

# 2022 Youth Leadership Summit

Hosted by Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

## Summit Schedule

9:00-9:40 AM	<b>Breakfast, Networking, and Resource Tables!</b>
9:40-10:00 AM	Event Begins: Welcome + Agenda of the Day  Emcees: Peri Plantenberg; Chair, SVYCA Board of Directors Kaushik Tota; VP, SVYCA Board of Directors Personal Journey from SVYCA Students leaders, Cici and AJ
	Opening Remarks - Inaugural Mayor's Cup Challenge, Cupertino City Council - Plastics and Sustainability  Speaker: <a href="#">Cupertino Mayor Darcy Paul</a> (10 mins)
10:00-11:00 AM	<b>Keynote Panel</b> State Legislation & Budget Update on Climate and Sustainability + Q&A Speaker: <a href="#">Laura Deehan</a> , Director, Environment California (25 mins)  Local Climate Innovations + Q&A Speaker: <a href="#">Jan Pepper</a> , Chief Executive Officer, Peninsula Clean Energy (25 mins)  Climate Legislative Updates & Announcement of Santa Clara County Youth Climate Initiative Speaker: <a href="#">State Senator Dave Cortese</a> (10 mins)  Santa Clara County Youth Climate Initiative Speaker: <a href="#">Jasneet Sharma</a> , Director, Office of Sustainability, Santa Clara County
	SVYCA and Fremont Union High School District Partnership Speaker: <a href="#">Fremont Union High School District Superintendent</a> OR Facilities Director (5 mins)
11:15 AM-12:30 PM	<b>Green Career Panel</b> Emcee, Moderator: Kaushik Tota, VP of SVYCA's Board of Directors  Growth in Green Jobs and Skills Needed + Q&A Speaker: <a href="#">Peggy Brannigan</a> , Director of Global Environmental Sustainability at LinkedIn (25 mins)



Panel Presentation and Q&A  
Opportunities in Climate and Sustainability Careers and Business + Q&A (50 mins)

Speakers: [Nupur Hiremath](#), Community Programs Manager, Silicon Valley Clean Energy (10 mins), [Bailey Hall](#), Environmental Program Specialist, City of Sunnyvale (10 mins), [David Cohen](#), San Jose City Council Member (10 mins), [Dante Alnas-Benson](#), Outreach Manager, Rising Sun (5 mins)

Q&A (15 mins)

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM **Lunch: Networking, Resource Tables**

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM **Climate Literacy Panel**

Moderator: Dashiell Leeds, member of SVYCA's Board of Directors

Innovative climate literacy efforts in Fremont and Berkeley School Districts  
Speaker: [Rishi Gurjar](#) and [Sarah Ranney](#), Sierra Club (10 min)

Santa Clara County Office of Education's Climate Literacy Efforts  
Speaker: [Dr. Mary Ann Dewan](#), Superintendent, Santa Clara County Office of Education (10 min)

Leading non-profit state-wide (what they've done + doing to further climate literacy)  
Speaker: [Jillian Rodriguez M'Barki](#), Ten Strands (10 min)

FUHSD partnership and SVYCA Climate Curriculum  
Speaker: [Radhika Goel](#), SVYCA Student Leader (5 min)

Climate Literacy Efforts from the Oak Grove School District & Santa Clara County Climate Literacy Coalition  
Speaker: [Jorge Pacheco](#), OGSD Trustee & SCCCLC Co-President (10 min)

Panel Q&A (15 mins)

2:30-2:45 PM **Games and Activities**

2:45-3:00 PM SVYCA's Organizing Strategy, Structure, and Impact  
Announcement of SVYCA Leaders Scholarship

3:00-3:45 PM **Breakout Strategy Discussions and Action Plans!**

3:45-4:30 PM Group Sharing, Next Steps, and Closing Remarks



# Speakers



## **Mayor Darcy Paul**

Mayor Paul graduated from Harvard College, completing his pre-medical studies with a degree in Biology, magna cum laude with highest honors in field. At Harvard, he was Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Journal of Undergraduate Sciences. Following college, he decided to pursue a career in the field of law following a year of conducting cancer research and teaching medical school admissions test classes to economically underprivileged and under-represented minorities in medicine.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Mayor Paul was Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Journal of Law & Technology in his 3L year. Prior to being elected to the Cupertino City Council, Mayor Paul served as the President of the Board of Directors of the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce in 2014.

