

6th Sustainability Conference



The annual international conference on sustainable and environmental issues at the University of Akureyri

PROGRAMME

**09:00 | PRESIDENT OF ICELAND - HALLA TÓMASDÓTTIR
OPENING SPEECH**

09:15 - 9:45 | KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Affluence and the climate-sustainability illusion in the Nordics - Jukka Heinonen, University of Iceland, Iceland

THE ARCTIC, CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

09:45 - 10:00 | Trading for Conservation: Leveraging AI to evaluate CITES's Impact on Arctic Conservation

Tom Barry & Magnús Smári Magnússon, University of Akureyri, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Iceland

10:00 - 10:15 | Are subarctic nations' fisheries benefiting from climate change?

Hreiðar Þór Valtýsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland

10:15 - 10:30 | The RECET project and its progress in NE-Iceland

Ottó Elíasson, Eimur, Iceland

10:30 - 10:45 | Coffee Break (Miðborg)

MICROBIOLOGY

10:45 - 11:00 | Climate warming habitat shifts as revealed by dog lichen microbiomes in Icelandic and UK habitats

Oddur Þór Vilhelmsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland

11:00 - 11:15 | Turn up the heat: the role of thermophilic microbes in sustainable development

Eva María Ingvadóttir, University of Akureyri, Iceland, & Ingunn Ósk Grétarsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland

POLLUTION

11:15 - 11:30 | The Global Critical Minerals Rush and Its Developmental Implications for Resource-Rich Countries in the Global South: A Case Study of Lithium Extraction in Zimbabwe

Ray Clemence Tondoi, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, & Kjartan Sigurðsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland

11:30 - 11:45 | ICEWATER: Valorising wastewater

Karen Mist Kristjánsdóttir, Eimur, Iceland

11:45 - 13:00 | Lunch break

STORY AND VISION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

13:00 - 13:15 | Story for Climate and Nature Recovery

Jules Pretty, University of Essex, UK

13:15 - 13:30 | Transforming Education and Science for a Climate-Friendly Future

Lars Keller, University of Innsbruck, Austria

POSTER SESSION WITH COFFEE IN MIÐBORG

13:30- 14:40 | 10 minutes per poster

Geopolitical Dimensions of Climate Change: Displacement and Migration Flows into the EU

Evangelos Barmpas, University of the Aegean, Greece

Methane Emission Reduction at a Landfill in Northwest Iceland - Ottó Elíasson, Eimur, Iceland

Grænn lðngarður á Bakka: Pioneering Eco Industrial Parks in Iceland - Karen Mist Kristjánsdóttir, Eimur, Iceland

The Hidden Cost of Concrete: How Sand and Gravel Mining Threatens Global Water Bodies and Why Recycling is the Answer?

Nicole Kocierz, Barbara Słomka-Słupik, Silesian University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Department of Building Structures, Poland & Kjartan Sigurðsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Eimur: Improved utilisation of resources in North Iceland

Alessandra Schneider, Eimur, Iceland

Role of Delhi Municipal Corporations in Promoting Household Waste Segregation: Effectiveness in Low-Income Urban Communities

Gulshan, PhD Scholar, School of Extension and Development studies, IGNOU New Delhi, India

15:00- 15:15 | Stefansson Student Sustainability Award Ceremony and Talk - Áslaug Ásgeirsdóttir, rector

CASE STUDIES

15:15 - 15:30 | Barriers to changing travel modes in Reykjavik, Iceland

Johanna Raudsepp, University of Iceland, Iceland

15:30 - 15:45 | Climate Extremes, Infrastructure Risk, and Local Adaptation in Hornafjörður, Iceland

Isabella Chittumuri, Colorado School of Mines, United States of America

15:45 - 16:00 | Hot Water Bleeds in Northern Iceland: Mapping Lost Energy for Local Reuse and Innovation

Alessandra Schneider, Eimur, Iceland

16:00 - 16:15 | Shaping the future: Community perceptions of the Northeast Iceland Hope Spot and marine management

Belen Garcia Ovide, Ocean Missions, Iceland

16:15- 16:30 | Closing remarks

10 April 2026

UNAK M101 and zoom

For further information:

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[Click here to attend via Zoom](#)