



## Earth to Sky Academy 2021 – Course Announcement

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt MD

Date: Postponed until travel becomes safe in light of COVID-19

A tuition-free course for interpreters, informal educators, and science communicators interested in creating and nurturing regional communities of practice focused on improving climate science communication.

### About Earth to Sky <https://www.earthtosky.org>

The Earth to Sky Partnership nurtures and supports a growing community of interpreters, educators and scientists learning and sharing climate science and communication techniques. Our community develops interpretive and educational products and programs for use in refuges, parks and other place-based education sites. Membership is free and provides access to our professional development, archives, and valuable resources for effective science communication.

### About the Earth to Sky Academy

Earth to Sky (ETS) is developing [Regional Communities of Practice in Climate Communication](#), each of which is led by Regional Leadership Teams trained and mentored by ETS. The purpose of the Academy is to train these teams to conduct Regional Courses using the proven successful ETS methodology and to nurture a regional community of practice of climate communicators. Participants apply as teams of 3-5 individuals who have self-selected the geographic extent and primary audience for their region. Each team reflects a breadth of expertise drawn from a variety of agencies and organizations.



### Course Goals

Earth to Sky Academies create a network of ETS Regional Leaders who will:

- Catalyze, nurture, and sustain a regional community of practice of climate science communicators.
- Develop and conduct effective ETS-style professional development events in their region.
- Participate in the ETS Regional Leaders Network to further the mission of ETS.

## Course Structure

The Academy emphasizes experiential, collaborative learning in a collegial environment. The course provides opportunities to engage with scientists and communication colleagues; dedicated project time; and tools and support for hosting a Regional Course and nurturing a community of practice for effective science communication. There will be 4-6 hours of assigned pre-work to be completed prior to class start date.

### Academy topics include:

- Basic principles of effective adult education methodology
- Best practices in professional development reflected in the ETS training methodology
- Foundational climate science, including an introduction to Earth System Science as a contextual framework for climate science
- Tips on how to access NASA science, educational content, and expertise

## Benefits of Participation

- Professional growth as a leader in interpretation
- Stronger regional community of practice for climate science communication/interpretation
- Increased confidence and understanding of climate science and effective communication
- Increased confidence and skill in effective professional development methodology
- Access to and updates on NASA science, scientists, outreach specialists, and resources
- Guidebook with detailed tools, templates, checklists, and timelines for an ETS course
- Leave course with a plan and supporting resources to host an ETS Regional Course
- Participate in Regional Leaders network who support one another in course planning and community engagement
- Ongoing mentoring and infrastructure support from ETS Leadership
- Recognition as official ETS Regional Leader on the ETS website and listserv
- Letter of appreciation to supervisor
- Certificate of completion



## Who Should Apply?

Experienced informal educators and climate communication leaders (interpreters, education specialists, public affairs officers, etc.) from the private or public sector, who have a strong commitment to the ETS Partnership and to furthering climate literacy within their respective regions. A limited number of teams will be accepted.

Applicants must apply and attend as a team of 3 to 5 partners/collaborators from various agencies, non-profits, museums, learning centers, etc. At least one member of the team must have attended a previous ETS training event (course, mini-course, or workshop). If you need assistance connecting with those in your region, contact ETS Lead Geneviève de Messières.

## Participant Commitments

Upon successful completion of all Academy coursework, graduates will be designated Earth to Sky Regional Leaders. As such, they are expected to:

- Conduct a regional climate science and communication course using ETS methodology within 18 months to 2 years of graduation.
- Catalyze, nurture, and sustain a regional community of practice.
- Participate in the ETS Regional Leaders Network to further the mission of ETS.

## Earth to Sky Leadership Commitments

The ETS Leadership is responsible for developing and leading the Academy and for supporting Regional Leaders in their ETS Regional Course development. ETS Leadership will:

- Continue to mentor Regional Leaders and assist them with project management
- Cover their own travel expenses to attend and support Regional Courses
- Assist with recruitment and mentoring of Regional Course coaches
- Provide infrastructure (course website, listserv, Facebook, webinar infrastructure, etc.)
- Assist in identifying and recruiting NASA science presenters based upon Regional Course objectives and content needs
- Provide and analyze results from standardized evaluation instruments for Regional Courses
- Archive Regional Courses on the ETS website, including preliminary assignments, presentation slides, recordings of presentations, and references
- Facilitate opportunities for Regional Leaders to continue to learn and collaborate with one another via the ETS Regional Leaders Network

## Application Deadline Is Extended Indefinitely

**No Tuition. Travel expenses are the responsibility of participants and/or their institutions.**

[Download application form and supervisor's approval letter](#)

You can also view updates at that site and sign up to receive notifications.

Submit only one application package for your entire team.

## Informational Webinar for additional details and to answer questions

Featuring an overview of the Academy, the perspective of an Earth to Sky Regional Leader about the value of attending the Academy, and a Q&A session.

[View the webinar recording](#)

## Questions? Need connections in your region?

Send questions or requests to ETS Lead Geneviève de Messières:

[genevieve.demessieres@nasa.gov](mailto:genevieve.demessieres@nasa.gov)

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