

# CLIMATE ADAPTATION FORUM

*Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.  
Sustainable Solutions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Boston*

## **Creating Pathways into Climate Adaptation and Resilience: Training Future Leaders**

Friday, April 14, 2023

**Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP**

Louis D. Brandeis Conference Center  
155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston MA 02210

**and**

Streaming virtually on Zoom



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EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum

EBC Contact: Ann Gisinger, [agisinger@ebcne.org](mailto:agisinger@ebcne.org)

SSL Contact: Gabriela Boscio Santos, [Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu](mailto:Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu)

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## **AGENDA**

- 8:15 a.m. Registration & Networking**
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome**
- Gabriela Boscio Santos, Associate Director  
Sustainable Solutions Lab, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 9:20 a.m. Introduction to the Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Resilience Workforce**
- Rachel Jacobson, Acting Director  
American Society of Adaptation Professionals *virtual speaker*
- 9:40 a.m. Keynote Presentation**
- Shalaya Morissette, Chief of Minority Business and Workforce Division  
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- 10:10 a.m. Networking Break**
- 10:30 a.m. Youth as climate ambassadors: Community planning for extreme heat in Lower Roxbury**
- Alan Wiig, Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Community Development, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 10:40 a.m. Boston Green Academy**
- Matt Holzer, Head of School, Boston Green Academy
- 10:50 a.m. PowerCorps Boston**
- Davo Jefferson, Executive Director, PowerCorps Boston
- 11:00 a.m. Browning the Green Space, Inc**
- Kerry Bowie, Executive Director, Browning the Green Space, Inc
- 11:10 a.m. Moderated Discussion**
- Panel Moderator:** Shalaya Morissette, U.S. Department of Energy
- Panelists:**
- Kerry Bowie, Browning the Green Space, Inc
  - Matt Holzer, Boston Green Academy
  - Davo Jefferson, PowerCorps Boston
  - Alan Wiig, UMass Boston
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn:** Rebecca Herst, Director  
Sustainable Solutions Lab, University of Massachusetts Boston

## FORUM CO-CHAIRS

### **Rebecca Herst**, Director

Sustainable Solutions Lab, University of Massachusetts Boston  
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Rebecca Herst (she/her) is the Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab (SSL) at UMass Boston, a research institute focused on climate justice. Previously, Rebecca worked on climate resilience at Boston Harbor Now, Harvard University's Office for Sustainability, and the Urban Land Institute. Her work has been covered in a wide variety of national and international news outlets including the Boston Globe, the Washington Post and the BBC. She has co-authored op-eds in the Boston Globe and shares her expertise at events locally.

She has an MBA from Boston University's Questrom School of Business and a BA in Political Science and International Relations from Carleton College. In 2020, Rebecca was the recipient of the prestigious Roy J. Zuckerberg Endowed Leadership Award. Once every four years, this University of Massachusetts System-wide prize is awarded to a staff member or coach who leads "by serving, by giving, and by pointing the way."

### **Gabriela Boscio Santos**, Associate Director

Sustainable Solutions Lab, University of Massachusetts Boston  
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Gabriela Boscio Santos (she/her) is the Associate Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab (SSL) at UMass Boston, a research institute focused on climate justice. Gabriela is a sustainability professional with over ten years of experience in the climate change and nonprofit sectors. Before joining the team at SSL, she was the Engagement Manager for Boston University Sustainability. Before that, she was the Climate Program Manager at NOAH (the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing) in East Boston, leading inclusive community-based climate resilience planning.

Gabriela earned a B.S. in Environmental Studies with a minor in Sustainability from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, and an M.S. in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability from the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona, Sweden. Growing up in Puerto Rico shaped her approach to climate justice and sustainability work.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### **Shalaya Morissette**, Chief of Minority Business and Workforce Division

Office of Economic Impact & Diversity, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC, 20585  
240-597- 8092 | shalaya.morissette@hq.doe.gov

Shalaya Morissette (she/her) is Chief of the Minority Business and Workforce Division at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), located within the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity. She is a highly sought-after collaborator and co-conspirator in the clean technology space. Most recently she hails from the utility sector in safety and compliance. In 2022 she took on an additional role at Dearborn STEM Academy in Boston, Massachusetts as a teacher to 11th and 12th graders - delivering a curriculum for engineering with energy in mind. Previously she held various roles in higher education, including enrollment services project manager and in global transportation as the Director of Affiliate Relations. She is the former president of the Greater Boston chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. Serving as the first African American board member of the New England Women in Energy and Environment, she has been devoted to elevating and engaging women

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and people of color in the energy space. As a Georgia Gwinnett College Alumni Association board member and a committee member for Browning the Green Space, she has been engaged in the nonprofit and higher education space as a strong advocate for elevating minorities in the energy transition. Morissette's passion for bringing young people into the clean energy industry has also been supported with her work with Girls Inc and WriteBoston. Shalaya received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Georgia Gwinnett College and her Master of Education degree from Cambridge College.

