



# Less Than An Hour With ZERO HOUR ARKANSAS

September 16th - September 22nd edition

## HOW ARE HISPANIC AMERICANS AFFECTED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

With the start of Hispanic Heritage Month on September 15th, it is important to recognize how Hispanic Americans, along with those who identify as Latinx Americans, are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. As the largest ethnic minority group in the United States, many Hispanic Americans have experienced extreme weather conditions, food and water insecurity, high levels of air pollution, inaccessible health care, and other environmental issues. Statistically, 71% of Hispanic adults claim that the climate crisis is affecting their day-to-day lives, compared to 54% of non-Hispanic adults. Along similar lines, nearly 50% of Hispanic Americans live in counties that frequently violate clean air and ozone standards. In the mid-1800s, large populations of Hispanic Americans immigrated to California during the Gold Rush and began their lives as farmworkers and laborers. With this overrepresentation of Hispanic farmers, around 83% of all Hispanic adults, in hot, arid parts of the United States, it is evident how the Hispanic population is correlated with climate-related issues.

Statistics from *The Intersectional Environmentalist* by Leah Thomas

## STUDENTS WITH HISPANIC HERITAGE SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

**Amelia Southern-Uribe**, the president of Zero Hour Arkansas, shared:

“As the daughter of a Colombian immigrant, I recognize that Hispanic Heritage Month is not about whitewashing our experiences, but rather acknowledging our struggles and seeking paths to liberation. Latino communities face heightened vulnerability to climate change impacts due to a complex interplay of geographic, socioeconomic, and systemic factors. Many of us reside in areas susceptible to extreme weather events, from coastal regions threatened by hurricanes and rising seas to urban heat islands where temperatures climb dangerously high during heatwaves. Our communities often lack the resources and infrastructure to adapt to these changes, leaving us more exposed to the health and economic consequences of a warming planet.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SCREENPRINTING PARTY

**OCTOBER 6th** Stop by between 12pm-5pm at the Library Vintage, off of Township, to screenprint your own ZHA merch. You can bring your own t-shirts, tote bags, etc. or use one provided by us. This event is a collaboration between local screenprinters Colleen Hill and Kayla Smith and the Sustainable Fashion Club.



### GENERAL BODY MEETING

Our October general body meeting date and location is still being determined. Tentatively, it is October 7th at 5:15pm. Please stay on the lookout for concrete details!



## GET INVOLVED

If you have not yet and would like to, please submit your applications by September 16th at midnight.

### ZHA EXECUTIVE APPLICATION

We are looking for five of individuals to join our team! Sign up with the link above!

### 2050 CREATIVE COALITION APPLICATION

We are looking for creative individuals to create graphics, banners, decorations, etc. for our largest event of the year, 2050.

In Northwest Arkansas, the environmental toll of industrial meat production is inextricably linked to labor issues facing immigrant communities, creating a multifaceted crisis of social and ecological dimensions. Tyson Foods, the region's dominant employer, relies heavily on immigrant labor while its operations contribute significantly to water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This situation exemplifies how environmental degradation and labor exploitation often go hand in hand, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities. The statistics are alarming: In 2019, the five largest poultry processing plants in Northwest Arkansas discharged over 2 million pounds of toxic pollutants into local waterways. Approximately 14% of poultry workers in the region are undocumented immigrants, many of whom face precarious working conditions and limited legal protections. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare these vulnerabilities, as meatpacking plants became epicenters of outbreaks.

One of my favorite local writers, Olivia Paschal, reports on Northwest Arkansas and illuminates the deep interconnectedness of environmental and labor issues in the region. The same communities contending with polluted air and water often depend economically on the very industries responsible for this pollution. This creates a challenging paradox where addressing environmental concerns could potentially jeopardize the economic stability of immigrant communities, underscoring the need for holistic solutions that address both ecological and social factors.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, we must confront these harsh realities while also celebrating our resilience and working towards meaningful change. True liberation for our communities requires addressing the root causes of environmental injustice, improving labor conditions, and ensuring that the transition to a more sustainable future doesn't leave vulnerable populations behind. By acknowledging these complex challenges, we can begin to forge a path toward environmental justice and economic security for Latino communities in Northwest Arkansas and beyond.”

Another student, **Rachell Sanchez-Smith**, the vice president of National Association of Hispanic Journalists, shared:

“NAHJ-UARK’s members are connected deeply to the climate crisis. Many are environmental journalists and report on the way climate affects politics, business, housing, social issues, and virtually every aspect of life - especially in our native countries as well as our chosen homes. As a great NAHJ member told me, everyone will have to be an environmental reporter in the future.”

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists organization on campus is the only existing Hispanic student journalist group in Arkansas and is striving to uplift all the underrepresented voices in the Hispanic community.

## UPDATES FROM OUR FIRST GENERAL MEETING



At our first general meeting of the year, we had a mini listening session to discuss significant issues around campus and in Arkansas. Some issues that came up were inaccessible housing, transportation, food waste, over consumerism, and fast fashion. As an organization, we are planning to have a variety of more in-depth listening sessions in small groups and in partnership with other organizations.

## SIGN UP FOR THE BUDDY SYSTEM

<https://forms.gle/Xs4ZaHuPaX6pj2Xp8>

We are pairing members with similar passions/interests to foster a better sense of community.

## CONNECT WITH US



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SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: <https://forms.gle/fVnjMSdm3Aa551FS8>