



# The Life of Plastic

## Tackling Plastic Pollution within the Circular Economy

### Program

5:30 PM ET Doors Open

6:00 PM ET Panel Discussion

- **Laura Parker**, Senior Staff Writer, National Geographic
- **Mercedes García Pérez**, Head of Global Issues and Innovation, Delegation of the European Union to the U.S.
- **Trey Sherard**, Riverkeeper, Anacostia Riverkeeper

7:00 PM ET Audience Q&A

7:30 PM ET Program Concludes

## Speaker Biographies



**Laura Parker**  
Senior Staff Writer  
National Geographic

@laurajoparker

@NatGeo

Laura Parker is a staff writer and editor at National Geographic. She covers climate change, oceans, and has written extensively about the plastic waste crisis. She is the author of National Geographic's 2018 award-winning cover story, *Planet or Plastic*, and is working now on a new piece regarding rivers as conveyors of plastic waste to the seas. She is a native of Washington state and lives now in what residents of the Pacific Northwest call the *other* Washington.



**Mercedes García Pérez**

@MercedesGP73

Head of Global Issues and Innovation

Delegation of the European Union to the U.S.

@EUintheUS

Mercedes García Pérez is the Head of Global Issues and Innovation since September 2019. Her office monitors and analyzes U.S. political, economic, and regulatory developments in the areas of transportation, climate, energy and environment, research and innovation, space, food safety (which includes plant and animal health and animal welfare), public health and healthcare, and consumer protection. Prior to that, she worked at the Embassy of Spain in Washington, D.C. Ms. García Pérez has extensive experience in the area of EU Foreign Policy and Security Strategy; she was the Head of Division for Human Rights in the European External Action Service until August 2018. From 2012 to 2016, she was the Head of Operations in the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), where she oversaw the conduct of ten EU Civilian Operations in three continents with more than 2,500 international staff on the ground. A lawyer by training, she practiced EU competition and trade law in Brussels from 1998 to 2002 before joining the European Union Institutions in 2003. She was a member of the Academic Council and visiting scholar at the Institut Supérieur de Management Public et Politique in Paris until 2011. Ms. García Pérez holds an LLM in European Law from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium as well as two Degrees in Law and Literature from Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain.



**Trey Sherard**

Riverkeeper

Anacostia Riverkeeper

@AnacostiaRrkper

Trey Sherard grew up near the ocean in coastal North Carolina and now works as the Anacostia Riverkeeper. He serves as Chair of the Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee and serves on Mayor Bowser's Leadership Council for a Cleaner Anacostia River. An experienced community organizer, Mr. Sherard coordinates Anacostia Riverkeeper's Clean Waterways cleanup series, Friday Night Fishing, management of the seven Bandalong litter traps in D.C. and Maryland, and Anacostia Riverkeeper's green infrastructure program. He is a licensed mariner (USCG 100 GT for inland waters) and has a B.S. Degree in Biology from Duke University.