

# 2024 SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AWARDS

## *A Collective Vision for a Sustainable Future*

OCTOBER 23-24, 2024



The  
**Sustany**  
Foundation



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**

Patel College of  
Global Sustainability



**PATEL CENTER FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS**  
TAMPA, FLORIDA

# WELCOME

## TO THE PATEL CENTER FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



I am delighted to welcome you to the Patel Center for Global Solutions, home of the Patel College of Global Sustainability. Since its establishment, PCGS has emerged as a preeminent academic destination for students seeking careers in sustainability within industries, governments, non-governmental organizations, and entrepreneurial ventures.

In the spirit of collaboration and *collective vision*, this year we have the privilege of co-hosting our annual Sustainability Conference and Sustainable Business Awards with The Sustany Foundation and U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). *A Collective Vision for a Sustainable Future* is the premier event for thought leaders and practitioners from industry, academia, government, and non-government organizations to join the community of visionaries working at the forefront of innovation to move beyond individual action and catalyze and accelerate change towards sustainability. Tampa Bay area businesses will be celebrated, innovative ideas will be exchanged, and a path to a more sustainable future will be forged. Thank you for joining us!

*Govindan Parayil*

**Govindan Parayil, Ph.D.**

**Dean, Patel College of Global Sustainability**

# Day 1

AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, October 23

8:00AM - 8:30AM

Check-in & Light Breakfast

8:30AM - 9:00AM

Welcome Address

9:00AM - 1:00PM



Food Systems, Material Ecology  
and the Circular Economy with the  
University of East London

1:00PM - 2:00PM

Lunch

2:00PM - 5:00PM

Sustainable Business Awards Pitches

5:00PM - 6:00PM

Mingle & Network

# Day 2

AT A GLANCE

**Thursday, October 24**

**8:00AM - 9:00AM**

**Check-in & Light Breakfast**

**9:00AM - 11:15AM**



**USGBC Green Finance Forum: Return on Investment of Green Buildings**

**11:30AM - 12:30PM**

**Networking Lunch**

**12:30PM - 4:45 PM**

**Panels: Business Strategy, Government Policy, Sustainability and the Net-Zero Challenge**

**4:45PM - 5:00PM**

**Closing Remarks**

**5:00PM - 8:00PM**

**Sustainable Business Awards & Dinner**

# THANK YOU

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*Coca-Cola*  
BEVERAGES FLORIDA



# Wednesday, October 23

8:00AM - 8:30AM

Check-in & Light Breakfast

8:30AM - 9:00AM

**Opening & Welcome:** Govindan Parayil, Ph.D., Dean, Patel College of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida

**Conference Highlights:** Katie Murray, Conference Co-Chair, Patel College of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida

## *Food Systems, Material Ecology and the Circular Economy*

9:15AM - 9:45AM

Keynote Address

- **Dr. Joseph Dorsey**, Associate Dean For Academic Affairs & Director of Food Sustainability and Security, *Patel College of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida*
- **Clare Penny**, Senior Lecturer, *University of East London Centre for Sustainability*

9:45AM - 10:15AM

USF Student Research

- University of South Florida Students

10:15AM - 10:30AM

Break

10:30AM - 11:00AM

Panel Discussion: Food Forests & Edible Landscapes

- Select University of South Florida and University of East London Students

11:30AM - 11:45AM

Break

11:45AM - 12:00 PM

Intro to Trashcrete

- **Dr. TH Culane**, Director of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, *Patel College of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida*

12:00PM - 12:15 PM

Intro to Sugarcrete

- **Oluchukwu Okonkwo**, *University of East London*

12:15PM - 12:30PM

Composting Clothing

- **Ericka Leigh McThenia**, Sustainability Project Manager & Textile Composter, *Sewn Apart*

12:30PM - 12:55PM

Panel Discussion: Food Waste Alternatives

- USF and UEL Researchers & Academics

12:55PM - 1:00PM

Wrap-Up

- **Dr. Joseph Dorsey**, Associate Dean For Academic Affairs & Director of Food Sustainability and Security, *Patel College of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida*
- **Clare Penny**, Senior Lecturer, *University of East London Centre for Sustainability*

# Wednesday, October 23

1:00PM - 2:00PM

Lunch

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2:00PM - 5:00PM

**Sustainable Business Award Pitches**

- **Moderator: Pradeep Haldar**, Director of Sustainable Business, *University of South Florida*
- 

5:00PM - 6:00PM

**Mingle & Network**

# Thursday, October 24

8:00AM - 9:00AM

**Check-in & Light Breakfast**

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## *USGBC Green Finance Forum: Return on Investment of Green Buildings*

9:00AM - 9:10AM

**Day 2 Opening Remarks & Keynote Video**

9:10AM - 10:00AM

**Cost Analysis of Green Buildings**

- **Moderator: Ryan Snow**, Regional Director, *U.S. Green Building Council*
- **Kristy Walson**, Practice Lead, *Branch Pattern*
- **Taylor Ralph**, President, *REAL Building Consultants*
- **Alexandra Bull**, Sustainability Consultant, *JLL*
- **Al LaPera**, Senior Practice Builder & Energy Services Manager, *Kimley-Horn (CxA)*

