

Stephanie Kaza

Professor of Environmental Studies and Natural Resources Emerita

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

Stephanie Kaza, you joined the University of Vermont in 1991 after earning your Masters of Divinity and Doctorate in Biology from the Starr King School of Ministry and the University of California at Santa Cruz, respectively. For twenty-four years, you helped guide and grow the Environmental Program and the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources; they are now nationally recognized institutions.

In 2005, you became the first female director of the Environmental Program. For nearly a decade, you ably led the Program with your inclusive nature and standard for excellence. You served indefatigably on committees, councils, working groups, and commissions; as founder of the Environmental Council; as Vice-President of the Faculty Senate; on the Executive Council of the faculty union; as the co-chair of the Envisioning Environment Committee; and as originator of the Sustainability Faculty Fellows Program. The University community recognized you with its Outstanding Faculty Woman Award in 2015, the George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award in 2011, and the Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Teaching Excellence in 2002.

Your professional service and academic contributions have been equally meritorious and include service on the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors and as Executive Council member for the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences. Moreover, the Templeton Foundation recognized your scholarship in 2001, and your books and articles on contemplative foundations of environmental thought are unparalleled.

You embody the definition of “change maker” and colleagues and students drew their energy from the strength of your commitment to human and planetary well-being. One of your students recently reported, “Stephanie has supported all of my endeavors, academic and extracurricular, with a tireless spirit.” We thank you for sharing that spirit with us.