

Summary of The Organic Center Event:



ORGANIC
CONFLUENCES

MOVING THE DIAL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

September 11, 2019

Baltimore, MD



organic-center.org

#OrganicResearch

HOSTED BY:



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ORGANIC
CONFLUENCES

MOVING THE DIAL
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The 2019 Organic Confluences Conference looked at organic & climate change

Every year, the Organic Center holds its flagship Organic Confluences Conference; a multifaceted conference that tackles large-scale challenges to the organic industry. The 2019 conference centered on climate change, with a focus on how organic can both adapt to our changing climate and be a force for climate change mitigation.

The food system is in a dangerous predicament—it's a significant contributor to one of its own biggest threats—climate change. Climate change jeopardizes our food, water, and economic security, and delayed action could have catastrophic, and potentially irreversible consequences for our weather, sea levels, agricultural yields, and public health.

Fortunately, just as poor land-management practices are contributors to climate change, use of good on-farm practices can actually lead to climate change mitigation. Organic farming is poised to be part of the climate change solution, because organic farmers do not rely on fossil-fuel intensive synthetic inputs to manage pests or increase soil fertility, and they also use farming techniques that sequester carbon in the soil.

Farmers and food industry members are deeply vulnerable to the disasters brought on by climate change, but the level to which they implement or encourage climate-friendly practices is dependent on multiple competing factors, many of which will differ in importance based on the size of the company or farm, its geographic location, the commodities being produced, and current policies and government incentives.

The 2019 Organic Confluences conference directly addressed the current impacts of climate change and best practices within the organic sector for mitigation and adaptation, while examining methods for encouraging the adoption of strategies for fighting climate change. We heard from stakeholders with diverse food system experience, from scientists to farmers to industry members, to provoke a better understanding of how large-scale, inter-disciplinary collaborations are needed address climate change and its impact on our food security.

We have continued to bring the outcomes from this conference into the public, building on principles that came out of our discussions and presentations. For example, we worked with the Organic Trade Association on their white paper, "[*Advancing Organic to Mitigate Climate Change*](#)," which highlights builds policy opportunities based on the scientific background of organic's ability to mitigate climate change.

Jessica Shade
Director of Science Programs
The Organic Center

ABOUT THE ORGANIC CENTER

The Organic Center's mission is to convene and conduct credible, evidence-based science on the health and environmental effects of organic food and farming and to communicate the findings to the public.

The Center is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) research and education organization operating under the administrative auspices of the Organic Trade Association.



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CONFERENCE AGENDA

Organic Confluences 2019 Moving the Dial on Climate Change

The Hilton Baltimore
401 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Second Floor

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

8:00am	Registration
9:00–9:15am	Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions
9:15–10:30am	Climate Change and Food Systems: The Role of Organic
10:30–10:45am	Break
10:45–12:00pm	Advancing Climate Change Mitigation through Policy
12:00–1:15pm	Adopting Climate-Friendly Strategies throughout the Supply Chain
1:15–2:00pm	Lunch
2:00–2:15pm	Organic Center Award of Excellence Presented to Catherine Greene
2:15–3:30pm	Innovations in Climate Action: Lightning Session
3:30–3:45pm	Break
3:45–4:45pm	Break-out Discussions
4:45–5:30pm	Synthesis Discussion and Development of Recommendations
5:30pm	Conference Adjourns for the day

Climate Change and Food Systems: The Role of Organic

Speakers:

Robin Schoen National Academy of Sciences

Amber Sciligo The Organic Center

Kate Tully University of Maryland

Sam Dobson Dobson Farms

This panel set the stage for the conference by addressing the current and future impacts of climate change on the food system, and how organic techniques can both mitigate and help adapt to climate change. Scientist speakers showed how organic practices can mitigate climate change by emitting fewer greenhouse gases and storing more carbon in the soil than non-organic farming. The same practices also help farmers meet their bottom line by providing insurance against fluctuating weather patterns associated with climate change and by increasing yield.

Advancing Climate Change Mitigation through Policy

Speakers:

Megan DeBates The Organic Trade Association

Mark Lipson Molino Creek Farm

Raffaele Zanolì Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy

This panel examined current climate policies, and discussed incentive programs that are currently in place and/or needed to help farmers adopt climate-friendly practices. Policy experts presented and compared current U.S. and E.U. policies that support the mitigation of climate change. Climate-related interests of current presidential candidates were discussed and it was noted that policies that promote organic agriculture inherently are climate-friendly policies since organic can play such a strong role in fighting climate change.

