OUT for Sustainability End-of-Year Newsletter

Greetings! 2023 for OUT4S has been jam-packed with fun and interesting developments. From the direction of our Communications Working Group, we hope to release newsletters every quarter. Be on the lookout for our next newsletter in March!

Read on for a call for new Board Members, upcoming events, and highlights from this year (January 2023 – December 2023).

Call for New Board Members

OUT for Sustainability is seeking new team members to help support our work: to provide a platform for co-creating climate resilience and environmental justice by and for LGBTQIA+ communities. We are particularly interested in applicants with experience with nonprofit governance as well as expertise in how climate change impacts LGBTQIA+ communities.

We want the board to reflect the work that we do. Therefore, we encourage applicants whose communities are directly impacted by climate change.

We ask that board members have the ability to commit 5-10 hours per month, including regularly scheduled board meetings (these currently occur on a biweekly schedule).

We are currently geographically focused on the United States, including support for territories and First Nations colonized by the United States. Our current board is primarily based on the East Coast and near the Great Lakes, so we are especially excited to see applicants from other geographies.

Interviews and recruitment will occur on a rolling basis.

Interviews and recruitment will occur on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

APPLY HERE

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Register today for the Creating Change Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana to join Out for Sustainability,Queers4ClimateJustice (Q4CJ), and climate justice organizers from across the country at our second annual institute on Queer Climate Justice!

January 17-21st at the Hilton Hotel Riverside

We are sponsoring a group of queer and trans activists from Puerto Rico to attend the conference to get access to the tools and training to continue to build queer resilience and fight for climate justice. We are proud to sponsor a second group to provide better access to the skills, frameworks, and connections that can help them continue, deepen, and spread the projects that they know their communities need first-hand.

Queer Climate Justice at Creating Change Conference January 17-21 in New Orleans, LA

CREATING CHANGE

We ask for in community support to help us remove financial barriers to accessing this historic queer movement space. In the coming months, Q4CJ supporters will be launching an online art auction to raise crucial funds. Please consider signing up to be a part of the community fundraising team and email queerecoproject@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you to Vanessa Raditz and Natalia Villarán Quiñones for their efforts for the Creating Change Conference.

OUT4S is proud to be a producer of the new documentary film, Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines. "Can't Stop Change" Through place-based interviews across Florida, the story shares stories of queer and trans resistance, resilience, and brilliance in the face of rising seas, stronger storms, and escalating state violence, uplifting the dreams, strategies, and joy of queer, trans, and two-spirit organizers.

Join several of the directors for Can't Stop Change for a screening of the film at a side-event to the Creating Change conference. Free admission, and open to the public.

Interested in organizing a screening of the film? Email queerecoproject@gmail.com

Watch Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines

The ECOSOC Partnership Forum is an annual event organized by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), where Governments, civil society, and the private sector come together to discuss innovative collaborations that accelerate the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Every year, the forum highlights a selected number of SDGs by bringing different stakeholders to speak about the progress, challenges, and gaps needed to accomplish these goals. For this edition, the segment for SDG 13 "climate action," will focus on the differentiated impacts of climate change on minority populations and the importance of inclusive and equitable partnerships.

The event is being coordinated by the UN Department for Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA), the UN United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the support of the Indigenous People Majority Group and the LGBTI stakeholder group. On behalf of the latter, OUT for Sustainability has been selected as its representative, providing its institutional experience and network.

In-person registration is open until January 12.

2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum January 30th in New York City, NY

REGISTRATION

In response to the call for inputs from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to develop an Analytical study on the impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, OUT for Sustainability has launched a global survey to collect the views and experiences of the LGBTQ+ people.

The results will become the basis for a collective submission to be presented by Queers X Climate and OUT for Sustainability. Through this exercise, we hope to build a compelling case that encourages the UN Secretary-General to include explicit references to the inputs provided through our submission that reflect the collective views of the participants and encourages Member States to act upon the report to ensure the protection of human rights of all sexual and gender minorities.

Survey responses are due by January 14th.

Collective submission for the UN Secretary-General Analytical study on the impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights of the LGBTQ+ people

SURVEY

OUT4S New Strategic Plan and Mission

We're proud to announce our new focus: providing a platform for co-creating climate resilience and environmental justice by and for LGBTQIA+ communities.