10:00AM - 10:50AM

**Financing Green Buildings**

- **Moderator: Ryan Snow**, Regional Director, *U.S. Green Building Council*
- **Abby Massey**, Vice President of Energy Incentives, *TaxTaker*
- **Devesh Nirmul**, Director for Energy and Innovation, *REAL Building Consultants*
- **Whit Rhemer**, Sustainability and Resilience Manager, *City of Tampa*

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11:30AM - 12:30PM

**Networking Lunch**

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# *Business Strategy, Government Policy, Sustainability and the Net-Zero Challenge*

- 12:30PM - 1:30PM**    **One-on-One dialogue: Economic Impacts of Decarbonization in Florida**  
A conversation between Jessica Meszaros, Reporter/Host, WUSF and Sofia Leon, Climate Innovation and Fundraising Lead, Nature Conservancy
- 1:30PM - 2:30PM**    **Toward a Sustainable Future: The Transition to Carbon Neutrality and Net-Zero Emissions- Reporting and Integration**
- **Moderator:** Dr. George Philippidis, *USF/PCGS*
  - **Kris Stryker**, VP Clean Energy and Emerging Technology, *TECO Energy*
  - **Neil Beckingham**, Sr. Sustainability Professional, *Mosaic*
  - **Morgan Brawner/Anne Shirley Lewis**, Chief Revenue Officer, *ESA Solar*
  - **Bill Breckinridge**, VP, Facilities & Environmental Sustainability, *Raymond James*
- 2:30PM - 2:45PM**    **Break**
- 2:45PM - 3:45PM**    **Linking Sustainability with Business Strategy: Key Initiatives (Circular Economy, Supply Chains, Logistics, Risk Mitigation, Zero Waste, Technology)**
- **Moderator**, Dr. David O'Connor, *USF/PCGS*
  - **Adam Rutstein**, VP Corporate Citizenship & Sustainability, *TD Synnex*
  - **Michal Wierzchowski**, VP Operations and Digital Transformation, *Jabil*
  - **Elizabeth Villedrouin**, Sustainable Investing Consultant, *Raymond James*
  - **Lindsay Hempfling**, Director ESG, *Bealls Inc.*
- 3:45PM - 4:45PM**    **Toward a Sustainable Future: The Role of Government, Academia and Industry**
- **Moderator**, Dr. Michael Spencer, *USF/PCGS*
  - **Susan Glickman**, VP Policy and Partnerships, *The CLEO Institute*
  - **Keyna Cory**, Executive Director, *Florida Recycling Partnership*
  - **Hank Hodde**, Resilience Leader, *Jacobs*
  - **Courtney Wright**, Sr Planner, *Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council*
  - **Eric Caplan**, Sustainability and Resilience Program Director, *Tampa International Airport*

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**4:45PM - 5:00PM**    **Closing Remarks**

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**5:00PM - 8:00PM**    **Sustainable Business Awards & Dinner**

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**SPEAKERS**



**Alexandra Bull**  
Sustainability Consultant, *JLL*



**Abby Masey**  
Vice President, *TaxTaker*



**Devesh Nirmul**  
Director,  
*REAL Building Consultants*



**Taylor Ralph**  
Founder/President, *REAL Building Consultants*



**Ryan Snow**  
Regional Director,  
*U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)*



**Kristy Walson**  
Principal & Building Science  
Practice Lead,  
*BranchPattern*



**Bill Breckinridge**  
VP, Facilities & Environmental  
Sustainability,  
*Raymond James*



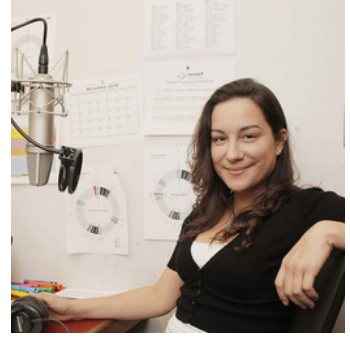
**Hank Hodde**  
Resilience Leader, *Jacobs*



**Eric Caplan**  
Sustainability & Resilience  
Program Director, *TPA*



**Keyna Cory**  
Executive Director,  
*Florida Recycling Partnership*



**Jessica Meszaros**  
Reporter/Host, *WUSF*



**Neil Beckingham**  
Senior Manager Sustainability,  
*The Mosaic Company*



**Anne Shirley Lewis**  
Account Executive, *ESA*



**Courtney Wright**  
Senior Planner, *Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council*



**Elizabeth Villedrouin**  
Sustainable Investing  
Consultant, *Raymond James Financial*

**SPEAKERS**



**Adam Rutstein**  
VP, Corporate Citizenship &  
Sustainability, *TD SYNEX*



**Lindsay Ann Hempfling**  
Director of ESG, *Bealls Inc.*



**Sofia Leon**  
Climate Innovation &  
Fundraising Lead,  
*The Nature Conservancy*



**Kris Stryker**  
VP of Clean Energy &  
Emerging Technology,  
*Tampa Electric*