Adopting Climate-Friendly Strategies throughout the Supply Chain

Speakers:

Shauna Sadowski General Mills

Angela Jagiello The Organic Trade Association

Ed Barker Green America

Aidee Guzman University of California, Berkeley

Climate-friendly strategies must be adopted throughout the supply chain to move the needle on mitigation. Panelists on this panel discussed how this can be incentivized, strategies that have been successful in the past, and tools that are available and/or needed to help the organic sector understand their current impacts on climate change and adopt best practices.

Break-out Sessions

Organic farmers need more support to grow their business in the face of climate change. The breakout session identified some keys challenges and opportunities to help organic continue leading the climate change front. There is a need for stronger networks of technical assistance, market and infrastructure development for rotations with crops that improve soil health, but don't normally have a market outlet, and a call was made to conduct more socioeconomic research on the profitability of and barriers to organic production.

Outcomes of the session were used in the development of the Organic Trade Association's white paper, "[*Advancing Organic to Mitigate Climate Change*](#)," which focuses on the science behind organic's ability to mitigate climate change, identifying policy opportunities to elevate the role of organic in the climate change discussion, support organic farmers and encourage transition to organic farming.

Breakout Moderators:

Erin Callahan The Climate Collaborative

Catherine Greene USDA ERS

Johanna Mirenda The Organic Trade Association

Break-out Session Discussion Questions

1. How can organic be a leader in advancing climate-friendly practices throughout all of agriculture?
2. What are the successes of organic when it comes to climate change mitigation, and the biggest obstacles to advancing the climactic benefits of organic?
3. What support structures (political, industry, financial, etc.) would best advance the adoption of climate-friendly practices?
4. Where is research on organic's opportunities for climate change mitigation well established, and where are the biggest gaps in our research?

Innovations in Climate Action: Lightning Session

These 5-minute presentations covered climate-friendly strategies and initiatives that are currently being used by organic industry members, farmers, and other organizations. We discussed successes and challenges in scaling-up adoption of best practices, and innovations that are having the biggest impacts on the industry as a whole.

Moderator:

Erin Callahan The Climate Collaborative

Speakers:

Rebecca Hamilton Badger Balm

Bronwyn Johnson Loving Earth

Katie Landry Guayaki

Brise Tencer Organic Farming Research Foundation

Ryan Zinn Dr. Bronner's

Alexandra DySard MOMs Organic Market

Michel Cavigelli USDA ARS Climate Hubs

Tim Schultz Lundberg Family Farms



Badger Balm

Rebecca Hamilton

In 2018, Badger began articulating a long-term social and environmental Impact Plan as informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. A key area of focus is regenerative agriculture—defining how we can implement and support regenerative practices on the grounds of our headquarters in Gilsum, New Hampshire, throughout our global supply chain, and in our local community.

As a first step, we have created an on-site Climate Victory Garden to demonstrate the potential to transform soil on a small scale before branching out to work with our supply network. In 2020, we'll explore how best to quantify the regenerative organic practices of our key suppliers and work with a select number to vet their practices using questionnaires outlining our goals. In our community, we are actively working towards healthy soil legislation at the state level and have introduced regenerative organic agriculture as a climate change solution at national and international forums, including the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Climate Collaborative

Erin Callahan

The Climate Collaborative is a project of OSC2 and SFTA to catalyze bold climate action among natural products companies. The Climate Collaborative brings manufacturers, retailers, brokers, distributors and suppliers together to build existing climate solutions to scale and to find innovative, new ways to help reverse climate change.

Follow the Climate Collaborative on Facebook at [@climatecollab](#) and on Twitter at [@ClimateColl](#)

Dr. Bronner's

Ryan Zinn

Rural communities in the Global South face many challenges, including poverty, climate change and an aging farmer population. Dr. Bronner's implements organic and fair trade agroforestry programs to supply our demand of over 5,000 tons of agricultural raw materials. Supply chains that combine organic and fair trade production with agroforestry support agroecosystems that are climate resilient, diversify farmer income and sequester carbon, while supporting local food security.

Guayaki

Katie Landry

"Guayaki's mission is to steward and restore 200,000 acres of South American Atlantic rainforest and create 1,000 living wage jobs by 2020."

From growing practices to distribution, we integrate the regeneration of people, community and nature into our business model.