On Council, Paul's focus has been two-fold: first, upon ensuring equity and fairness in services and facilities; and, second, upon ensuring the integrity of constituent sentiment within the context of democratic governance reconciled with what are often-times competing, influential, and well-resourced stakeholders.



## **Laura Deehan**

Laura directs Environment California's work to tackle global warming, protect the ocean and fight for clean air, clean water, open spaces and a livable planet. Laura stepped into the State Director role in January, 2021 and has been on staff for over twenty years. She has led campaigns to make sure California goes big on offshore wind, to save solar and to get lead out of school drinking water. As the Environment California Field Director, she worked to get California to go solar, ban single use plastic grocery bags and get on track for 100% clean energy. Laura lives with her family in Richmond, California where she enjoys hiking, yoga and baking.





### **Jan Pepper**

Jan Pepper has over 30 years of energy and utility experience, with a focus on renewable energy contracting and financing. She joined Peninsula Clean Energy as CEO in May 2016 as the first employee and is leading the organization to deliver 100% renewable energy on a 24/7 basis by 2025, and transition transportation and building energy use away from fossil fuels to clean electricity. Peninsula Clean Energy is the community choice aggregation agency for San Mateo County and the City of Los Banos. Peninsula Clean Energy has two investment grade credit ratings and has saved its customers over \$90 million since its inception by delivering cleaner and greener electricity at a 5% discount to all of its customers.

Jan was elected to the Los Altos City Council in 2012 and served as Mayor in 2015 and 2020. She served on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District from 2013 to February 2017. She earned a BS in civil engineering and an MBA, both from Stanford University. Jan is a registered professional engineer in California.

Jan formerly worked at Silicon Valley Power and has founded four energy-related startups. At APX, she developed and pioneered the first use of renewable energy credits, which are now the standard currency for trading and tracking renewable power. At Clean Power Markets, her company designed and implemented the successful Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) program for the State of New Jersey.



### **Senator Dave Cortese**

Senator Dave Cortese represents District 15 which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Along with his accomplished career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the San Jose City Council, and the East Side Union High School District Board. Dave has long been a champion of protecting our environment, leading Santa Clara County to transition to 100% renewable electric power, creating the County Climate Coalition in partnership with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, and helping to form Silicon Valley Clean Energy, the community-owned provider of carbon-free electricity for Silicon Valley.





### **Jasneet Sharma**

Previously, she was the Climate Resiliency Specialist with the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability where she led the County Climate Adaptation Initiatives focused on building resiliency to climate related risks, including sea level rise, extreme heat, wildfires, changing precipitation patterns, and severe storm events. She oversaw the Sea Change SMC Program which worked collaboratively with cities, stakeholder agencies and community groups to address the challenge of sea level rise and erosion and the County Climate Collaborative that strived to foster collaboration and collectively find solutions to make San Mateo County climate ready.

Jasneet is a trained architect and urban planner, has extensive experience working in both academia and local governments and has lead a number of research, policy and community-based initiatives on sustainable land use and food systems, smart growth, and climate change.



### **Graham Clark**

Graham Clark, a longtime educator and administrator within the Fremont Union High School District, was appointed as Superintendent in May 2022. During the course of his 25 years in education, all of which he has spent in FUHSD, Clark has served as a high school math teacher, assistant principal, principal and district office administrator. In his previous position as Deputy Superintendent, Clark oversaw administrative services, the bond and technology programs for the District and was a leader in its efforts to implement a 1:1 technology device program and foster positive relationships with each of the District's bargaining units.

Clark earned master's degrees in Education and Business Administration, from San Jose and Santa Clara University respectively. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Santa Clara University. Clark is a long-time resident of the area and has worked in FUHSD for the past 25 years. He is also a member of Cupertino Rotary and the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce.





