



Sustaining All Life & United to End Racism at New York City Climate Week • September 22-29, 2024

Sustaining All Life (SAL) and **United to End Racism (UER)** are international grassroots organizations working to end the climate emergency within the context of ending all divisions among people. At Climate Week, SAL/UER will present many interactive workshops that address barriers to resolving the climate emergency. Our events will also show participants how to exchange effective listening to free themselves from the emotional and mental harm resulting from oppression and other hurtful experiences—harm that can interfere with thinking about and responding effectively to the climate crisis and ending racism.



Workshops

At our workshops we share our perspective on current aspects of the climate emergency, including engagement in the 2024 elections. We exchange listening to free ourselves from emotional hurts that interfere with our thinking and functioning. We will share our experiences and be listened to as well as listen to others.

Restoring Ourselves for the Final Six weeks of Election Organizing

Sunday, September 22, 11 AM – 12:30 PM*
and Tuesday, September 24, 2 – 3:30 PM*

Many of us have been working on the 2024 U.S. election as we work to end the climate emergency. We can feel discouraged, depleted, “done,” and the election is still six weeks away. Join us for some restorative time. We will use the tools of SAL/UER to drain away some of the stress we’ve accumulated and unleash renewed enthusiasm for the final push.

Backing Indigenous Leaders: Where Ending the Climate Crisis and Decolonization Meet

Monday, September 23, 10:30 AM – 12 PM*

Colonization and capitalism have disconnected us from each other, our basic human needs, and the land. There is so much to learn from Indigenous cultures, especially about our relationships with nature, ourselves, and each other. In this workshop we will share ways we can use engaged listening to back

Indigenous leaders and heal ourselves from the damaging effects of colonization.

Using Art to Support Climate Activism

Monday, September 23, 2 – 4:30 PM

In conjunction with the *Artists for the Future Festival*, this photography exhibit illustrates the use of photography to support climate activism. A panel of artists who have used different forms of artistic expression to promote climate activism will share their experiences and lead an audience discussion on this topic.

Staying Hopeful and Engaged in Organizing for the Elections

Monday, September 23 and Wednesday, September 25, 2 – 3:30 PM*

The 2024 elections and the climate crisis are leaving many of us feeling overwhelmed by discouragement, anxiety, hopelessness, and anger. This workshop will offer participants perspectives and practices to counteract those feelings, maintain hope, and continue to take action to address the climate crisis and work toward electing candidates who will take action on climate.

Writing Our Feelings about the Climate and What Gives Us Hope

Tuesday, September 24, 10 AM – 12 PM

In conjunction with the *Artists for the Future Festival*, we will introduce the process of ‘free writing’ and give a prompt for a timed writing ‘exercise’. After the writing time, participants will be encouraged to read their writing aloud with the attention of a small group.

The Central Role of Young People in the Climate Movement

Tuesday, September 24, 10:30 AM – 12 PM*

Young people are at the front lines of the climate crisis. It is our future that is threatened. However, because of the way society is set up we have the least say in how society is run. In this workshop young people and adults look at young people’s oppression and find ways to move past the oppression to being involved in the climate movement.

The Intersection of Climate Change and Racism in the Southern United States

Wednesday, September 25, 10:30 AM – 12 PM*

The South bears the brunt of the climate crisis in the United States, with sea level rise, tornadoes, drought, hurricanes, and other severe storms that affect millions of people and their homes, land, waters, farms, and livelihoods. Racism and economic injustice cause these impacts to fall disproportionately on Southern U.S. Black, brown, low-wealth, young, and Native peoples.

Mental Health Liberation: Tools for Climate Activists

Thursday, September 26, 10:30 AM – 12 PM*

Learn how oppressive societies enforce passivity, overconsumption, numbness, and isolation as “normal.” We will share simple and effective tools that can help us face difficult

* Optional one hour listening circle follows.

All events at 12 East 41st Street, 7th Floor, Manhattan
and no registration required, unless otherwise indicated.

Workshops, continued

feelings about the climate crisis and build emotional support for our climate activism.

