

PEWS Annual Report: 2024-2025 Academic Year

This past academic year, the Center for Public Engagement with Science (PEWS) is proud to have organized a variety of events and outreach initiatives, increased student opportunities, further developed our website and communication strategy, and expanded our reach on social media.

PEWS by the numbers

This year, we accomplished:

- **18** sponsored events
- **680** total people reached through main events
- **46** students involved in PEWS courses, workshops, and internships
- **7** new faculty affiliates (now a total of **29** affiliates across **8** colleges)
- **3** new internship programs
- **8** new community partners (now a total of **28** partners)
- **26,000+** unique visitors to our website
- **841** email subscribers
- **77** YouTube videos, **196** channel subscribers, and over **13,440** video views
- **7.2K** Instagram views, **11.5K** views on Facebook

Events

PEWS hosted or co-sponsored **18 events** this year, from a panel discussion on truth in science and journalism, to climate justice webinars, to school field trips.

- **Reporting on Science in an Era of Information** – this panel brought together scientists and journalists for a discussion on how news media cover scientific topics

in an era plagued with misinformation and disinformation (organized by faculty affiliate Jenny Wohlfarth)

- **UC-UJ Climate Justice World Cafe webinar** - an international and interdisciplinary conversation between scholars at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Johannesburg (organized by faculty affiliate Charlie Trott)
- **Changing How People Think and Act on Climate Change** – in this public-facing lecture, presenter Matthew Goldberg from the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication discussed climate change communication opportunities, success stories, and tools for thinking about how we generate the understanding and motivation needed to address climate change (organized by faculty affiliate Abel Gustafson)
- **UC-Bordeaux Climate Justice World Cafe** – an international and interdisciplinary conversation between scholars at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Bordeaux (organized by faculty affiliate Carlie Trott)
- **Sustainability@UC Week** – PEWS was proud to serve as one of the key organizers of this expanded event, which included over 20 events and 2 campaigns for UC faculty, students, staff, and the Greater Cincinnati community. As part of the week, we also hosted the following events:
 - **My Green Labs Webinar** – an informational webinar on creating a culture of sustainability in the lab
 - **Faculty Collaborative Grant Planning** – an opportunity for faculty to meet to discuss opportunities for interdisciplinary sustainability-related grant collaboration.
 - **Sustainability Educators' Lunch** – a chance for UC faculty to share ideas, discuss potential collaborations, and consider how best to respond to student interest in sustainability-related courses (organized by faculty affiliates Eduardo Martinez and Andrew Bernier)
 - **Public Lecture by Niall Kirkwood** – talk *titled Beyond Brownfields: Nature, Design and Urban Regeneration in the Post-Industrial Landscape* (organized by faculty affiliate Sangyong Cho)
 - **R&D (Research and Discussion) with Niall Kirkwood** – a more intimate discussion with Niall Kirkwood after his public lecture the day before

- **Grad Sustainability Mixer and Celebration** – a celebration and meet-up for sustainability-inclined graduate students (organized by PEWS Sustainability Fellows Stephanie Lam and Madison Gaetano)
 - **Prix Jeunesse Film Screening Event** – film screenings of children’s sustainability television from around the world (organized by PEWS Faculty Affiliate Nancy Jennings)
- **CANS Field Trip to UC** – PEWS welcomed 70 kids from grades 5th and 6th to UC, with 4 departments plus UC Admissions involved in running hands-on activities.
- **Science and Civic Responsibilities** – a 3-part symposium series that engaged community members in discussions about the responsibilities of scientists, policymakers, and citizens (organized by faculty affiliate Eduardo Martinez in collaboration with A2 Ethics)
- **The Artists & Art of the Atlas: Cincinnati’s Foodshed Event** – this exhibition celebrated the creatives behind the *Cincinnati’s Foodshed: An Art Atlas* project, and included a panel discussion with some of the artists (co-organized with Green Umbrella & The Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council and the UC College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services, and Information Technology (CECH)’s Office for Innovation & Community Partnerships)
- **Studio Kroner Sustainability Panel** – a panel discussion on how science, art, communication, and public engagement can come together to spark climate action and equity (organized with Studio Kroner)
- **Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit** – the largest sustainability conference in the Midwest; PEWS sponsored the second annual poster session.

