



## GREENTOWN CLIMATE CONFERENCE:

# The Emerging Leaders Plenary Session

June 22, 2023 | Triton College in West Suburban Cook County

## SESSION OVERVIEW

We have witnessed an increased priority placement on sustainability and climate efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. To ensure a future where the best and brightest minds are leading discussion tables, advocating for policy reform, while centering equity, it is imperative that the current practitioners invest in the next generation thought leaders. We believe this "Emerging Leaders" plenary session is one example of actualizing such an investment.

High school students (intergenerational thought leaders) from across the region will convene to discuss and develop scalable sustainability strategies influenced by local challenges. Through information sharing, storytelling, and leveraging lived and learned experiences we are hopeful to create an empirical ethos that fosters the adoption of effective strategies. Engaging honestly through active listening will reduce the learning curve, allowing the development of new approaches that represent the convergence of diversity of thought for local and regional goals alike.

During this session intergenerational thought leaders will provide an overview of our System of Sustainability, and reframe the System of Sustainability objectives to align with an intergenerational focus. They will discuss *interdependence for collaboration and network development* as well as *how to transition from theoretical learning to practical application* that creates collective impact and social mobilization. Additionally, we want to ensure that equity is centered in all the work. Lastly, there will be a focused discussion on a *collective call to action*,

and the development of a *Regional Intergenerational Sustainability Council* to ensure local and regional conversations continue beyond the GreenTown experience- which is a benchmark indicative of success. We hope all attendees take all they gain at GreenTown and apply it to their own local sustainability initiatives.

**Students will be able to connect with each other and leaders to share resources about their hyperlocal environmental issues.**

## BENEFITS TO THE ATTENDEES

- Gain an understanding of the intersection of climate through a diversity, equity, and inclusive perspective/lens.
- Access opportunities of engagement between cross-generational thought leaders.
- Identify sustainable professionals and career paths.
- Learn about climate justice and methods to reduce prejudice and improve psychological safety.

## FACILITATORS

- Mr. Wynton Jones
- Sydney Jackson
- It's Our Future, G<sup>2</sup>, and other local Intergenerational Thought Leaders

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