How to Listen to and Build Allies When We Disagree

Thursday, September 26, 2 – 3:30 PM*

We need to build friendships and win people over who we strongly disagree with to have a large, more informed electorate that will vote for candidates who support climate action. SAL/UER will share tools for listening to people when we strongly disagree with what they say.

Tools for Building Unity with Groups in Conflict

Friday, September 27, 10:30 AM – 12 PM*

We need a unified climate movement to end the climate emergency. We will demonstrate tools from SAL/UER for building allyship between groups that have historically been divided from each other. We will share stories that inspire hope that groups in conflict can reach across the divides and become allies to each other's peoples.

Sustaining Democracy: Reaching Powerfully for Disengaged Voters

Friday, September 27, 2 – 3:30 PM*

Voting can be a powerful tactic for our social change movements. However, many people feel discouraged about its impact and are reluctant to vote for candidates who do not share all of their values. We will discuss ways to reach disengaged voters and help people reclaim voting as a powerful social change tactic to defend and expand democracy.

Working Together to Tackle Racism and the Climate Crisis

Saturday, September 28, 10:30 – 12 PM*

Racism is at the center of many of our difficulties in resolving the climate crisis. We examine the interrelationship of racism and the destruction of the environment. We will also look at the ways in which the separation of racism interferes with our ability to unite and we will practice tools for healing this separation.

The Climate Crisis in Africa

Saturday, September 28, 12 – 1:30 PM*

ZOOM only

Africa accounts for less than 4% of global emissions and yet is hugely impacted by the climate crisis. Colonization and racism have made Africa and her people extremely



vulnerable to the effects of climate change. They have fueled the continued oppression and exploitation of the continent. In this workshop, African leaders from different parts of the continent will share how they and their communities are impacted by the climate crisis and their ongoing work to stop it.

War and Climate Justice

Saturday, September 28, 2 – 3:30 PM*

Modern warfare has unleashed unprecedented environmental havoc in addition to tremendous loss of life. War is a tool of oppression and genocide that installs the dominant culture and allows it to take control of land and resources. We must end war to resolve the climate emergency.

Climate is on the Ballot: Organizing Together in the Swing States

Saturday, September 28, 2 – 3:30 PM*

Voting can be a powerful tactic in our movements for climate justice and social change. But many people feel discouraged about its impact and are reluctant to mobilize for candidates who do not share their values completely. We will share the tools and experience of SAL/UER to enhance the work of climate activists and to invite people to reclaim voting as a powerful social change tactic, especially in the swing states that will determine the outcome of the US presidential election.

Making a Climate for Families

Sunday, September 29, 1 – 4 PM

Central Park: Mineral Springs
(note different location)

Join us for some intergenerational fun as we think about our mother earth and how we can work together to reverse climate change. We'll make art together—visuals, music, games, and storytelling. We'll have listening circles where young people and parents can share their visions of a family-friendly environment. We'll have a circus-inspired parade to bring us together and imagine a future that can work for all living things.

Classes

Introduction to the Tools of SAL & UER Wednesday, September 25 and Friday, September 27, 1 – 2 PM

We will offer an in-depth look at tools that have helped people address emotional barriers to effective climate organizing. We will share our theory and provide opportunities to practice these listening tools in pairs and small groups. These tools can help us with struggles we often experience as climate activists and organizers as we work to build a movement to end the climate emergency.

Listening Circles

Listening circles in which we share our experiences will immediately follow each workshop. Listening circles give people a chance to be listened to about feelings connected to climate change and the elections. Sharing our feelings of grief, fear, anger, discouragement, and hope in a mutually supportive group can refresh us and give us new ideas for action.

Listening Projects and Climate Ribbon Tree

Monday – Friday, 10 AM – 12:30 PM
and 1:30 – 4 PM

SAL/UER will hold listening projects across from the United Nations about the climate emergency. We will engage with and listen to passers-by about this important issue affecting all of our futures. We will also be collecting messages for our Climate Ribbon Tree in response to this question: What do you love and hope to never lose to climate chaos?

Picnic in the Park

Saturday, September 28, 5 – 7 PM

Come unwind with us at Bryant Park after a successful NYC Climate Week. We'll have snacks and cold drinks.



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* Optional one hour listening circle follows.