

# God and Smog Program

## God and Smog: The Challenge of Preserving Our Planet

### Scholars and Religious Leaders Confront the Issues

**October 10, 2018**

**9 am - 5 pm**

**Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, Perry Pavilion**

Pay parking is available in Aggie Terrace and Big Blue Terrace.

<https://www.usu.edu/map/>



It is evident to scientists and university communities that the Earth's environment is in peril. What is less clear is how humanity ought to respond to this peril—a response that requires rigorous consideration of ourselves, our world, and how we might best live in relation to it. Among the most potent forces in shaping human behavior are the phenomena we collectively call “religion.” Both internationally and in our own region especially, religion deeply affects and is affected by our attitudes and behavior toward the environment.

This one-day symposium will consider the environment in relation to the perspectives and actions of five religious traditions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Mormonism, and Native American traditions. The morning panel will consist of scholars who study the interaction of religion and the environment, while the afternoon panel will

engage religious leaders who speak from the perspectives of their respective traditions.

### Conference Schedule

#### 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM: Welcome and Introductions

Introduction: Philip L. Barlow, Ravi Gupta, and Dominic Sur

Convocation: Darren B. Parry, Chairman of the Northwest Band of the Shoshone Nation

Setting the Scene: Alan Matheson, Executive Director, Utah Department of Environmental Quality

#### 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Session 1 Panel Academic Discussion of Religious Approaches to Ecology

Dr. Sue Darlington: Buddhism

Dr. David Haberman: Hinduism

Dr. Margaret Barker: Christianity

Dr. George Handley: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

#### 11:30 AM - 11:50 AM: Morning Break

#### 11:50 AM - 12:30 PM: Question and answer / discussion session

#### 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM: Break for lunch

#### 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Session 2 Panel Religious Leaders' Discussion

Lama Chönam Chöying Namgyal: Buddhism

Anuttama Dasa: Hinduism

Rev. Susan Woodward Springer: St. John's Episcopal Church. Presentation handouts: [Creation Care in Christian Denominations](#), [Episcopal Church 2018 Resolutions](#)

Elder Steven E. Snow: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**4:00 PM - 4:20 PM: Afternoon Break**

**4:20 PM - 5:00 PM: Extended question and answer/  
discussion session**

**5:00 PM - 5:10 PM: Conclusion of first inaugural God &  
Smog conference**



Alan Matheson and  
Darren Parry



Dr. David Haberman, Dr. Margaret Barker, Dr. George  
Handley, Dr. Sue Darlington



Anuttama Dasa, Rt. Reverend Bishop Carolyn Tanner  
Irish, Lama Chönam Chöying Namgyal, Elder Steven E.  
Snow