Following the leadership and principles of environmental justice and climate justice movements, OUT4S' new strategic plan is committed to four sub-missions:

Representation: OUT4S promotes equal representation, visibility, and recognition of LGBTQ2S+ folks in the climate movement and governance.

Participation: OUT4S builds capacity and readiness for LGBTQ2S+ grassroots organizations by providing fiscal sponsorship, connections, and resources.

Redistribution: OUT4S supports LGBTQ2S+ communities by promoting food, energy, and water security & land access through mutual aid, micro grants, and climate disaster risk management strategies.

Transformation: OUT4S aligns with movements for queer and transgender liberation and ecological justice, including calls for climate reparations, land rematriation, food sovereignty, and bodily autonomy.

Our efforts in these four sub-missions are highlighted below.

Year-End Highlights

OUT4S was proud to host a 12-person delegation to COP28 in Dubai, UAE, that included cis-, homo-, and trans-people from the United States, Uganda, Ghana, Germany, Mexico, and Egypt.

OUT4S also hosted a side event on queer climate action and resilience titled "Being Out for Sustainability: Voices of Resilience: Embracing Diversity in Climate Action." The event was a part of the Entertainment + Culture Pavilion on December 11th and included a sneak peek of Fire and Flood, our landmark documentary headed by Vanessa Raditz.

Board Member Diego de León also participated in the Global Gender Stocktake event, where he spoke on the importance of including the needs and experiences of sexual and gender minorities and equitable climate action and resilience that includes LGBTQ+ individuals.

This builds on the submissions Out4S submitted, one on technical inputs and one on the views for the output decision, in the context of the Global Stocktake – the first global assessment of the progress of the Paris Agreement –. Both documents focused on the different impacts of climate change on the LGBTQ+ community and the need and experience of sexual minorities related to climate action. A summary of the information provided was included in the UNFCCC Secretariat's report on the views on the output of the Global Stocktake.

Furthermore, we are thrilled to share that Out for Sustainability was formally admitted as an observer organization at COP28.

COP28 Delegation and Events

COP28 CLOSING

Stay look for the call for inputs to support Out4S's submission on the progress, challenges, gaps, and priorities in implementing the UNFCCC gender action plan and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change to be presented at the end of March 2024.

A huge thank you to Board Member Diego de León for all his work planning OUT4S-sponsored events and leading our delegation to COP28.

Board Members Leo Goldsmith and Diego de León were a part of WEDO's November webinar where they explored WEDO's Gender Climate Tracker (GCT), a tool that tracks gender-responsive climate action globally. The GCT's utility was discussed in the context of COP28 and in relation to the implementation of UNFCCC climate policy.

WEBINAR: THE GENDER CLIMATE TRACKER PLATFORM: A TOOL ON YOUR ROAD TO COP28

RECORDING

Members from OUT for Sustainability participated in a one-day in-person roundtable held at the CEC headquarters in Montreal, which brought together experts from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, + (LGBTQI+) communities and the CEC Secretariat to discuss priority actions and identify opportunities and challenges to promote the meaningful engagement of LGBTQI+ persons and to strengthen environmental conservation, the advancement of environmental justice and the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and perspectives at the North American level.

Thank you to Board Members Leo Goldsmith, Diego de León, and Natalia Villarán Quiñones for their attendance.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Roundtable October 20th in Montreal, Canada

EVENT DETAILS

OUT4S, alongside FEMA, Pacific Pride Foundation, and Fenway Health, hosted a webinar and learning session to present a new data analysis of the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey Natural Data Tables. The analysis found that LGBTQ+ disaster displacement is nearly 2x higher than cisgender, heterosexual displacement, and LGBTQ+ individuals are more likely to have negative experiences during and after disasters. In addition, the data analysis underscores how these experiences are associated with state governments with higher amounts of anti-LGBTQ+ policies.

This analysis further supports Chapter 15: Human Health and Chapter 28: Southwest [Wildfire Section] of the recently published Fifth National Climate Assessment, which both have short sections on Sexual and Gender Minorities.

Thank you to Board Member Leo Goldsmith for his efforts in this event and analysis.

Amplified Harm: LGBTQ+ Disaster Displacement Webinar and Learning Session

POLICY BRIEF

OUT4S is proud to sponsor a first-of-its-kind report on emergency management for LGBTQIA+ communities. The report comes out of two webinars hosted by OUT4S, FEMA Region 9, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center for Faith-based Organizations and Neighborhood Partnerships.

