

GPSS

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



GPSS Science and Policy Summit



The Summit will be held Friday, May 13th in the UW Tower:

Time	Session
8:30 - 9:00	Doors Open: Light Breakfast
9:00 - 9:30	Introduction and Opening Remarks: University Speaker TBD Sarah Reyneveld, GPSS President Charles Plummer, Summit Co-Chair
9:30 - 10:45	Health Panel: Protecting Our Water
10:45 - 11:15	Student Presentations of Research (2)
11:15 - 12:30	Natural Resources Panel: Washington Ecosystems: Mountains to the Sound
12:30 - 2:00	Lunch, Poster Session (co-sponsored by FOSEP) & Student – Legislator Mixer
2:00 - 3:15	Built Environments Panel: Transportation and the Modern Society
3:15 - 3:45	Student Presentations of Research (2)
3:45 - 5:00	Energy Panel: Washington State’s Commitment to Alternative Energy
5:00-5:15	Coffee Break
5:15 - 6:15	Keynote Lecture (Edward L. Miles) and Presentation of Resolution

HEALTH – Protecting our Water

Clean water is essential for good health. However, water can carry toxins and harmful micro-organisms if not properly protected. The citizens of Washington State rely on laws, public oversight, and informative research to ensure the continued availability of safe water. This is just as true for communities around the Puget Sound as it is for the Columbia Valley, state, and nation.

Currently, our state and region are challenged by excess accumulation of pharmaceuticals in drinking water, toxins in shellfish created from harmful algae, and pesticides runoff. Addressing these challenges to our community's water and health requires good communication between researchers investigating solutions and the policymakers that enact them. The Summit's Health Panel will explore the science behind these water issues, the policies that ensure safe water resources, and how research can help support these policies.

NATURAL RESOURCES – Washington Ecosystems: Mountains to the Sound

The diverse ecosystems of Washington State provide a wealth of benefits to individuals, communities, and the state economy. These include mountains, forests, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and the Pacific Ocean. These ecosystems are all connected by water, providing vital resources throughout: originating in the terrestrial environment, water travels downstream to larger water bodies, and returns upstream through evaporation and subsequent precipitation.

What are the scientific and policy mechanisms by which we determine the value of these different resources and services for stakeholders? What is the interplay between function and management of resources? How does that interplay affect the quality of resource extraction while ensuring continued conservation? The Summit's Natural Resources Panel will discuss these questions in the context of Washington State's ecosystems.

BUILT ENVIRONMENTS – Transportation and the Modern Society

Transportation infrastructure is at the heart of our modern society. Transportation is critical to personal mobility, environmental sustainability, energy use, as well as global and local commerce. Following global trends, Washington State will see large shifts in population while dealing with ever increasing energy costs. Consequently, transportation will play an ever-increasing role in defining society.

These challenges will be the backdrop for a conversation by the Summit's Built Environments Panel. Issues such as defining smart growth and evaluating the obstacles to implementing or sustaining smart transportation strategies will be central to the discussion. Further, intersections between culture, perceptions of standard of living, and transportation modes/strategies will be explored while tackling the above issues.

ENERGY – Washington State's Commitment to Alternative Energy

Washington State has long held the advancement of renewable and non-carbon based energy sources as a priority. This can be seen by our membership in the Western Climate Initiative as well as numerous laws encouraging the production of clean energy and the development and expansion of energy alternatives. In 2006, the people of the state passed Initiative 937 requiring a mandatory portion of their energy mix comes from renewable sources. With such a rich legacy of making cleaner, more sustainable energy priority it is appropriate that Energy be a focus of this summit.

The Summit's Energy Panel will explore the status of alternative energy policy, resource development, and the viability and implementation of energy sources. These alternative energy issues will be discussed in the context of evaluating WA State's progress toward achieving its alternative energy goals.