



**CLIMATE 2020: SEVEN GENERATIONS FOR ARIZONA**  
**November 15-16, 2019**  
**High Country Conference Center - Flagstaff, Arizona**

Northern Arizona University will convene a statewide summit in November 2019 on climate change in Arizona. Bringing together stakeholders from around the state, the summit will organize around two questions:

- What do we know about how climate change is affecting Arizona and Arizonans now and in the future?
- How can Arizonans act to keep the state healthy and habitable for the next seven generations?

**Summit Goals:**

1. To draw attention to Arizona's vulnerability to climate change, and to opportunities to mitigate and adapt.
2. To ensure local, state, and federal decision-makers are equipped with the most up-to-date science to make the best decisions for Arizona's future.
3. To bring together a broad, diverse set of stakeholders from around the state to share knowledge and resources, strengthen skills, and form new alliances to address the impacts of climate change on Arizona.
4. To start a new conversation about climate change in Arizona: one that acknowledges the state's unique demographics, history, natural resources, and commitment to its sovereign, public, and private lands, and empowers Arizonans to take charge of their climate future.

**Why a Climate Summit in Arizona?**

Arizona is uniquely vulnerable to a changing climate. Rising temperatures, increasing frequency and duration of droughts and wildfire, and the state's reliance on a drought-depleted and over-taxed Colorado River threaten the health of all Arizonans. These climate-induced changes also threaten the economic security of agricultural communities, and the livability and economic health of the state's urban centers. Arizona is home to more than twenty tribal nations and the second largest Native American population in the United States, and these communities are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change.

Increasing temperatures in the desert southwest amplify drought, reduce snow pack, and reduce water availability. Extreme heat impairs health, especially of vulnerable individuals, and increases the state's disease burden through exposure, allergens, air pollution, and wildfire smoke.

Arizona is also uniquely positioned to respond to these challenges. Communities and resource managers have experience contending with the hotter and drier conditions that climate change is amplifying, and the state has been recognized for a culture of listening to diverse perspectives to make sound decisions for its future. *Climate 2020: Seven Generations for Arizona* will transform the conversation about climate change in Arizona, moving beyond drought contingency plans and into a comprehensive and future-oriented framework of creative and science-driven decision-making.

By inviting a broad range of stakeholders, including local and national leaders positioned to help Arizona prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change, *Climate 2020* has the potential to change the conversation locally, regionally, and nationally.

### **Why NAU and Flagstaff?**

Northern Arizona University, located in the City of Flagstaff and near the neighboring Navajo and Hopi Nations on the Colorado Plateau, will host this two-day summit. Northern Arizona University is recognized nationally and internationally for its research on ecosystem responses to climate change, from drylands to the Arctic. The Navajo Nation has demonstrated state and regional leadership in renewable energy with its expanding Kayenta Solar project. And in 2018, the City of Flagstaff passed an ambitious and forward-looking Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, making it a model for proactive and community-informed urban decision-making around climate change.

This nexus of leadership and commitment to addressing the climate change challenge make NAU and Flagstaff a vibrant host location—a model of both regional partnerships and cutting-edge research.

### **For More Information**

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