

Friday, October 23, 2015 By [News Staff](#)

## “This Time It's Different” – Panel Discussion on the Paris Climate Talks

A lot is riding on the upcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris (COP21). On Oct. 29, students will have a chance to ask questions of a panel of experts and learn about what can and might be achieved in Paris. The event will begin with a discussion between three students and three professors, followed by open questions from the audience.



The Office of the Vice President for Sustainability Initiatives hosts a panel discussion on COP21.

Panelists include Vice President for Sustainability Initiatives and University Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy, Sherburne Abbott; Anthropology Professor, Peter Castro; and Geography Professor, Robert Wilson.

The panel, hosted by the Office of the Vice President for Sustainability Initiatives, convenes Thursday, Oct. 29, 7-9 p.m. in the Maxwell Auditorium. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Rachel May,

Sustainability Initiatives, 443-9726 or [sumay@syr.edu](mailto:sumay@syr.edu).

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# Student Led Forum

People's demand can take politics away from this issue, which is the greatest of our time.

On Thursday evening, discussions of the upcoming Climate Talks took place in Maxwell Auditorium where students and faculty members informed each other. In 2015, France will be hosting and presiding the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11), otherwise known as "Paris 2015" from November 30th to December 11th.

The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or COP21, will be held from November the 30th to December the 11th, 2015 on the Paris-Le Bourget site, bringing together around 40,000 participants in total – delegates representing each country, observers, and civil society members. It is the largest diplomatic event ever hosted by France and one of the largest climate conferences ever organized.

Countries are taking a non-binding bottom up approach, developing ambitious plans to reduce Co2 emissions. The momentum to achieve these goals is already in place in each of the individual participating countries. Students asked about the role of subsidies, the oil and gas industry as well as social justice impacts of climate change and how these issues will be addressed through the conference. Other influences such as the Pope's encyclical, Naomi Klein's work, and the role of indigenous people on the issue of climate were discussed.

The panelists included graduate student, Mike Petroni, joint Maxwell and ESF; Sherburne Abbott, Sustainability Science and Policy; Bob Wilson, Geography and Peter Castro, Anthropology.

The moderator and a student panelist, Rianne Parker, is a senior in mechanical engineering and student panelist, Sawyer Cresap, is a senior in policy studies and political science.

To learn more about real time plans coming in from around the world visit [MIT's Climate interactive](#).

Bob Wilson made an eloquent call for action to students to act now as citizens, begin to populate these events to learn more, as well as use them to mobilize like minded groups for change.

The results of these climate talks will be known when the keeling curve stops its upward trajectory.