## FORUM SPEAKERS

**Kerry Bowie**, Executive Director  
Browning the Green Space, Inc  
kerry@browningthegreenspace.org

Browning the Green Space Co-Founder, President, and Executive Director Kerry Bowie has 25 years of experience in private, public, and nonprofit management. Mr. Bowie previously served as Director of Environmental Justice at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in both the Patrick and Baker Administrations; worked as a manager in Facilities Environmental, Safety, and Health at Texas Instruments' Research & Development Fab in Texas (Dallas); and grew up in a fenceline community in Alabama (Anniston).

In addition to leading BGS, Kerry serves as Managing Partner at Msaada Partners, a Boston-based consultancy providing technical assistance to promote entrepreneurship in communities of color. Kerry also co-founded the Majira Project to address the lack of diversity in the traditional entrepreneurial ecosystem and the disparity in resources available that Kerry observed while working in various entrepreneurship programs across Boston.

Kerry holds an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management as well as an MS in environmental engineering from University of Michigan and a BS in environmental engineering from MIT.

**Matt Holzer**, Head of School  
Boston Green Academy  
20 Warren Street, Brighton, MA 02135  
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Matt Holzer has been Head of School of Boston Green Academy since 2014 and was a founding staff member when BGA opened in 2011. He previously served as Co-Head of School and Assistant Head of School and helped to design and launch BGA as a member of the Founding Group. Prior to BGA, he served for five years as the Program Director for Humanities and Humanities Curriculum Coach for the Boston Public Schools, and taught high school for nine years in New York City and San Francisco. Mr. Holzer earned his Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy from Brown University and his Master's degree in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Outside of school, Matt loves to go on outdoor adventures with his fabulous spouse and two amazing daughters.

**Davo Jefferson**, Executive Director  
PowerCorpsBOS  
davo.jefferson@boston.gov

Davo Jefferson is a social justice reform advocate who has a passion for working on issues that pertain to positive youth and young adult development and the re-entry population. With more than 15 years of nonprofit management experience, Mr. Jefferson has led and managed many workforce development efforts, implemented evidence-based measurable programming, and created impactful resources and opportunities for the communities that he serves. He currently serves as the Executive Director, for PowerCorps Boston, a paid

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workforce development program that uses environmental service as a way to teach urban young adults career and technical skills. Through a mix of classroom and hands-on learning, program participants can gain the labor skills, certifications, and technical experience required to enter a range of careers in the green industry.

A native of Boston and an educator at heart, Mr. Jefferson has taught in college, high school, middle school and afterschool settings as well as in juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Mr. Jefferson holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Cambridge College and a Master's in Public Administration from Baruch College.

**Rachel Jacobson**, Acting Director  
American Society of Adaptation Professionals  
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Rachel Jacobson leads the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of ASAP's programs. She connects adaptation people and ideas by overseeing the ASAP Connects program, advances effective adaptation practice through the Adaptation Careers program, and supports adaptation leadership development and field-wide capacity building through the ASAP Serves program. Internally, Rachel lead's ASAP's monitoring and evaluation efforts and ensures new activities align with member values and ASAP priorities. Contact Rachel to learn about member programs, discuss ASAP's strategic priorities and policy priorities, and brainstorm ways to leverage the ASAP Network to advance the adaptation field. Rachel holds B.A., M.P.P, and M.S. degrees from the University of Michigan, and a Certificate in Environmental Law and Regulation from the University of Washington.

**Alan Wiig**, PhD, Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Community Development  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
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Alan Wiig is an Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Community Development at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. An urban geographer, his research examines global infrastructure, smart cities, and economic development agendas in cities across the North Atlantic including Boston, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, as well as Manchester and London in the United Kingdom.