



Culture in brief: Environmental summit in Montclair



Volunteer Margy Schilling chats with Food Access Coordinator Lisa Martin at the City Green table, in the Third Acting Locally for a More Sustainable World Conference, networking for environmental issues with activists, businesses, and organization directors in the Montclair Public Library, Sat. Jan. 27, 2018. ADAM ANIK/FOR MONTCLAIR LOCAL

On Saturday January 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Madonna Hall, (Immaculate Conception Church) 30 North Fullerton Ave., the [Northeast Earth Coalition](#) presents the fourth “Acting Locally for a More Sustainable World Conference.” The event is free.

This event, say the organizers, is one of the largest environmental and community activist gatherings in northern New Jersey. About 45 different groups will be represented. At the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to meet community leaders and groups from northern and central New Jersey to network about environmental issues, including local food, sustainable communities, alternative transportation, renewable energy, clean air and water, and climate change activism.

[READ: SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE KICKS OFF THIRD YEAR IN MONTCLAIR \(2018\)](#)

Dr. Rachel Emas will be the keynote speaker. Emas is assistant director of the MPA program in the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) at Rutgers University–Newark. Her research interests include sustainability and sustainable development policy, public service education, and policy implementation. Emas has extensive international service experience as Executive Director of the International Commission on Accreditation of Public Administration Education and Training (ICAPA).

Montclair resident Professor Iain Kerr will also be a presenter at the conference. Kerr is a designer “working at the intersection of creativity, ecology, and emergent systems,” the organizers state in a release. His focus is on designing novel processes to transform seemingly intractable problems into problems worth having for worlds worth making. Kerr is the Co-Director of the MIX Lab at Montclair State University. The MIX Lab’s mission is to foster innovation at all scales, with a particular focus on disruptive and qualitative innovation. Iain regularly works as a consultant, lecturer, and workshop leader on ecology, creativity, innovation, and design (MIT, Harvard University, Columbia University, Parsons, Yale, CCA, and RISDI).

The Northeast Earth Coalition is a local non-profit organization that works at the community level to protect the environment and promote local sustainability and food security. For additional information, visit www.neearth.org

Location: