

OUT for Sustainability

Quarter 1 2024

Newsletter

Greetings! The first quarter of 2024 was filled with many exciting updates and happenings at OUT for Sustainability.

Read on for our organizational updates! The next OUT4S newsletter is slated for July 2024.

OUT for Sustainability Website

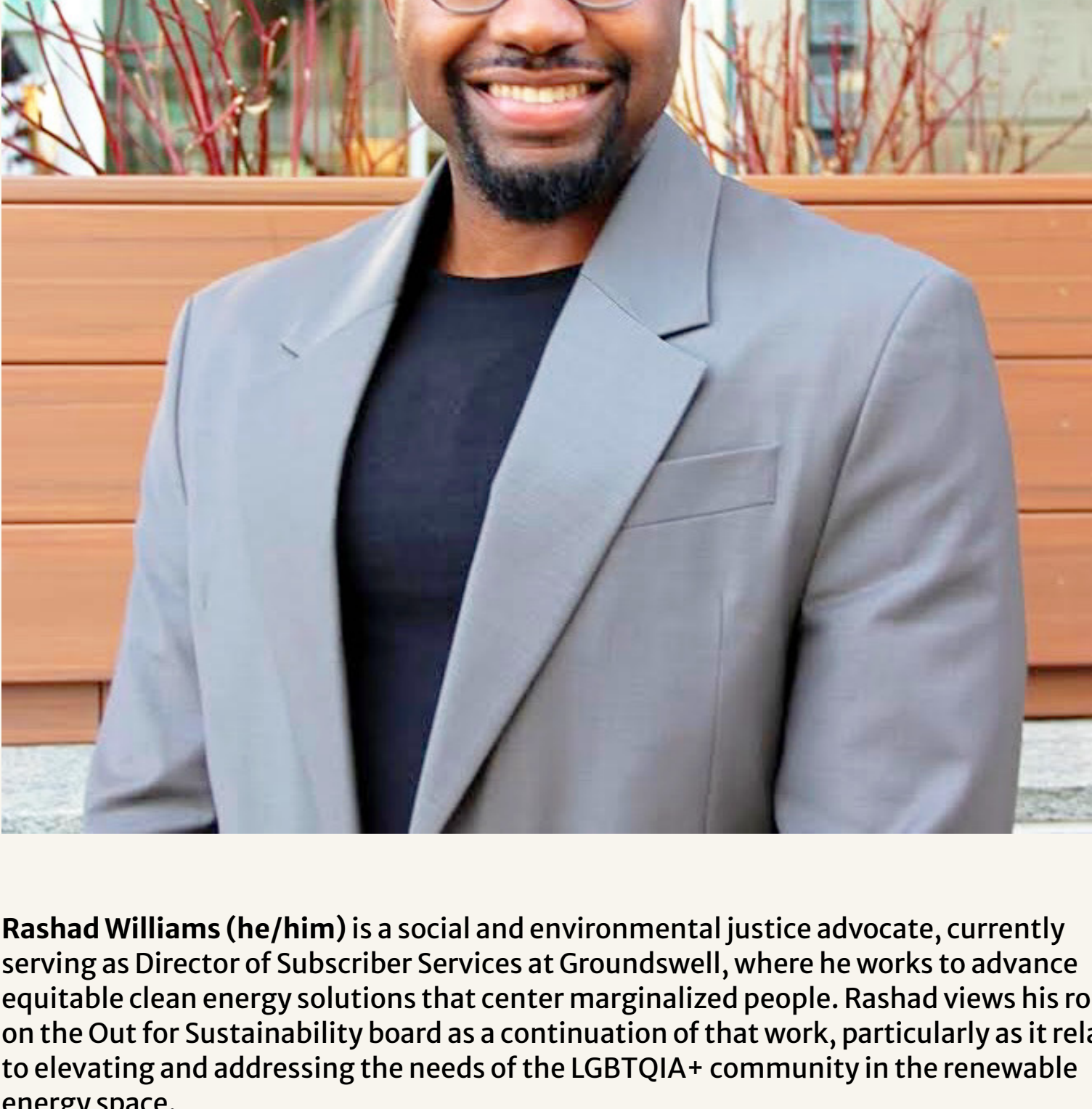
Welcome to our new Board Members!

Over the past few weeks, OUT4S has been looking for new Board Members to further our mission and the longevity of the organization. Please give a warm welcome to Joe Toolan, Rashad Williams, and Diana Wilkinon.



Joe Toolan (he/him/el) serves as Justicia & Equidad Fund Manager at GreenLatinos, an active comunidad of Latino/a/x leaders emboldened by the power and wisdom of our culture, united to demand equity and dismantle racism. His team will award almost \$14 million USD in funding in 2024 to projects enhancing urban tree work in Latinx communities and provide support to urban sustainability initiatives nationally. He has a background in philanthropy, community stewardship, behavior change, and building capacity of individual organizations and networks of nonprofits. He earned his Bachelor's in Geographical Sciences with a concentration in Environment Systems and Natural Resource Management from the University of Maryland, College Park and an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University.

Joe, born in Guatemala, was adopted in the 90s and grew up in Maryland. He identifies as a queer, latine, indigenous, transracial international adoptee (and adoption educator) and environmentalist. Joe is the Chair of Annapolis Pride, a Commissioner on the State of Maryland Commission for LGBTQIA+ Affairs where he served as the first Chair from 2021-2023, a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program, a Planning Committee Member for the Naturally Latinos Conference and the Chesapeake Watershed Forum and serves as a mentor in the Young Professionals of Color program with the Choose Clean Water Coalition. Joe also serves on the board of Adoptees with Guatemalan Roots.



Rashad Williams (he/him) is a social and environmental justice advocate, currently serving as Director of Subscriber Services at Groundswell, where he works to advance equitable clean energy solutions that center marginalized people. Rashad views his role on the Out for Sustainability board as a continuation of that work, particularly as it relates to elevating and addressing the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community in the renewable energy space.

Rashad provides strategic direction, project governance, and general program oversight to Groundswell's subscriber services delivery. He coordinates day-to-day operations among the customer support, communications, and data analytics program elements. Highlights of his work include leading product development for Groundswell's proprietary SharePower™ subscriber management platform, facilitating contract execution and compliance with solar developers, ensuring adherence to local regulatory statutes, and managing program financials.

A native of Atlanta's south side, Rashad attended Georgia State University, earning a master's degree in public policy and a bachelor's in sociology. When he's not working to identify solutions that benefit marginalized communities, you can find him reading a good book, discovering new ways to stay active, or traversing the Washington, D.C., food scene.



Diana Wilkinon (she/her) leads BSR's Global Supply Chain Practice in New York City, working at the intersection of social and environmental impact mitigation. As a native Californian committed to protecting the environment, she has been working in the sustainability space for 15 years on issues ranging from carbon neutrality and plastics reduction strategies to labor rights advocacy in factories. Diana is extremely excited to focus her sustainability experience toward the queer community as a member of the Out for Sustainability Board.

A dual citizen of the US and Switzerland, Diana received her MBA in Environmental Management and Policy from The George Washington University School of Business (getting to finish her studies in France) and a BA in Economics from Bates College. Diana speaks Spanish and French and in her free time, you can find her on the soccer pitch or anywhere near the water with her dog.

Pride Month 2024

As Pride Month is quickly approaching, you or your organization may be interested in hosting a webinar, roundtable, or other event at the intersection of climate resilience and environmental justice.

Our Board Members at OUT4S are open to speaking engagements on topics such as 2SLGBTQIA+ health, queer activism, and more. Feel free to email the Board at info@out4s.org or reach out to us on our LinkedIn page.

