wishing to stay as guests of Notre Dame students in campus residence halls free of charge.

Conference Rationale

The aim of this conference is to materially advance the engagement of Catholic universities and the broader Catholic community with the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, primarily those related to climate change. The primary audience is faculty, students, administrators, and clergy at Catholic universities. Catholic student associations from secular universities, members of the broader Catholic community, and representatives of the U.S. conference of Catholic bishops are also invited.

The conference is structured to encompass the multiplicity of approaches to environmental issues at Catholic institutions of higher learning, including those of theologians, scientists, sustainability practitioners, student activists, and clergy. The aim of the conference is to address the theological implications of climate change as well as the ethical implications viewed through the lens of Catholic Social Thought, with a focus on the opportunities for Catholic universities to assume a leadership role on this issue within both the academic and Catholic communities.

Catholic leaders have become increasingly vocal in recent years about the environmental implications of two central tenets of Catholicism: a God-centered and sacramental view of the universe and a passionate concern for the world’s poor. According to the first tenet, reverence for God compels reverence for and care for God’s creation; from this perspective, life on Earth is a gift and a responsibility. The destruction or diminishment of that gift does violence to our radical interconnectedness with the rest of God’s creation.

The second tenet compels us to seek justice for those who are most vulnerable. Environmental inequity has long been one aspect of the injustices perpetrated on the world’s poor, but climate change brings new threats to the world’s poor on many levels.
The loss of glacial drinking water sources and the spread of vector-borne disease fall primarily on developing nations. Drought, displacement due to sea level rise, and increasingly severe heat waves and storms disproportionately affect the poor worldwide because they have less flexibility to adapt.

Across the United States and the world, many universities are taking a leadership role in addressing climate change and unsustainable resource use. In the process of reducing their own environmental footprints, they are providing a market for emerging renewable and efficiency technologies, prompting their home cities and states to strive for meaningful sustainability goals and commitments, and inculcating sustainability as a core ethical value among the next generation of leaders.

Positioned as they are at the nexus of the academic and faith communities, Catholic universities have a unique opportunity to bring them together in the service of stewardship and environmental justice. Our goals in creating this conference are to enhance understanding, activism, and cooperation among Catholic universities in the area of sustainability, to contribute a valuable faith perspective to the national and international dialogue of university-based sustainability efforts, and to provide an inspiration for the broader Catholic community.

**Contact Information**

For further information, please contact
Rachel Novick
Office of Sustainability
University of Notre Dame
574.631.1439
sustainability@nd.edu