

sei BUILDING LEADERS FOR A
RESILIENT WORLD

Impact Report 2022 - 2023



Table of Contents

01

About SEI

02

Message from the Executive Director

03

Energize Schools

04

Climate Corps Education Outside

05

Energize Colleges

06

Climate Corps

07

Energize Careers

08

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

09

Get Involved

10

Thank You

Our Programs



ENERGIZE
SCHOOLS



CLIMATE CORPS
education outside 



ENERGIZE
CAREERS



ENERGIZE
COLLEGES

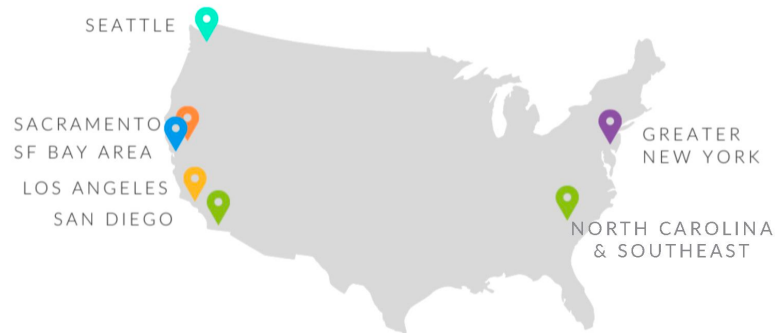


CLIMATE
CORPS

About SEI

SEI is an environmental nonprofit consultancy that builds leaders to drive and accelerate sustainability solutions. For over 25 years, SEI has partnered with schools, communities, and businesses to develop a leadership pathway from elementary school to early career. Our flagship programs (Energize Schools, Energize Colleges, Climate Corps, Climate Corps Education Outside, and Energize Careers) educate and empower students and emerging professionals to create thriving, resilient communities.

SEI is
growing!



Our Values

We are committed to impact.

We focus on what matters to the communities we serve and set goals and track progress to hold ourselves accountable.

We are networkers & collaborators.

We engage with partners and funders to implement our programs and accelerate solutions at the speed and scale our changing climate demands.

We are inclusive & just.

We work to realize equity and inclusion within our organization and in our work, considering climate justice in our programs and creating an internal culture where we can bring our whole selves to work.

We are always learning.

We mentor and develop our team members and learn from our mistakes and successes. We are a safe place to innovate and are not afraid to fail.

We are one team.

We collaborate efficiently across geographies and teams in service of our mission, with trust and transparency at the heart of our organization.

Message from the Executive Director

Celebrating 25 Years

SEI is celebrating 25 years of building resilient climate leaders. And after a quarter-century, we continue to evolve as we grow our impacts to accelerate and advance our vision of a world where all communities thrive. SEI has expanded to new regions across the country, translating our innovative and adaptable education and workforce program models to meet the needs of local communities while providing connections, partnerships, and opportunities to all who wish to further climate change solutions.

SEI has spent much of the last year undergoing a thoughtful and strategic reorganization. Part of this evolution is an updated mission statement: SEI builds leaders to drive and accelerate sustainability solutions. And with the support of our insightful board and incredible staff, we've crafted organizational values to guide our growth: We are committed to impact. We are networkers and collaborators. We are inclusive and just. We are always learning. We are one team.

Read on to learn about SEI's impact in 2022-2023. In this report, we share inspiring stories from sustainability leaders and opportunities to get involved.

Thanks for joining us on this journey!



Cyane Dandridge



2022-2023 Energize Schools



Engaging, inspiring, & empowering K-12 students to become sustainability leaders

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Energize Schools program provided flexible, tailored support to hundreds of teachers, integrating pressing environmental issues including climate change, renewable energy, wildfire preparedness, transportation, and air quality into hundreds of classrooms. Through our bilingual Earth Day and People and Planet Challenges, we distributed thousands of dollars in prizes to the winning schools while empowering students to become sustainability leaders in their communities.

22,000 Students reached through project-based learning, Earth Day campaigns, and Energy Conservation competitions

500 Teachers supported

365 K-12 schools supported with sustainability curriculum, Green Career Connections, and climate action projects

>50% Title 1 schools

136 Green Career Connections (events bringing professionals into schools)



"I felt like I grew as a person. I got to work on applied leadership. I could apply what I learned in school - how to develop a plan, how to give a presentation, how to work with peers - to a real-world project. The highlight was being able to take an idea I was excited about and work really hard to create a real product that other people could experience and enjoy."