We go beyond our organic, Fair for Life, and Non-GMO certifications to cultivate the regeneration of ecosystems that grow our yerba mate. By growing yerba mate under the rainforest canopy and introducing native hardwood trees back into the rainforest, we enhance biodiversity of the rainforest and store carbon in the soil and tree canopy instead of the atmosphere.

Our ingredient and packaging components travel a long way to get to our manufacturing locations before they are transported as finished product to stores where Guayaki Yerba Mate is sold. We have a self distribution model that uses an all electric fleet of 240 Chevy Bolts to take our product the critical last mile, diverting these emissions from the atmosphere

Loving Earth

Bronwyn Johnson

Loving Earth is an Australian bean-to-bar, plant-based, chocolate brand. Using unroasted cacao, Loving Earth works its own magic in its factory completely fuelled by renewables, crafting a full range of vegan chocolate bars. These bars are packaged in a home compostable film and a post-consumer fiber box. With a social media reach to over 400k, they use this platform to inspire their customers to lead a life as stewards of the earth.

Bronwyn will highlight the positive impact that they are having in the Peruvian Amazon as a result of a project with the Rainforest Foundation UK, and the Kemito Ené cooperative made up of the Asháninka community who are able to grow an heirloom native cacao in a way that is not only culturally sensitive, but also maximises the long-term value of the forest.

Cacao production from Kemito Ené is climate friendly as the farms have been established in degraded lands and are deforestation free. The Asháninkas have defined conservation areas in their communities, usually 80% of their titled lands. They use the forest for survival (food, medicine, spiritual) and protecting it is vital for us all. New farms have been set up under an agroforestry approach by combining different species of local trees with cocoa trees. Successes can be attributed to strong partnerships with a shared vision of development for the Asháninka, coupled with a commitment of paying a real fair price. This aspect is key and has allowed an improvement to farm management, given access to working capital and given producers the ability to implement climate smart practices.

Lundberg Family Farms Sustainability

Tim Schultz

Lundberg Family Farms was a pioneer in organic rice in the United States in the 60's and continues its emphasis on sustainable operations today. From its 1.9 megawatts of on-site solar generation, through its Platinum TRUE Zero Waste certification, to its organic farmland, Lundberg has consistently been a leader in sustainability initiatives, both on the farm and in its production facilities. Lundberg has been a member of SFTA since its inception and is a proud supporter of the Climate Collaborative.

Today's presentation will focus on Lundberg's Zero Waste program, its self-generation of renewable energy, and its energy efficiency efforts. The company has been certified Platinum TRUE Zero Waste since 2016, and achieved a 99.7% diversion rate for its latest year of participation. The recycling portion of this program resulted in a reduction of 1,453 CO₂E, the equivalent of removing over 3,700 cars from the road. In 2019, Lundberg dramatically increased its on-site generation of energy, and now has 1.9 megawatts of solar, which accounts for 25% of its electrical demand. To offset the remainder of its energy consumption, the company purchases Renewable Energy Credits which support expansion of projects around the state. Lundberg has long focused on energy efficiency, and has gone through three generations of lighting upgrades to reduce energy consumption while improving lighting quality. Its latest project has included the installation of submeters on a more granular basis, to monitor each source of consumption on a daily basis to identify and address practices that can improve the efficiency of the energy consumed.

MOM's Organic Market

Alexandra DySard

Founded in 1987, MOM's is the Mid-Atlantic region's premier chain of family owned and operated organic grocery stores. From selling only certified organic produce, to banning bottled water sales and offering free compost drop-off to all customers MOM's is committed to their Purpose, to protect and restore the environment. Learn how divergent thinking and creativity, allows MOM's to lead the way in the fight against climate change.

www.momsorganicmarket.com/ourpurpose/

Northeast Climate Hub

Michel Cavigelli

The Northeast Climate Hub consists of a USDA Team and participants from regional Land Grant Universities, Tribes, and many others. The NE Hub's initial focus was on building relations with partners in the region, while assessing vulnerabilities, available resources, and needs for Northeast agricultural and forestry climate adaptation. This was followed by a focus on co-production of adaptation resources (fact sheets, research briefs, videos, etc.). We are now working to help producers increase confidence in the value of climate adaptation via economic analyses including case studies, whole-farm budgets, and cost-benefit calculations. The NE Hub Team is led by the Forest Service with active participation by the Agricultural Research Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/northeast

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

Brise Tencer

A large and rapidly growing body of research is providing new insights into how organic and other sustainable agricultural practices can decrease GHG emissions, sequester carbon, and mitigate the substantial agricultural contribution to climate change. OFRF's series of soil health farmer guides and webinars survey cutting-edge soil and climate research and translate the findings into "on-farm" best practices. Two of the guides directly address climate change: "Understanding and Optimizing the Community of Soil Life" and "Organic Practices for Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Carbon Sequestration."