Quarter 1 Highlights



Queer Climate Justice Institute at Creating Change

Creating Change 2025

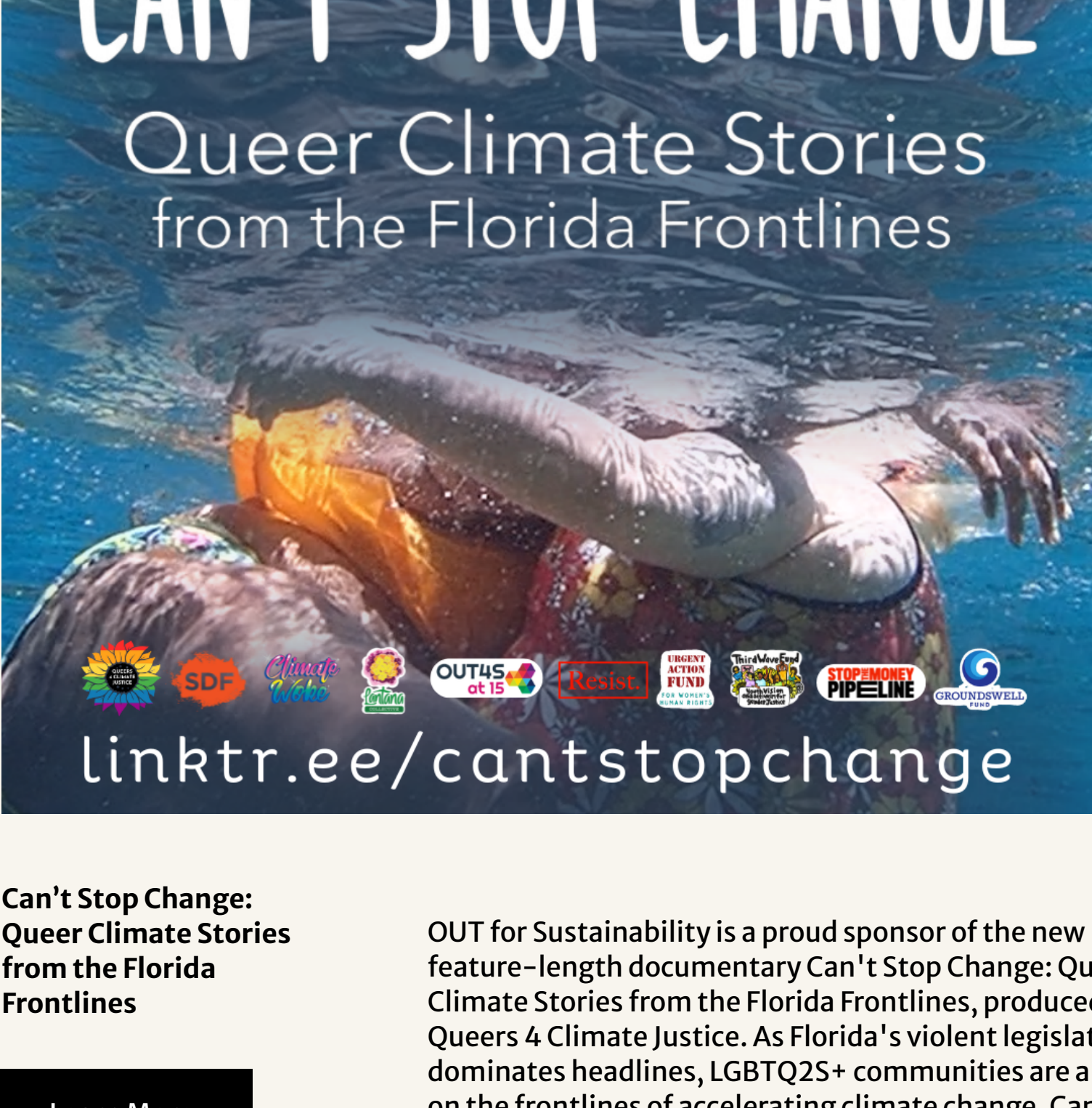
For the second year in a row, OUT for Sustainability coordinated a Day-Long Institute on Queer Climate Justice at the National LGBTQ Task Force's Creating Change conference, the foremost political, leadership, and skills-building conference for the LGBTQ movement in the United States. This represents a significant step towards climate justice organizing within the national LGBTQ+ movement.

This Institute is a core part of our Oready initiative, allowing us to raise awareness within our movement that LGBTQ+ people, especially QTBIPOC and people with disabilities, are among those communities hit first and worst as climate chaos escalates. At the same time, LGBTQ+ people also have a unique knowledge of what it takes to change, and survive. This workshop creates space for frontline organizers and others in the LGBTQ+ movement ecosystems to discuss community responses to recent environmental disasters and unpack our role in the Just Transition towards life-affirming economies for people and planet.

To ensure that this training reaches some of those who need it the most, OUT4S coordinated with our first fiscally-sponsored project, Queers for Climate Justice, to sponsor a group of queer and trans activists from Puerto Rico to attend the conference. The line-up of speakers also included deeply-rooted New Orleans-based organizations, including Imagine Water Works, as well as others from across the Gulf South sharing the tools and training to continue to build queer resilience and fight for climate justice.

Mark Your Calendar: The Task Force has announced the next Creating Change conference will be January 22-26, 2025 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and we intend to continue supporting this vital institute.

Thank you to Vanessa Radtze and Natalia Villarán Quiñones for their amazing efforts at Creating Change this year! And congratulations to next year's leadership: Andy Escobar from Coalition for Environmental Equity and Resilience, and Genesis Granados from Air Alliance Houston!



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

Learn More

OUT for Sustainability is a proud sponsor of the new feature-length documentary Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines, produced by Queers 4 Climate Justice. As Florida's violent legislation dominates headlines, LGBTQ2S+ communities are also on the frontlines of accelerating climate change. Can't Stop Change weaves interviews with 14 LGBTQ2S+ artists, organizers, and educators across Florida (and the new Florida diaspora) into an intersectional climate justice narrative.

Can't Stop Change is now available for educational and community screenings. As part of the film's commitment to organizing in Florida, Florida-based groups are invited to screen the film for free. The film is available for groups outside of Florida through Kinema using a sliding scale licensing fee model, with no one turned away for lack of funds. Screening hosts will receive a resource guide featuring screening tips, curriculum suggestions, discussion questions, and so much more. Members of the production team and film collaborators are also available to speak at screenings.

Visit linktr.ee/cantstopchange or contact queerccproject@gmail.com to bring Can't Stop Change to your community.



The Just Solutions Podcast: Rooting the Transition to EVs in Environmental Justice

Podcast

Guest: Leo Goldsmith

Climate & health scientist and doctoral student at the Yale School of the Environment

Analyzing Climate Impacts on 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities with Leo Goldsmith

(Hosted by Idalmis Vaquero)

In this episode, we analyze the intersection of 2SLGBTQIA+ identity and climate justice, exploring the unique vulnerabilities and potential opportunities for policy intervention for these communities.

Listen on: [Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, YouTube, etc.]

www.justsolutionscollective.org

Agents of Change in Environmental Justice (AoC-EJ) Fellowship Recipient

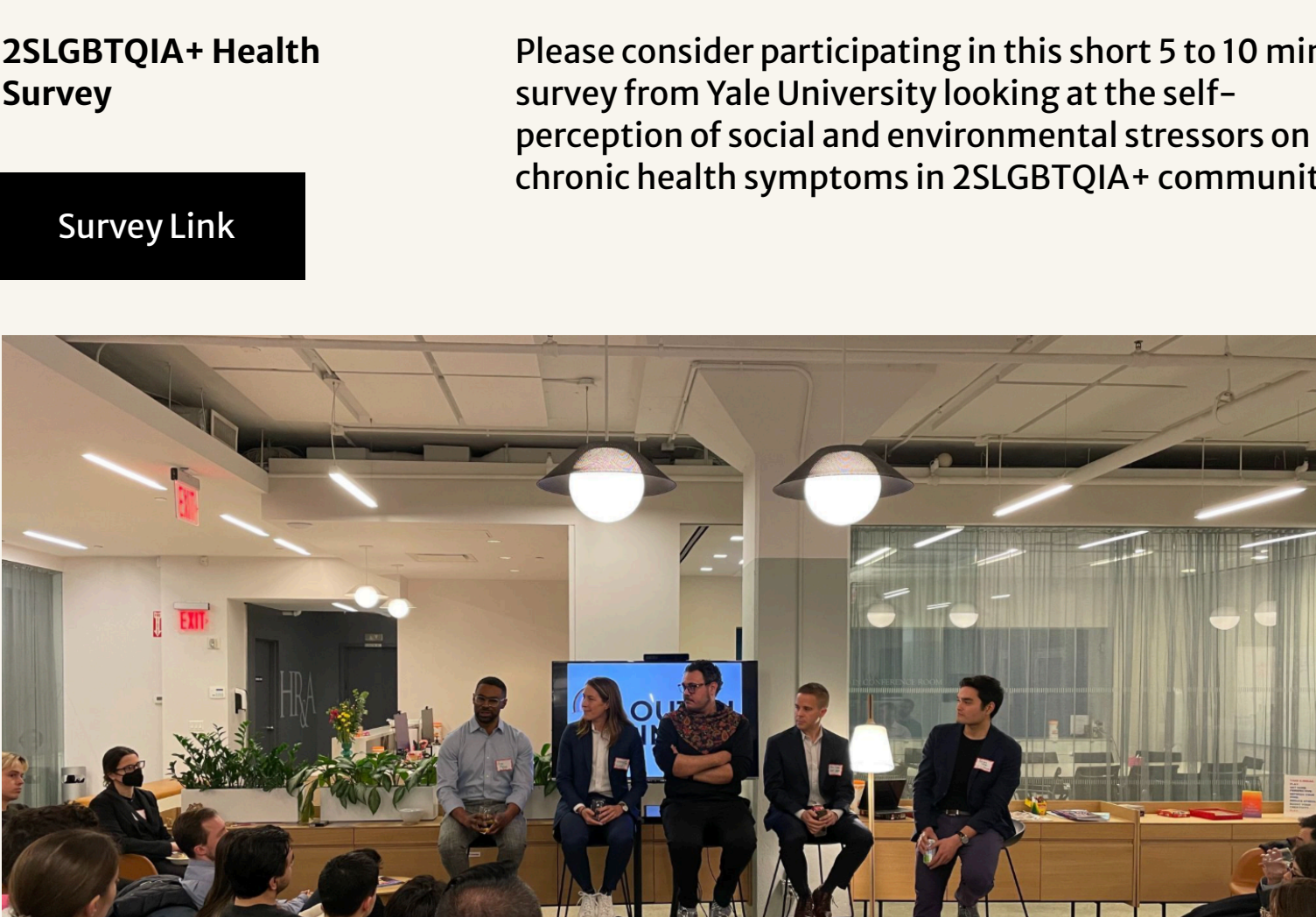
AoC-EJ

Board Member Brandon Rothrock was recently named an Agents of Change in Environmental Justice (AoC-EJ) fellow for their fifth cohort. The fellowship is in collaboration between Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and Environmental Health News.