The report provides recommendations for how emergency responders and faith-based organizations can incorporate LGBTQIA+ considerations into their work around preparedness and mitigation as well as recovery and response.

Thank you to Board Member Leo Goldsmith for organizing the webinars and writing this extensive report.

Inclusive and Equitable Emergency Management for LGBTQIA+ Communities Report

REPORT

OUT4S is elated to join the UNEP as an accredited observer. Accreditation is the main entry point for Major Groups and Stakeholders into policy dialogue at UNEP. Accredited organizations have the ability to participate in Regional Consultation Meetings, receive and provide comments on UNEP working documents, and participate in public Meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Acting on its new status, OUT4S has actively engaged in discussions pertaining to the international negotiation committee to develop a legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution. Read our submission on the principles for the agreement here.

OUT4S obtained observer status to the United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEP

A huge thank you to Board Member Diego de León for his work on this partnership.

OUT4S joined the 1% for the Planet Environmental Partners Network

1% for the Planet

The 1% for the Planet Environmental Partners Network is a group of vetted organizations working towards a wide array of solutions, from climate justice and urban infrastructure to gender equality; indigenous land rights to supply chain sustainability; conservation policy to environmental education, and beyond. OUT4S joins more than 6,300 partners in 112 countries working to build a healthier and more vibrant future for our planet.

Thank you to Board Member Kyle Gray for his leadership on this partnership.

OUT4S at 15 and Plastic Free Pride

As a part of OUT4S' Pride festivities, we launched a new social media campaign: OUT4S at 15! For the past 15 years, OUT4S has been a leader in mobilizing the LGBTQ2S+ community for social and environmental action, in pursuit of a fabulous planet. For the next 15 years, we hope to continue our efforts while shifting to be a more inclusive organization that better meets the needs of the LGBTQ2S+ community.

OUT4S at 15 also included a #FlashbackFriday of posts from #PlasticFreePride, a staple event for our organization. We reshared graphics from our archive to celebrate how far we have come and to reflect on the progress our organization has made for the environment and the planet.

Alongside Queers4ClimateJustice, we highlighted two organizations as a part of our #PlasticFreeCampaign: LaBoriVogue and Museo del Reciclaje. OUT4S posted photos and videos of both organizations & highlighted the ways in which they #reuse or #recycle plastic waste.

818 Tequila Pride Partnership

818 Tequila

As a part of our ongoing Pride festivities, OUT4S partnered with 818 Tequila, a Certified B Corporation that emphasizes the Earth's importance in all they do. 818 donates 1% of their gross annual revenue to environmental partners through their 1% for the Planet membership.

818 graciously donated to OUT4S to sustain our organization and to allow us to continue our ongoing partnerships. The organization also held a fundraiser event in Brooklyn, NY with proceeds donated to OUT4S, and shared our mission on their social media accounts.

Thank you to Board Member Jan Joho for his leadership on this partnership.

Board members Leo Goldsmith and Brandon Rothrock were a part of GRID Alternatives' Pride GRID talk on the intersection of LGBTQ+ rights and environmental justice. The conversation was well attended and unpacked how climate policy, environmental injustice, and geography can lead to LGBTQ+ disparities.

GRID Talks: People, Planet, & PRIDE Roundtable

GRID Talk Recording

Board member Brandon Rothrock was a part of Edison Energy's first-ever Pride-in-Power roundtable event, live from The Stonewall Inn in New York City. The panel discussed the queering of environmental justice, shifting the narrative across the energy sector, and creating an LGBTQ+ community of energy professionals and advocates to address challenges and barriers specific to the LGBTQ+ community.

Edison Energy Pride-in-Power Roundtable

Roundtable Recording

Out for Sustainability formally joined the Equal Rights Collation (ERC) 2030 agenda working group, as well as the Gender and Environmental Data Alliance (GEDA), where we will continue to work on mainstreaming the needs and experiences of the LGBTQ+ population across global climate action.

OUT4S joins global networks

We at OUT4S thank you for your support in our ongoing efforts to create lasting change within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Learn more about our efforts at out4s.org

View in browser

Our mailing address is:
4411 1st pl NE #5
Washington, DC 20011

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