

Youth
Winner



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AMERICAN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Celebrating Action from Local to National

HOW-TO GUIDE

Environmental Justice Organizer Using Grassroots Action, Policy, and Storytelling for a Just Future

[Alexia Leclercq](#) - Start: Empowerment

Alexia Leclercq cofounded Start: Empowerment (S:E), a rapidly growing BIPOC-led non-profit at the nexus of climate education, solutions, and environmental justice.

S:E offers high-quality, justice-centered climate education by combining science, technology, art, and math (STEAM) skills and traditional & Indigenous ecological knowledge. Their mission is to empower the youth of color to innovate, imagine, and build a just and sustainable future across Turtle Island.

Alexia's environmental justice curriculum has reached 120,000 youth and S:E's hands-on programming has been implemented across 24 schools, reaching 5,000 students. It has directly resulted in improved educational learning

outcomes, student engagement, community development, and the cultivation of young climate leaders. As a result of S:E's curriculum, students are working on creating community-owned microgrids and renewable energy projects, successfully stopping a pipeline and a proposed oil terminal, researching perennial agriculture, utilizing Indigenous knowledge to restore ecosystems, and utilizing creative finance to build sustainable housing and community land trusts.

Replicate This!

How To Get Started

1. Build relationships with Indigenous land defenders and frontline communities to create a curriculum that truly centers climate justice;
2. Build relationships with teachers and connect the organization to principles and school districts for more widespread implementation of their curriculum and programming; and
3. Implement at different locations to reach key audiences including local high schools to national BIPOC & youth-led non-profits to advance climate justice education and organize campaigns for real change.