



Sparking leadership for a sustainable future



NAAEE's EE 30 Under 30 recognizes outstanding leaders from around the world who are using environmental education (EE) to create stronger, healthier communities.



To address today's complex challenges, we need a diversity of perspectives, skills, and experiences, which is the power of this program. EE 30 Under 30 celebrates the unique and passionate leadership of talented young leaders around the world and gives them a professional boost to increase their impact.

We equip these young leaders for greater impact through:



Community

To learn and network with fellow awardees and other EE leaders



Recognition

To gain credibility and confidence to scale up their work



Professional Development

To build the skills and technical support they need to expand their impact



Funding Opportunities

To bring their transformational ideas to life through Changemaker Grants





Sparkling leadership for a sustainable future

Stories of Impact

Alumni share about the impact of the EE 30 Under 30 community, scholarships, and grants



Taiji Nelson 

Connecting people to urban ecosystems through community and peer learning

“This program has opened so many doors by introducing me to amazing people and ideas.”

Pittsburgh, PA, USA



Anna Tari  

Mobilizing cities worldwide to adopt the circular economy model

“As a professional and leader, my Changemaker grant allows me improve my capacity to bring partners together and create local change across cities worldwide.”

Boston, MA, USA



Luisa Zarate  

Equipping coffee farmers with sustainable practices that guarantee food security and stable livelihoods

“The Changemaker grant allows me to reinforce my skills, leadership, and commitment to work with projects that amplify local voices, tackle inequalities, and create lasting change in vulnerable communities.”

Oaxaca, Mexico



“We are thrilled with the incredible talent, passion, and leadership of these dedicated young individuals who join a growing community of environmental education champions. They are not only working towards a sustainable future, but also inspiring the next generation of leaders who will follow in their footsteps.”

— Judy Braus, Executive Director, NAAEE



Jo Leen Yap ✨

Engaging children and adults alike in dusky langur conservation

“I am able to contribute more knowledge and skills back to my country to create greater impact among the local community.”

Penang, Malaysia



Jared Hiakita ✨🌱

Empowering communities to build resilient and regenerative local food systems grounded in Maori culture

“My Changemaker grant allows me to lean into my strengths and place me in a position where I will have no choice but to step up and grow as a leader, a professional, and an example for others.”

Hokianga, Aotearoa (New Zealand)



Adedoyin Adeleke ✨🌱

Connecting and empowering young people across Africa through mentorship

“Being named and honored among this group particularly enforced my sense of responsibility to intensify my effort and commitment to environmental education for a sustainable Africa.”

Ibadan, Nigeria

■ Countries represented by EE 30 Under 30 alumni 🌱 Changemaker grantee



ee30

under thirty

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Alerick Pacay 

Class of 2019 and Changemaker Grantee

“The EE 30U30 award has impacted both my professional and personal life. The recognition gave me the confidence to study abroad and pursue a postgraduate degree through which I am actively connecting my passion and knowledge of environmental education with conservation programs. This is a real community in which you’ll always feel welcomed and supported.”

Guatemala City, Guatemala

naaee.org/ee30under30

Our alumni demonstrate the transformative impact that young people are having in communities around the globe:

180 alumni

40 countries

43 states/provinces/
tribal nations

Reaching

>850,000

people each year

Since 2016, we have awarded:

108 conference
scholarships

\$182,550

to fund 25 Changemaker grantees’ innovative and scalable ideas, reaching over 70,000 people across 15 countries and 140 cities to shape:



resilient
communities



low-carbon
economies



healthy
ecosystems

Grantees amplified their impact through partnerships with over 250 organizations, including schools and universities, non-profits, businesses small and large, faith communities, and tribal organizations.

About NAAEE

For five decades, NAAEE has been a leader in promoting excellence in environmental education throughout North America and around the world, with members in more than 30 countries. NAAEE and its 56 state, provincial, and regional affiliate organizations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico have more than 20,000 members. NAAEE’s mission is to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement using the power of education to create a more equitable and sustainable future.

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