

Sustainable Practices Committee Statement on Anti-Racism

The Sustainable Practices Committee (SPC) at Barnard College stands in solidarity with the fight for justice and anti-racism, reaffirming our commitment to helping dismantle environmental racism. And we pledge that our actions will reflect this.

The fight for climate action is the pursuit of a new way of living and a new vision for humanity that is inextricably tied to the fight for a just society. The patterns of extraction and exploitation that shape our economy and lead to climate change are destroying communities of color in this country and around the world just as they are destroying the planet we call home.

There can be no real progress towards a sustainable future without dismantling structural racism and ending the violence against Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples.

The SPC is committed to expanding our work at the intersection of climate justice and anti-racism, while amplifying the voices of communities of color as we struggle to find solutions. Today's statements, protests, and actions must be part of a long-term commitment to change. We look forward to coming together to connect, engage, and build a more equitable society. For those struggling in these heartbreaking times, we want to say that we hear you, we see you, and we are here for you. And to everyone who is committed to a better tomorrow, we are fortunate to have a variety of resources available to us that will aid in our ongoing fight against inequity.

The structures that enable climate change and police brutality are one and the same, and can only be overcome when we take a stand together. Until we recognize broken and unjust systems for what they are and take steps to fix them, they will continue to cause suffering. All of us must work to enact these changes. The next phase of this monumental struggle starts today.

RESOURCES and OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION:

[Furman Counseling Center](#)

[Vice President of DEI Ariana González Stokas](#), [Barnard Center for Research on Women](#), and [Athena Center for Leadership](#) all have resources available.

[Barnard SGA](#), and SGA's [document](#) with resources to donate, to learn and to take action.

The Movement for Black Lives has called for a [week of action](#) in defense of Black lives.

Readings:

- [“Black Environmentalists Talk About Climate and Anti-Racism”](#) by Somini Sengupta

- ["Who Gets to Be Afraid in America?" by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi | Atlantic \(May 12, 2020\)](#)
- ["White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" by Knapsack Peggy McIntosh](#)
- [The 1619 Project | The New York Times Magazine](#)
- [Showing Up For Racial Justice's educational toolkits](#)
- [NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Statement](#)
- [Poll Black Americans and Climate Change EDF](#)
- [Study on the intersection of COVID19 and Climate Change impacts in minority communities](#)
- [Economic inequality and storm impacts](#)
- [Brookings inequality and storm impacts](#)
- [Environmental Justice and Hurricane Katrina](#)