OFRF has leveraged these guides to inform not only farmers, but agriculture professionals, extension agents, researchers, and even policy makers. In June of this year, OFRF Executive Director, Brise Tencer, testified before the House Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture and Research on the topic of how organic soil health practices can be utilized to support climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as to make recommendation for research and policy to better support best organic practices.

PRESENTERS



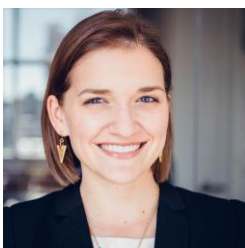
Ed Barker

Ed Barker is a nonprofit leader with 30 years of experience in agriculture, environmental education, and social enterprise. He is currently the Senior Director of Food & Agriculture Programs for the Center for Sustainability Solutions at Green America. In this role he supports program teams working on carbon farming and regenerative agriculture system change, as strategies for response to the climate emergency and agricultural crises. In addition, Ed engages with the food system to identify and engage the right mix of system participants in our multi-stakeholder collaborative innovation processes.

Previously, Ed was the executive director at Land's Sake, a land stewardship organization and community farm in the Boston suburbs. While there, Ed led a complete organizational turnaround and reestablished Land's Sake as a keystone organization within its community. He was also the director of corporate partnerships

for Earthwatch Institute, a pioneering organization that supports scientific field research with volunteers and funding. He has led organizational change efforts within the nonprofit sector nationwide as a senior consultant at Community Wealth Ventures, a social enterprise consulting firm in Washington, DC, specializing in advancing nonprofit mission delivery through alternative revenue generation, business planning, and market innovation.

Ed holds a master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where his studies included work with collaborative change, leadership, and communication. He also holds a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Dartmouth College. He is an advisor to the Chewonki Foundation in coastal Maine.



Erin Callahan

Erin Callahan is the Director of the Climate Collaborative, responsible for management and execution of the Collaborative's work, including all programming, communications, and outreach. Erin has a range of corporate campaigning and sustainability experience. She previously worked for CDP, managing corporate engagement for the We Mean Business coalition's commitments campaign. In that role, Erin worked with hundreds of the world's largest companies, industry groups and investors, supporting them in

making leadership commitments on climate change. She has also worked in public relations and international development and earned a master's degree in international relations and economics from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She is based in Oakland, CA.



Michel Cavigelli

Michel Cavigelli is a Soil Scientist at USDA-ARS in Beltsville, Maryland. He is Lead Scientist of the Farming Systems Project, a long-term cropping systems project evaluating the sustainability of organic and conventional methods. He also conducts research to improve nutrient management in diverse cropping systems and is an expert on nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural soils. He was awarded the 2015 American Society of Agronomy

Organic Management Systems Organic Research and Education Award for lifetime achievement. Michel earned a PhD in Crop and Soil Science at Michigan State University, an MS in Soil Science from Kansas State University, and a BA in Biology from Oberlin College.



Megan DeBates

Megan DeBates is the Director of Legislative Affairs and Coalitions for the Organic Trade Association (OTA), the membership-based business association for organic agriculture and products in North America. In this capacity, she develops and implements policy strategies in the interest of OTA's mission and its members, and engages Congress, federal and state agencies and other stakeholder groups to further

those policy goals. She previously served as Senior Legislative Assistant to U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Peter A. DeFazio (OR-04). She advised and developed legislative strategy for DeFazio on agriculture and food policy, foreign affairs, international trade, natural resources and other key issues. She graduated from the University of Oregon with a dual degree in international studies and environmental studies.



Sam Dobson

Sam's ancestors emigrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina in the 1790s, which makes Sam the seventh generation on the farm. He and his wife, Sherry are raising the eighth generation, their son, Chase, on the farm now, and what a paradise for a kid. Just an hour north of Charlotte, their 500-acre farm is situated where the foothills and the piedmont of the Appalachians come together.

