

Lab Statement on Climate Change

The science about climate change is clear: Earth's climate is rapidly changing as a result of human activities; and this needs to be recognized for what it is – a global emergency. Effects including rising sea levels, droughts, floods, fires, shifting plant and animal ranges, and more frequent and intense extreme weather events are a reality humanity must address today. Climate change threatens to make many parts of our planet inhospitable for life as we know it, and it is exacerbating the destructive effects of biodiversity loss and inequality worldwide. The members of the Landscape Ecology Lab are sincerely concerned and recognize that action on this matter is urgently needed. Scientists agree that global temperature increases must be held below 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid catastrophic climate change. Institutional action is critical to help meet this goal, in addition to individual action, and we want to do our part. **We therefore pledge to dedicate a considerable amount of our research to areas relating to climate change and biodiversity loss, and to take concrete action to reduce our impact on the environment. This is taking shape in numerous ways, including involvement in the departmental Climate Emergency Committee, reducing GHG emissions, flying less, limiting our consumption of meat, and a reduction in waste. We strongly encourage other labs and individuals to take a similar pledge, and exemplify the change they wish to see in the world.**