## **Peggy Brannigan**

Peggy is LinkedIn's Director of Global Environmental Sustainability. She leads the implementation of LinkedIn's aggressive climate commitment to achieve carbon negative, zero waste, and water positive operations by 2030. She manages a cross-company council to set strategy, track progress, and accelerate action. Her team is investing in green innovations in LinkedIn's real estate design and construction, efficient workplace and datacenter operations, and sustainable procurement and employee travel. Peggy implemented an internal carbon fee that incents LinkedIn departments to reduce their carbon emissions, and provides grants to non-profit organizations that are at the forefront of advancing environmental justice. Her team educates and mobilizes over 2,500 LinkedIn Go Green employee volunteers globally for green improvements at work, at home, and in their communities.

To scale impact beyond LinkedIn's own operations, Peggy's team collaborates with the product and engineering teams to instill sustainability solutions in LinkedIn's products and online platform. This helps green jobseekers with green employers, helping professionals build green skills through LinkedIn Learning, and sharing useful data insights about trends in the growing green economy from LinkedIn's Economic Graph. Peggy earned an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business with a Public Management certificate. She is a green building FitWel Ambassador, and has certifications in GRI corporate responsibility reporting and Zero Waste. Prior to LinkedIn, she worked in Europe for 12 years promoting sustainability in roles at the US Department of State and the International School of Amsterdam.





## Nupur Hiremath

Nupur works on deploying community programs for transportation and building electrification to drive SVCE's decarbonization initiatives. Nupur's expertise spans primarily energy and water policy and programs, and she has supported environmental initiatives through her work in the non-profit, public, and private sectors. Prior to SVCE, Nupur served for seven years as an Environmental Programs Manager at the City of Sunnyvale, where she led the development and implementation of the City's Climate Action Playbook, with a focus on energy efficiency and transportation electrification programs. She also worked for nine years on federal policy development and research on water quality and on climate change impacts in urban areas at The Cadmus Group, Inc., an environmental consulting firm. Nupur holds a B.S. in Biochemistry from Davidson College and a Master of Public Administration degree from Columbia University.



## Bailey Hall

Bailey Hall is an Environmental Programs Specialist with the Solid Waste & Recycling division for the City of Sunnyvale. As their outreach and communications lead, she's starred in YouTube videos with tens of thousands of views and writes a column in the Sunnyvale city-wide newsletter called "Talkin' Trash". Prior to this role, Bailey was Program Director for Climate Corps AmeriCorps, a fellowship program that helps young professionals kickstart their careers in the environmental field. She graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and a Politics minor. Bailey recently became a board member of the Northern California Recycling Association, and looks forward to a long career ahead in waste-reduction and recycling.



## David Cohen

David Cohen has lived in District 4 in San Jose since 1998, where he has raised his family, worked in high tech, and served the community. He has a PhD in Chemical Engineering from UC Berkeley and has spent 21 years as an Engineer and Manager in Silicon Valley. David received his BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University. David spent 14 years as a member of the Berryessa School Board, and he holds 10 patents and numerous publications. He lives in Berryessa with his wife and two children, along with 2 dogs and 2 cats. David has



always believed in leading with an open door and being an advocate for the needs of the neighborhoods.



### **Dante Alnas-Benson**

Dante is a Bay Area native, born and raised in Berkeley with 10 years of collective experience working in non-profit spaces. Dante is proud to work in positions that allow him to engage and give back to community. His favorite part of his work has been working with youth and young folk doing professional development; as someone who began working in non-profits as a youth staff himself it has been a great way to pay his role forward. At Rising Sun Dante's role is to connect with residents across the nine Bay Area counties to sign them up for Green House Calls - a no-cost, in-home retrofitting service which helps make homes more sustainable, lowers the cost of utility bills and helps provide jobs for youth staff at Rising Sun.