Sam's great grandfather started their dairy which was run conventionally until they completed their organic certification in February of 2014. Organic Valley is one of the reasons they decided to go organic – they enjoy the community, support, and co-op structure. They milk around 90 Holstein cows with some Swedish Red and Jersey crossbreeds. The herd grazes roughly 160 acres divided into 42 paddocks.



Alexandra DySard

Alexandra DySard is the Environmental & Partnership Manager for MOM's Organic Market. She also serves on the Maryland Pesticide Education Network Board and the Trash Free Maryland Board. From 2009 to 2013, she worked as the City of Bellevue, Washington's Environmental Programs Coordinator. She has held positions at the

Pacific Science Center and Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Washington. Alexandra is an outdoor and zero waste enthusiast residing in Baltimore, MD.



Aidee Guzman

Aidee Guzman is a Ph.D. candidate at UC Berkeley in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management in both Dr. Claire Kremen's and Dr. Timothy Bowles's labs. Having deep family roots in agriculture, Aidee is compelled to understand the socio-ecological linkages of diversified farming systems. Aidee's research builds on the knowledge produced in ecology, soil microbiology, pollination biology, and sociology of agriculture.

Aidee is working with small-scale farmers embedded in the monoculture landscape of California's Central Valley. Her research explores how on-farm diversification practices impact soil health and link to other ecological processes (i.e. pollination) on agroecosystems. Specifically, Aidee is looking at how on-farm diversification (i.e. crop diversity over space and time) influence arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), pollination, and their interactions.

PRESENTERS



Rebecca Hamilton

Rebecca Hamilton is a second generation owner and co-CEO (Collaborative Executive Officer) at Badger, a natural and organic personal care manufacturer known for its unique company philosophy, pioneering family-friendly benefits, and B Corp community engagement. The Company has received numerous awards and recognition including New Hampshire's Business of the Year, B Lab's Best for the World and Environment, and landing a spot on Forbes' Small Giants list.

In addition to her role as Co-CEO, Rebecca leads new product innovation and development, companywide quality assurance and regulatory affairs, and sustainability initiatives. An advocate for issues concerning the environment,

ingredient transparency, and societal change, Rebecca is a member of the prestigious National Women's Business Council, has spoken at the White House, addressed the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in support of organic and regenerative agriculture, testified before Congress on behalf of safer cosmetics, and attended Senate and House briefings on Capitol Hill in support of family-friendly workplace practices and chemical reform. Rebecca also spearheaded the passing of Benefit Corporation legislation in New Hampshire, a for-profit status that incorporates the pursuit of positive environmental and social impact in addition to profit.



Angela Jagiello

During the past 15 years, Angela Jagiello has embraced marketing and public relations roles at some of the leading companies in the organic industry. In her current position as Director of Education and Insights at the Organic Trade Association, she produces industry research and conferences, and runs a speaker's bureau. Jagiello wakes up feeling fortunate to be at the nexus of

so many interesting conversations, working in an industry that is helping families and farmers thrive. She studied journalism and English at the University of Alaska before earning her MBA from the University of Colorado Denver.



Bronwyn Johnson

Bronwyn joined Loving Earth in its infancy, helping to create, develop and launch the concept behind this innovative brand. For nearly a decade Bronwyn has been instrumental in the evolution of the brand's unique compostable packaging as well spearheading product research and development, ensuring that ingredients are not only wholefood but are sustainably sourced.

Bronwyn introduced Loving Earth to the European market and now oversees US development, with emphasis on key environmental initiatives.



Katie Landry

Katie Landry joined Guayaki in 2008, having previously conducted market research in the private financial sector. She holds a master's in business administration from Tulane University, and spent four months falling in love with yerba mate in Buenos Aires. Her interest in sustainable business ventures led her to

Guayaki, which combines her passions for regenerative food, culture and health. Now, inspired by Market Driven Regeneration and the mental clarity of yerba mate, she spends her time in service of the plant and the mission. Katie lives in Baltimore and New Orleans with her family.



Ryan Martel

Ryan Martel is a director on the policy team at Ceres, focused on working with the Ceres Investor Network on Climate Risk and Sustainability on federal, state, and international climate and clean energy policy. From 2013 to 2015 Ryan served as the energy and climate policy advisor to Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii, focusing on renewable energy deployment, energy

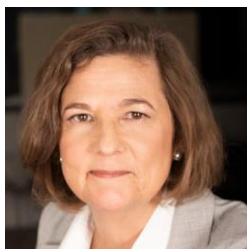
efficiency, and international climate negotiations. Prior to that, he worked for Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico from 2009 to 2013, eventually serving as the Staff Director for the Finance Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure, where he focused on energy tax policy.