2SLGBTQIA+ Health Survey

Survey Link

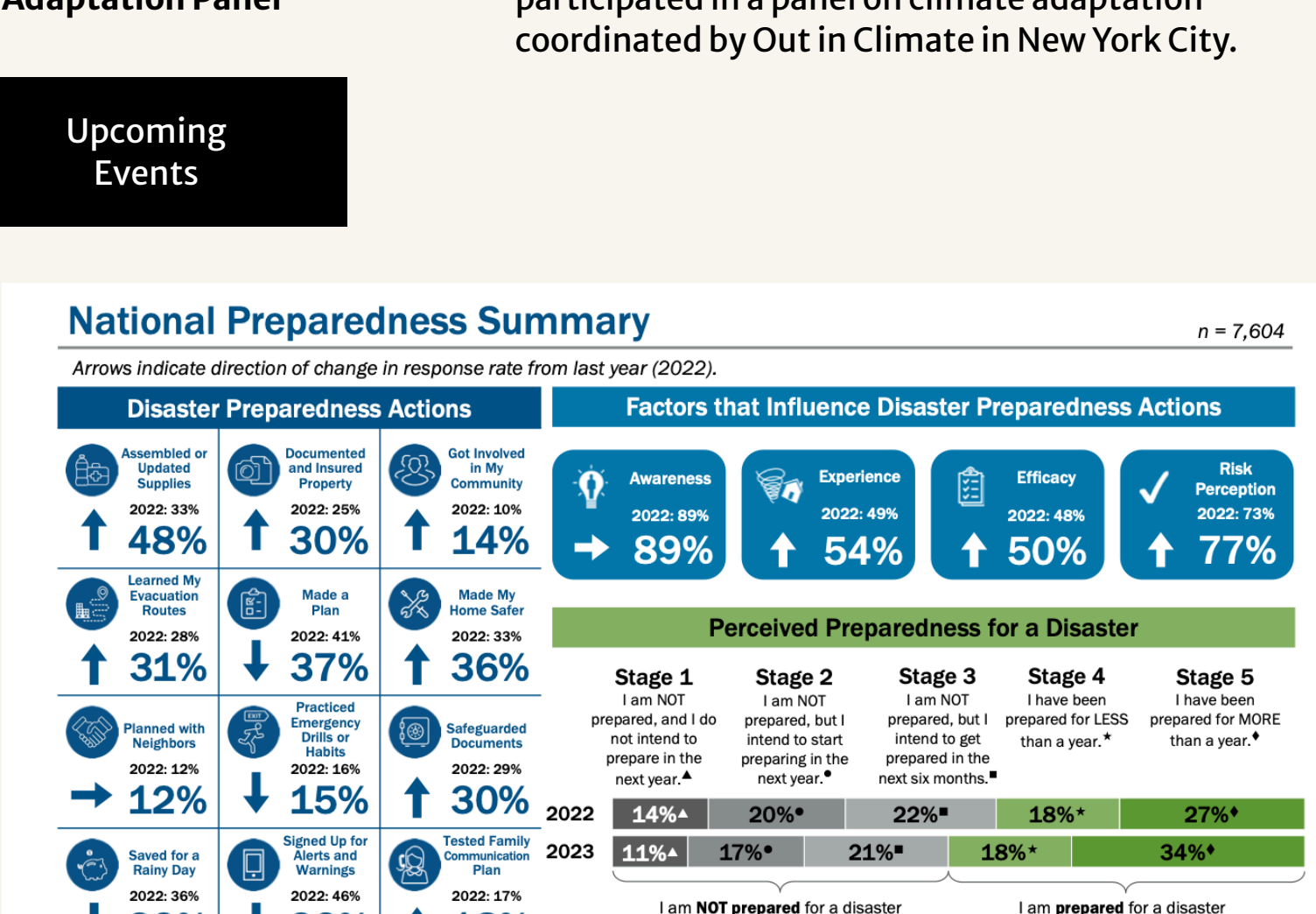
Please consider participating in this short 5 to 10 minute survey from Yale University looking at the self-perception of social and environmental stressors on chronic health symptoms in 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.



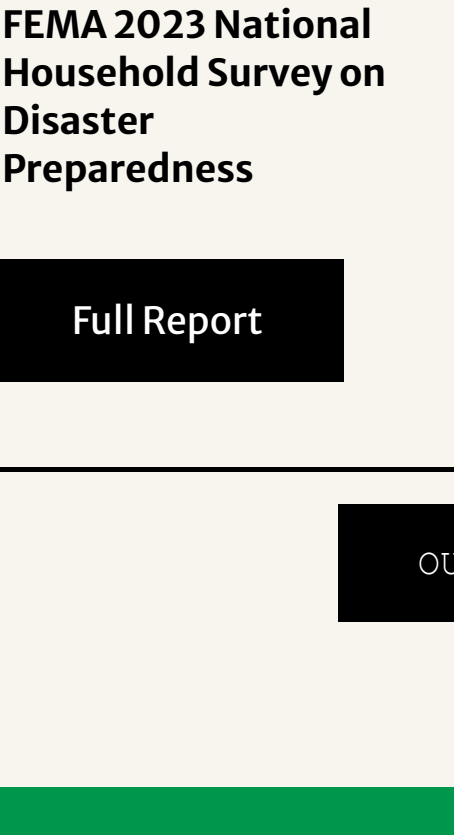
Out in Climate Adaptation Panel

Upcoming Events

Board Member Diego de Leon Segovia recently participated in a panel on climate adaptation coordinated by Out in Climate in New York City.



OUT for Sustainability Website



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

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Washington, DC 20012

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