Other Events

- Elevator Pitch workshop
- Coffee and Donuts for graduate students
- Tabling at Grad Student Fair, Graduate College CoLabEx event, Discovery in Action, Grad College Orientation, Springfest (Burnet Woods), Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit
- Spring Affiliate and Partner Happy Hour
- Advising for the 3-Minute Thesis Competition for UC Graduate Students

Ongoing Activities

- **FCC Foundation Science fieldtrips at the stadium** – developing materials for a series of activities for elementary students on understanding science through sport
- **Cincinnati Environmental Theatre project** – in partnership with a local theatre educator, this program works with students at the School for the Creative and Performing Arts to bring local environmental stories to life through theatre
- **Science Harvest** – a monthly initiative which brings hands-on science activities to families at the Northside Farmer’s Market
- **R&D (Research and Discussion) Group** – a weekly meeting to discuss topics related to public engagement with science, open to all UC community members
- **Science Fair project** – an outreach initiative for 5th and 6th graders at CANS, which explores science and works with students toward a “showcase” project on a science topic of their own choosing (organized by Curriculum and Pedagogy Director Melissa Jacquart)
- **Sustainability Leadership Group meetings** – a monthly meeting of faculty affiliates working in sustainability
- **Public engagement or sustainability project funding** -- PEWS provides funding and student support for faculty and graduate affiliates engaged in public engagement or sustainability projects.

Student Opportunities

- **Engaging Science course sequence** – a hands-on and interdisciplinary series on effective public engagement with science, open to all UC graduate students
 - Sharing Science Experience workshop (3 annually)
 - Public Engagement with Science course
 - Engaging Science Fellowship
- **Course credit for R&D (Research and Discussion) group** – undergraduate and graduate students can participate in R&D meetings for course credit.

- **Internships**
 - Science Harvest Intern
 - Web and Media Intern
 - Two Sustainability Fellows
 - FUSE Fellow
 - Editorial Assistant
 - Three FC Cincinnati Interns – New!
 - UHP Undergraduate Summer Intern – New!
 - Michelman Sustainability Internship – New!

- **Graduate Student Affiliation**

Research

- **Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) NSF Grant** - studying the effects of the Engaging Science Sequence, led by faculty affiliate Carlie Trott
- **Official launch of the Cambridge Elements series *Elements in Public Engagement with Science*** - Cambridge's first interdisciplinary elements series
- ***Public Engagement with Science: Defining the Project*** – written by Angela Potochnik and Melissa Jacquart. This first element sets the stage for the rest of the series.
- **“Doing Public Engagement with Science as a Philosopher of Science”** - written by Melissa Jacquart and Lucas Dunlap. Forthcoming in *Methods in Philosophy of Science: A User's Guide*. Edited by Adrian Currie & Sophie Juliane Veigl. MIT Press.

Grant Funding and Proposals (3 active grants, 2 submitted proposals)

- **FUSE** - Watzman, Mikheev, Jacquart, “Spin Gapless Semiconductors and Effective Spin Injection Design for Spin-Orbit Logic” – **National Science Foundation**, \$773,196, funded.
- **NSF IGE** – Potochnik, Jacquart, Crowley, Morehouse – \$500K, funded, in progress
- **Whiting Foundation** – Jacquart – Bringing Philosophy to Science Fairs - \$50K, funded, in progress
- **ArtsWave** – Hoffman, Brammer - \$1500, funded, in progress
- **Amgen** – PEWS leadership – K-12 Summer School for Science Teachers - \$150K, submitted
- **NSF – Advancing Informal Science Learning** - Potochnik - \$150k, submitted January 2025

Support of Faculty Affiliate Projects

- **Carlie Trott** – continued funding for longitudinal study exploring the experiences of young climate justice activists
 - **Nancy Jennings** – funding for children climate change media project
 - **Braden Trauth** – sustainable agriculture project
 - **Sangyong Cho** – site planning workshops with UC and Groundworks
 - **Amy Townsend-Small** – project on methane emissions in Cincinnati gaslights
- PEWS also plays a supporting role in 6 additional NSF grant submissions totaling over 3 million dollars

Accomplishments and Recognition

- **Faculty Affiliate Amy Townsend-Small made Sustainability Provost Fellow (nominated by Angela Potochnik)** - August 2024
- **Carlie Trott named new PEWS Sustainability Director** – September 2024
- **Eduardo Martinez named PEWS R&D (Research and Discussion) chair** – September 2024
- **Cincinnati recognized as a Regional Center of Expertise (RCE)** - October 2024, led by PEWS Faculty Affiliate Andrew Bernier

Media Coverage

- September 10th, 2024: UC News, [*Advocating for Science in the Misinformation Age*](#)
- October 17th, 2024: UC News, [*Reporting on Science in an Era of Misinformation*](#)
- February 18th, 2025: Fox19, [*Kids learn about science, engineering majors at UC*](#)
- February 19th, 2025: UC News, [*Children Learn about UC Science, Engineering Majors During Visit*](#)
- April 16th, 2025: Cincinnati Magazine, [*Shedding a Little Light on Cincinnati's Gaslights*](#)