Shauna Sadowski

Shauna Sadowski is the Head of Sustainability for the Natural & Organic Operating Unit at General Mills, where she leads the sustainability team for four brands: Annie's, Cascadian Farm, Muir Glen and Epic Provisions. Shauna develops the sustainability strategy by integrating sustainability into product design with an emphasis on farm-level impacts, leading external engagement through partnerships

and outreach, and working cross-functionally to ensure that sustainability is implemented across the brands. In prior years, Shauna has been a management consultant and a farm girl; she is a graduate of the Friedman School at Tufts University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. She lives in Berkeley with her husband and two children.



Robin Schoen

Robin Schoen is the Director of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources (BANR) of the Congressionally-chartered, not-for-profit National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. BANR is the program unit of the Academies responsible for bringing scientific experts together around issues related to agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and the use of land, water, and other natural resources, in response to requests from Congress and the federal agencies, states, and the private sector. BANR's recent work is diverse and includes a review of the citrus greening research portfolio of the Florida citrus growers, a study on brucellosis in cattle, elk, and bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area, a technical document of the nutrient requirements of poultry, and a study to

identify science breakthroughs to advance agricultural research by 2030. Currently, Robin is serving as the study director for an assessment of the demand for and capacity to supply native plant seeds for ecological restoration, a study requested by the Bureau of Land Management. Robin joined BANR in 2005 from the Academies' Board on Life Sciences and Office of International Affairs, and before that, NIH. A native Washingtonian, Robin received a B.S. in biology and chemistry from Frostburg State College, Maryland, and an M.A. in Science and Technology Policy from George Washington University.

PRESENTERS



Tim Schultz

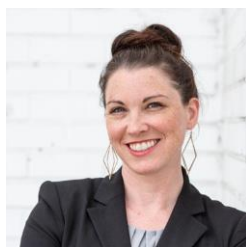
Tim Schultz serves as the Vice President of Research and Development for Lundberg Family Farms, a third generation, vertically integrated, family business that is the market leader in Organic Rice and Organic Quinoa throughout the US. Tim oversees Sustainability, New Product Development, Human Resources, Planning and Legal for Lundberg.

Lundberg has been a leader in sustainability since its founding in 1937. They were the pioneer in organic rice production in the United States, and have continued to extend their passion from the fields to the manufacturing floor. Lundberg actively promotes habitat for migratory waterfowl, having rescued over 30,000 duck eggs from their fields over the years. They also maintain over 100 acres of riparian forest habitat along the Feather River in Northern California. This past year, they

received the Leopold Conservation Award for their sustainable farming practices.

Lundberg maintains a Platinum Zero Waste certification through the U.S. Business Council. It derives 100% of its energy from renewable sources, either through direct generation or purchase of Renewable Energy Credits.

Tim serves on the board of the Organic Farming Research Foundation, and chairs its Development Committee. He also serves on the Organic Trade Association's Political Action Committee, and regularly advocates for organic priorities at the federal level. Tim is also a long-time, personal supporter of The Organic Center.



Dr. Amber Sciligo

As Manager of Science Programs for The Organic Center, Dr. Amber Sciligo works closely with researchers, industry, farmers, and policymakers to identify organic research needs, facilitate project implementation and communicate scientific results across the organic sector. She leads The Center's reports that compile current science on critical issues affecting organic food and farming, and heads The Center's grant-writing program.

Dr. Sciligo received her Ph.D. at Lincoln University, New Zealand, in Ecology and Evolution with a specialty in plant/insect interactions. Her extensive postdoctoral work at UC Berkeley included several interdisciplinary projects that focused on population structure and health of honeybees and bumblebees in California. It also included participatory research in land access for Latino farmers in the CA

Central Coast, native bee pollination services to strawberry crops, and the costs/benefits to diversified farming within the organic sector using an integrated environmental, social and economic framework.

The main goals of her work have been to understand how farming practices that promote biodiversity and important ecosystem services can be more broadly adopted, and to inform research and policies to better include the needs of farmers so that their businesses can thrive, while preserving land for future farming. Dr. Sciligo most recently conducted sustainability consulting in Ag and Food Production & Research.



