



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
GUND INSTITUTE
FOR ENVIRONMENT

Gund Theme on Justice and Equity

June 3, 2021

Dear Gund Community,

I'm pleased to share good news: The Gund Institute will add a new research theme that addresses environmental equity and justice.

The result of last month's straw poll by Gund Fellows was clear: 93% in favor of the proposed theme, 7% abstained, with zero votes against.

We also heard broad vocal support for the proposal, including many positive written comments from faculty, post-docs, graduate fellows, our external advisory board, and internal steering community.

We're actively planning next steps. Over the summer and into fall, we will:

- Continue to reflect on what we learned from you all engaging with the proposal this past year.
- Work to compile and understand the past, present, and future work of Gund researchers in this area.
- More specifically define how we will use this new theme to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion within Gund and beyond.
- Refine the theme title and description, and incorporate those into the [research themes](#) part of our website and elsewhere.

Many thanks for helping to shape this new exciting direction for the Gund Institute. As we chart this new path forward, we will be engaging you all as appropriate in these and other steps. But for now, I wanted to share this news before everyone heads into summer.

Thanks!

Taylor Ricketts

Director, Gund Institute for Environment
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