

TUESDAY, 14 JUNE 2022 **TED WORLD THEATER** **330 HUDSON STREET, NEW YORK CITY**

11am ET: Doors open
12pm–2pm ET: Session
Invitation-only

It feels like an odd moment to gather for an optimistic event about climate. Wildfires, floods and heat waves have returned to a news cycle already filled with war, food shortages and a global energy crisis. But there are solutions. There is a realistic pathway towards a decarbonized world and a transformed economic system that we have tried to describe and highlight since we started TED Countdown three years ago.

Countdown is a collaboration between TED and Leaders' Quest. Together with many engaged partners, we have so far created over 100 TED Talks, supported nearly 1,000 TEDxCountdown events in 99 countries, helped climate organizations attract hundreds of millions

of dollars in funding and accelerate their trajectory, and made essential ideas more visible. After a dedicated climate session at TED2022 in Vancouver in April, this New York Session is our second event of the year. We will talk about plastics, minerals, carbon removals and electrochemical manufacturing. We will discuss environmental justice, the cost of the transition, and climate optimism; and we will explore how hip-hop may play a role in smuggling climate change messages into the cultural mainstream.

We are thrilled to have you with us. Welcome to TED Countdown's New York Session!



SPEAKERS



ZAHRA BIABANI

Climate activist, entrepreneur

Zahra Biabani is a Gen Z climate justice activist, sustainable fashion entrepreneur and writer focusing on encouraging environmental trends. She is a member of EcoTok, a climate education collective focusing on prompting climate action, with a reach of over 4 million people on social media. Her upcoming book is Climate Optimism: Climate Wins and Creating Systemic Change Around the World.

soulfulseedsblog.com | [@zahranurbiabani](https://www.instagram.com/zahranurbiabani)



SAMIR IBRAHIM

Climate entrepreneur

Samir Ibrahim is the CEO of SunCulture, a climate technology platform for emerging markets, which focuses on bringing affordable and renewable solar energy to smallholder farmers in Africa. He won the inaugural Pitch&Flow competition, a rap battle hosted by MC Lyte where emcees were paired with entrepreneurs to share ideas, solutions and social change messages using the global appeal of hip-hop.

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JAMES IRUNGU MWANGI

Strategist, social entrepreneur

James Irungu Mwangi is the co-founder of the Dalberg Group, a global collection of businesses working on realizing a more inclusive and sustainable world. James launched and built up Dalberg's presence in Africa and is now the organization's Group Executive Director. In 2021 he founded the Climate Action Platform for Africa, which works to identify, prioritize and realize Africa's climate action opportunities.

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MYVERSE

Artist

MyVerse (real name Natalia Pitti) is a proud Boricua/Panamanian/Florida native who believes music should resonate with you. She's a recording artist, songwriter, poet, battle rapper and humanitarian best known for winning an MTV VMA for a song protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline. She was also the first Latina cast member on MTV's Wild 'N Out. She strongly believes that we don't need to be limited to one form of expression.

myversewashere.com | [@MyVerse](https://www.instagram.com/MyVerse)



OLIVIA LAZARD

Environmental peacemaking expert

A researcher and peacemaking practitioner with experience in conflict zones, Olivia Lazard knows that the fights for peace and for climate action are one and the same. As visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe, she researches how to rebuild ecological integrity - the foundation for any other type of security - and the need for the European Union to adopt a new framework for ecological diplomacy in climate disrupted futures.

carnegieeurope.eu/experts/1858 | [@OliviaLazard](https://www.instagram.com/OliviaLazard)



KRISTEN WARREN

Artist

Kristen Warren is a jazz/neo soul singer from Melbourne, Florida. She has performed in many venues across the US East Coast, including SOFAR NYC, SOFAR Atlanta and Florida Music Festival. In 2021 she headlined the Space Coast Music festival. It is through her music that Kristen tries to uplift her listeners, encouraging them to "go for it, do it, be it!"

[soundcloud.com/kristenwarren](https://www.soundcloud.com/kristenwarren) | [@kristenwarrenmusic](https://www.instagram.com/kristenwarrenmusic)



PATRICIA VILLARRUBIA-GÓMEZ

Plastic pollution researcher, activist

Patricia Villarrubia-Gómez researches plastics pollution at global scale, addressing its impacts on Earth system processes, international policy and social movements. She is a PhD Candidate at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Her work has gathered early evidence of the ways that plastic pollution has taken humanity outside Earth's safe operating space, as defined by the planetary boundaries framework.

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YUVAL NOAH HARARI

Historian, author

Yuval Noah Harari is a historian, philosopher and the author of Sapiens, Homo Deus and 21 Lessons for the 21st Century. Considered one of the world's most influential global public intellectuals, he lectures as a professor of history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His current research focuses on macro-historical questions such as: What is the relationship between history and biology? Does history have a direction?

sapienship.co | [@harari_yuval](https://www.instagram.com/harari_yuval)



MIGUEL MODESTINO

Sustainable engineering researcher

Miguel A. Modestino is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at New York University (NYU) and the director of its Sustainable Engineering Initiative. His research group at NYU focuses on the development of electrochemical technologies for the incorporation of renewable energy into chemical manufacturing, with the goal of making industrial processes - especially petrochemical - greener and more sustainable.

miguelmodestino.com | [@mmodestino](https://www.instagram.com/mmodestino)



PEGGY SHEPARD

Environmental justice leader

Peggy Shepard is co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, based in New York. She has a long and successful history of combining grassroots organizing, environmental advocacy, and community-based participatory research to ensure that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment extends to all. She has been named co-chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

www.weact.org | [@weact4ej](https://www.instagram.com/weact4ej)

HOSTS



LOGAN MCCLURE DAVDA

Head of Impact, TED

Logan McClure Davda is Head of Impact at TED and co-founder of TED Countdown, the organization's first issue-specific initiative. On a previous tour at TED, Logan launched the TED Fellows program.



BRUNO GIUSSANI

Lead Curator, TED Countdown

Bruno Giussani is the Global Curator of TED and co-founder and Lead Curator of TED's climate initiative, Countdown. He joined TED in 2005 and has curated hundreds of TED Talks.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Everyone attending in person must provide proof of vaccination (full series + 2 weeks) before arriving and clear a rapid Covid-19 test, provided by TED, upon arrival at the event. Masks will be required throughout the event unless actively eating or drinking. KN95 masks will be available.

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