Dr. Jessica Shade

Dr. Jessica Shade is the Director of Science Programs at The Organic Center where she directs projects associated with communicating and conducting research related to organic agriculture. During her tenure at The Organic Center Dr. Shade has collaborated on a number of diverse research programs ranging from applied solutions to on-farm challenges to methods for improving environmental impacts of agriculture. Some of her most recent collaborations include projects aimed at decreasing nitrogen pollution from agricultural sources, increasing on-farm biodiversity, and developing integrated pest management solutions for organic growers. Dr. Shade has extensive experience leading groups of diverse stakeholders to successfully develop unified visions and

project goals. She developed and leads the Center's signature conference event, Organic Confluences, which brings together policy makers, researchers, farmers, industry members, and other non-profits to address and overcome challenges faced by the organic sector. Dr. Shade has been honored for her environmental accomplishments by the Audubon Women in Conservation through their Women Greening Food Special Recognition, the Ecological Society of America Student Section and Union of Concerned Scientists through their Ecoservice Award, and is a Switzer Environmental Fellow. She received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.



Brise Tencer

Brise Tencer, Executive Director of Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), brings 20 years of leadership experience in organic food policy, farming, and research issues to OFRF, whose mission is to foster the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming systems. She oversees all programmatic work including a research grant making program, organic research symposia, publication of a National Organic Research Agenda, and farmer focused advocacy in Washington, DC.

Prior to OFRF, Ms. Tencer served as Director of Policy and Programs for California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), managing the government affairs and grower education program. She also served as lead lobbyist on food and agriculture issues for the Union of Concerned Scientists where she developed legislative campaigns on a range of agriculture issues, including organic (focusing on the connection between organic practices and climate change), USDA research priorities, food safety, and overuse of antibiotics in livestock production.

Ms. Tencer currently serves on the Advisory Board to the University of California Agriculture Sustainability Institute. She has also served on the boards of the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides, the California Climate and Agricultural Network, and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. She holds a B.A. in Community Studies from University of California, Santa Cruz and received both a Certificate in Conflict Resolution and a M.A. in International Environmental Policy from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

PRESENTERS



Dr. Kate Tully

Dr. Kate Tully is an Assistant Professor of Agroecology at the University of Maryland. She earned a bachelor's degree in English, Spanish, and Biology from Kenyon College and a master's and doctorate in Ecology from the University of Virginia. She conducted postdoctoral research at Columbia University's Earth Institute, where she studied the

environmental impacts of the African Green Revolution and lived in Kenya and Tanzania. Broadly, her research examines how to manage farming systems so they both adapt to and mitigate climate change.



Prof. Raffaele Zanolì (MA, PhD)

Prof. Raffaele Zanolì (MA, PhD) is Professor of Agricultural Economics and Food Marketing & Management at the Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM), Italy and a senior principal research scientist with 18-years' experience primarily related to the economics, market and policy analyses of the food sector.

He participated or coordinated a dozen of international research projects on organic food and farming mostly EU-funded. He has been expert and consultant on organic food and farming for the European Commission, the Swiss Federal Government, the Italian Government, and the FAO. He is currently board member of the International Society for Organic Agriculture Research (ISO FAR).

He is founder and currently president of the oldest Italian Research Association on Organic Farming (GRAB-IT, est. 1996) and has served in the board of the Italian Society of Agricultural Economics (SIDEA).

He has authored more than 100 scientific papers and few books. Among these: Organic Farming. Policies and Prospects, published in 2004 and written with Stephane Dabbert and Anna Haering.

In his free time he enjoys hiking, skiing and scuba diving.



Ryan Zinn

Ryan Zinn manages Dr. Bronner's international organic and fair trade supply chains in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Ryan has worked the last 20 years with small-scale farmer organizations to develop agroecological, just and resiliency strategies to production. Ryan also supports non-profits like the fair trade advocacy organization, Fair World Project, and the small farmer crowdfunding platform, Grow Ahead.

Previous Organic Confluences Conferences

The 2016 Organic Confluences: *A Summit to Turn Environmental Evidence into Policy Practice* highlighted how organic agriculture's positive contributions to the environment can be incorporated into government programs to improve the sustainability of U.S. agriculture. The Summit included talks from leading researchers from around the U.S., and over a dozen government agency, congressional, and Whitehouse staff. The Summit culminated with the development of recommendations on how to incorporate environmentally friendly organic farming practices into federal and state agricultural sustainability programs.

