

2022 CLIMATE, JOBS AND JUSTICE SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

On April 9th, nearly 400 SEIU members from 50 locals across the US, Canada and Puerto Rico gathered to [celebrate our work over the past year](#), and to learn more about the increasingly urgent need to reverse the climate changes that are disproportionately affecting low income communities of color.

EVP Rocio Saenz started us off by saying, "From all over our union we are coming together to discuss how the growing crisis of climate change and the ongoing fight for environmental justice is impacting our families and communities. Yes, we have come far, but we still have a long way to go if we want to leave a country safer, cleaner, healthier, more equitable and more prosperous for our children"

President Mary Kay Henry spoke with urgency. "I am deeply worried that if we do not take bold action now to address this crisis, that the climate disasters that we are currently experiencing will grow so great in size and number that our children and our children's children will be living a much different and harder life than we live today. "



authentic solidarity to make real change happen...I promise you we can do it. And when we get to that other side and we look up in the sky, we'll see that north star of justice, and right there helping to hold up that justice will be unions."

Before moving on to the concurrent workshops, Dr. Astrid Calda of the Union of Concerned Scientists explained the causes and consequences of climate change. "The Earth is warming and has a fever, and it's us that's making it happen by burning fossil fuels. It's BAD, but we can fix it by moving away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources," she said.

Climate change has directly impacted SEIU members

Climate, Jobs and Justice Summit polling found:



Percentage of polled members that have been directly affected by a climate disaster



56% of members said their health or the health of a family member has been impacted by pollution or climate change



Have experienced poor air or water quality or live near a polluted site.



Have been impacted by more hot days



Have had to evacuate, lost their home or lost a family member due to a climate event

Some members impacted by climate disasters have been afraid to ask for or receive relief due to their immigration status.

Mustafa Santiago Ali--one of our nation's fiercest champions for environmental justice--fired up the attendees with a sermon steeped in our common struggle. "That same air pollution that is impacting our communities is the same air pollution that is warming up our oceans and our atmosphere and causing these climate crises that we all have to navigate... We need to build a huge base of individuals standing in

Selected Resources

[SEIU CJJ SUMMIT 2022 ZOOM](#)

[SEIU CJJ Highlights Video](#)

[Link to Concurrent Workshops](#)

[Care and Climate Video](#)

[Tell us your story](#)

[Spotify CJJ 2022 Playlist](#)

[SEIU CJJ Newsletter & Archives](#)

Concurrent Workshops click here coming soon	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate and Environmental Justice ● Bargaining for Climate Jobs and Justice ● Climate Health Impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate and Immigration ● Climate and Workers Capital ● Workplace Initiatives ● State and Local Campaigns

WHAT MEMBERS SAID:

“Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it. Quite frankly, my siblings, it’s our turn. It’s our turn to decide that saving the world is actually going to be our destiny.”

“Stop fossil fuel corporations from gouging us while they profit from war and increase emissions which overheat the planet and kill us!”

” I’ve had to evacuate my mother from encroaching fires many times. She’s 94 now and can’t move fast!

Very worried about the fire season in CA which is almost all year now!”

“Because of the warming climate, ticks (with diseases) have been going further north in MN. As a result, me and ALL of my friends have gotten lyme disease in the last few years ...”

“We've had to shelter in place from smoke so many times”

“We inherited the land from our ancestors, we must do our best to pass it on to our children as well as possible. “

SEIU members are ready to take action through:

Politics and Elections **71%**

Marches, rallies, protests **70%**

Doing more at home **82%**

TIME FOR ACTION

Although we have the power to make changes in our personal lives to help protect the planet, we all know that larger-scale change will depend on those we elect to our state and federal legislators. EVP Gerry Hudson led a panel on what we need to do to get climate champions into elected offices across the country. "We know that it is imperative that we act now. We must go out in this election cycle and put in office people who actually represent our interests on jobs, our interests on climate, our interest on racial justice...and we need to be in the streets and at rallies-- then we can put our country on the road to a clean energy economy that works for all," said Hudson. Next, Leah Donahey of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) helped us understand the priorities for environmental groups at the national level, while SEIU’s Desmond Serrett showed us the path to victory leading to this November.

Nearly two-thirds of members want to become more active as a member leader to fight climate change by instituting changes in their workplaces

We want to hear your story! record here



RALLY for Climate, Care, Jobs & Justice this Earth Day