### **Rishi Gurjar**

Rishi Gurjar is an environmentalist and a rising senior at American High School. He founded and is the Executive Director of Beyond Terra, a nonprofit that hopes to restore and preserve biodiversity across the SF Bay Area. He also chairs the Sierra Club Southern Alameda County Conservation Committee and is involved in efforts to bring climate literacy to students across California through work at the Sierra Club, ClimateScience, and the Fremont Unified School District Climate Literacy Network. Outside of conservation and climate literacy, he researches anthropogenic impact at Stanford and MIT.



### **Sarah Ranney**

Sarah Ranney has chaired the Sierra Club Bay Chapter's Climate Literacy Committee since 2017. She works with students, teachers, administrators and activists to create policy that ensures all high school students graduate with an understanding of our climate reality. This includes understanding that climate change is happening now, the impact and the policies surrounding it, and solutions to address it. She has taken part in the passage of successful Climate Literacy Resolutions in Oakland, Fremont, Berkeley, and LA Unified School Districts. In addition, she is working to advocate for state-level funding and support so that all students in California graduate climate literate.



Sarah lives in Berkeley, and serves on Berkeley's Environment and Climate Commission. She has two elementary-aged children and works for a digital marketing company.



### **Dr. Mary Ann Dewan**

Dr. Dewan is the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools. She is an award-winning educator who has served in education over 34 years in a variety of leadership roles. Dr. Dewan believes that all students deserve high quality, equitable, and inclusive education. She leads and serves on committees and boards to promote equity focused system's change at local, county, and state levels.

Dr. Dewan has received recognition for her youth focused advocacy work and for her commitment to serve the community. She is passionate about diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice.



### **Jillian Rodriguez M'Barki**

Jilliann Rodriguez M'Barki brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education to her role at Ten Strands where she leads fundraising, communications, and advocacy efforts. Her development career began at her alma mater Hofstra University, followed by 15 years at Columbia University in leadership roles in student affairs, research administration, constituent engagement, and events and programs. Jilliann received an MS in fundraising and nonprofit management and an EdM in higher and postsecondary education from Columbia University. She moved to the Bay Area in 2018 to join the UC Berkeley College of Letters & Science as the director of development for the natural sciences. Inspired by her son and the urgency of climate change, she made the transition to the K-12 public education sector by joining Ten Strands in early 2020.





### **Radhika Goel**

Radhika is a senior at Homestead High, and has been working on high school environmental literacy for 2 years. At her time in SVYCA, she has led the development of 2 climate curriculums that educate high schoolers on effective solutions to lowering emissions, sustainable careers, and youth advocacy. She's currently working with school staff to implement District Climate Action Plans. She believes in the power of strategic education, and loves to bike and watch movies.



### **Jorge Pacheco, Jr.**

Jorge Pacheco, Jr., along with his four sisters, was born and raised in San Jose to two amazing parents: his Maya-Korean father who came from a small Maya village in the Yucatan Peninsula and his Salvadoran mother who immigrated to the United States to escape the Salvadoran Civil War. He has served as a Native Studies/Spanish teacher in the Bay Area since graduating from UC Berkeley in 2013, worked to close the digital divide for Santa Clara County as the Digital Equity Specialist, and is proud to be back in the classroom as a public school teacher. As a Native Studies teacher and indigenous activist, he is passionate about decolonizing schooling and bringing indigenous values into education, which includes climate literacy and environmental justice. Jorge currently serves as Trustee for the Oak Grove School District (OGSD) Board of Education and President of the California Latino School Boards Association, where he leads an organization that represents and fights for Latino students and school board members across the state.





## Tara Sreekrishnan

Tara Sreekrishnan is a dedicated public servant who is passionate about empowering students to lead in the environmental sciences and impact policy. She brings professional experience across every level of local government: city, county, and state, with a focus on education, sustainability, and equity. Tara currently serves on the Santa Clara County Board of Education where she provides responsible fiscal oversight of a \$300 million budget and represents over 250,000 residents in Trustee Area 2 spanning all of Saratoga, Los Gatos, and Cupertino, as well as parts of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and San Jose. She is a Co-founder of the environmental nonprofit Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action and is currently a member of the Strong Start Coalition which works to strengthen early care, health, and education for newborns and children up to age 8 in Santa Clara County.