The 2017 Organic Confluences Summit: *Making Research Count* focused on ensuring that organic agriculture research tackles the issues most critical for moving the sector forward, and on communicating research findings in the most effective way. Through diverse presentations, including a talk by Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, and interactive large and small group discussions, participants identified challenges to the design, implementation, and dissemination of organic research, and provided recommendations to amplify both the significance and reach of that research.

The 2018 Organic Confluences Summit: *Evaluating and Advancing Knowledge Transfer in Organic* assessed the state of extension and education for organic and transitioning farmers, explored current innovations in information dissemination, and developed solutions to barriers that constrain knowledge transfer within the organic sector.



ATTENDEES



Catherine Rebecca Greene

Organic Center Award of Excellence Awardee

The Organic Center is honored to recognize Catherine Greene with their Award of Excellence. Greene is a Senior Agricultural Economist in the Resource and Rural Economics Division of USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). She has been foundational in supporting organic throughout her three decades years of service, with a focus on economic research and analysis on the U.S. organic sector. In the late 1980s, Catherine initiated the first ERS outlook reporting on U.S. organic production and marketing. She subsequently initiated dozens of ERS and USDA projects to provide publicly-available data, research and information on organic production and marketing—including the longest data series on U.S. organic acreage and livestock, and analysis of U.S. production costs and profitability for major organic commodities. Her numerous reports include U.S. Organic Farming Emerges in the 1990s: Adoption of Certified Systems. She has also led USDA organic research and policy conferences since the late 1990s, including USDA Organic Farming Systems Research Conference—Exploring Agronomic, Economic, Ecological, and Social Dimensions held in Washington DC in 2011. Awards include USDA's Plow Honor Award for Personal and Professional Excellence in 2011 in recognition of her "exceptional commitment to understanding the research needs in the U.S. organic sector and outstanding leadership in building USDA's capacity to respond." Catherine has given talks at academic and industry conferences across the U.S., as well as Italy, France, Mexico, and Canada. She grew up in a farm family in Virginia, and earned a B.S. in Sociology and an M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech.

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Ed Barker
GREEN AMERICA

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GOURMET NUTS AND DRIED FRUIT

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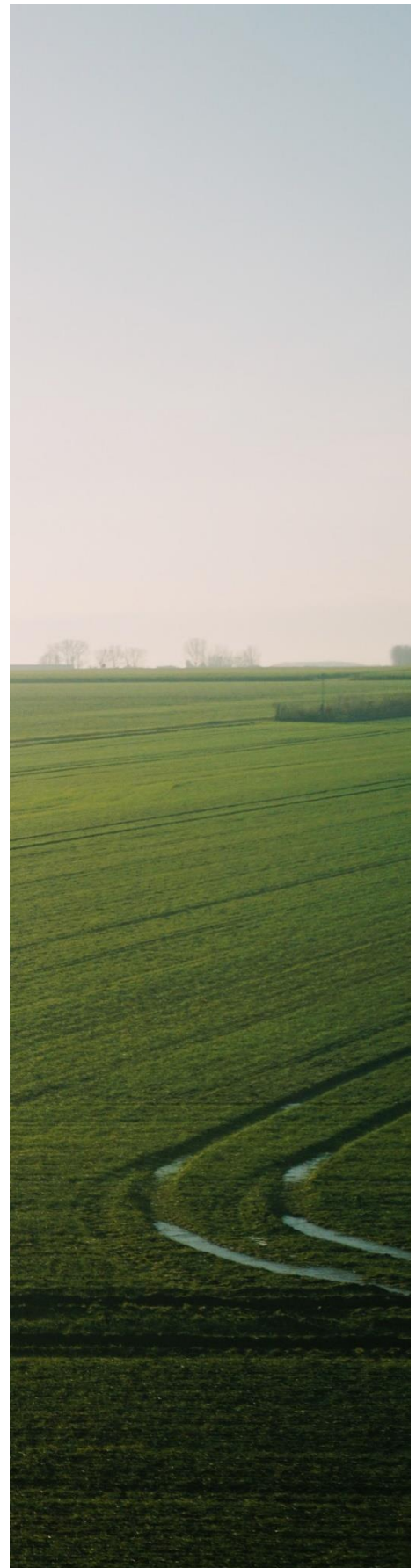
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THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT PARTNERS!



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