— Sonia MacKenzie (right), MarinSEL junior; CEO of Bloom Tea, a sustainable, organic tea business centering mental health and self-care



Climate Corps Education Outside

2022-2023

Planting the seeds of science and ecoliteracy to grow environmental leaders in elementary schools

This school year, the Climate Corps Education Outside (CCEO) program engaged over 11,000 Bay Area students across 31 public elementary

schools, sparking curiosity and learning through school gardens. CCEO's dedicated garden educators worked hard to foster positive relationships with their students and deliver hands-on science and ecoliteracy lessons. Educators also engaged their whole school communities during volunteer work days, Earth Day events, and more.

158 teachers reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that their students grew in the following areas as a result of participating in the CCEO program:

93% Connection to nature

92% Environmental stewardship knowledge

91% Enthusiasm for science

90% Attitude towards fruits and vegetables

85% Composting and waste systems

83% Social emotional learning



Breanna brings so much warmth, calm, and care to her teaching. She strives to connect and build rapport with each and every student, both during class time and outside of the garden, and teachers have noted how much this has made a difference in their students' engagement in class. Her school community cannot stop raving about her, saying, "Breanna is so caring; we are lucky to have her!" and "She's a beloved asset in our community at school!"

— Feedback collected from colleagues
(pictured above: Breanna DeCaro, Garden Educator)

2022-2023 Energize Colleges



Partnering with students and faculty to create pathways to climate careers

Building on the success of its AASHE Award-winning collaboration with the California State Universities, Energize Colleges launched its Communities of Practice, virtual learning communities to integrate sustainability content into curriculum and campus outreach. Following our mission to empower students as sustainability problem solvers and change agents, we continued our highly successful offerings of academic projects, fellowships, internships, and trainings, and we expanded to the Southeast.

- 42 California college and university participants engaged in Communities of Practice
- 15 Internships and 8 fellowships at California campuses
- 7 Academic projects to integrate energy topics into curriculum
- 20 Students from 4 Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) in North and South Carolina completed our Pathways in Energy course



“As an internship, [Energize Colleges] was probably the best one I could have had. It’s given me the opportunity and the funding to work on projects and in fields I wasn’t previously involved in. It’s greatly impacted my outlook on engineering and projects.”

— Nicholas Amely (left), Energize Colleges Intern and student at California State University, Fresno

“I always encourage my students to go beyond their capabilities. And not be bound. Nicholas is an amazing person and researcher; so energized. He’s still a freshman and he’s doing machine learning that I teach in the senior class. We are a small institution but our students have done a tremendous amount of work. What they’ve done is incredible.”

— Hovannes Kulhandjian (right), Associate Professor at California State University, Fresno



Climate Corps

2022-2023

Advancing sustainability solutions with organizations while fostering the next generation of climate leaders

SEI's Climate Corps, a fellowship program for those seeking to enter the sustainability field, saw growth on all fronts during the 2022-2023

program year. We tripled our national reach, placing Fellows in North Carolina and the Southeast, New Jersey, and the Pacific Northwest. Through an innovative braided funding model, Puget Sound Energy supported our facilities Fellows in deepening clean energy investment in the Pacific Northwest while advancing their strategic energy management goals and statewide clean building performance objectives.

80 Climate Corps Fellows

60 Partner organizations

110 Training hours on early-career competencies including equity, resilience, and innovation

200% Increase in fellowships outside of CA (15% of total fellowships)

15% Increase in Fellow stipends

"My interest in environmental sustainability began after enrolling in the Sustainability course at JCSU, where I gained knowledge and an understanding of our impact on the world. It allowed me to see the reality of our situation on a local and global scale and taught me the importance of thinking critically and problem-solving. I was able to take action as a Climate Corps Fellow by educating other students about the global plastic issue and inspiring others so they, too, can make a difference."

— Aleena Oakley, Sustainability Fellow, Johnson C. Smith University graduate



2022-2023

Energize Careers



Creating a diverse and representational sustainability workforce through the economic empowerment of people who experience systemic barriers to high-road employment

The Energize Careers program strives to create green career pathways for workers who face systemic barriers to employment. We provide training and paid work experience, and connect participants with childcare, legal, and housing assistance services. This year, we launched online and in-person career skills workshops for participants and the general public and increased the number of participants trained and placed by 500%.

442 Participants trained in green trades

316 Participants placed in green trades jobs

83% Participants reported an increase in their knowledge of energy efficiency through Energize Careers training

27 Participants provided supportive services

15 Wrap-around service providers



“The partnership with SEI has been nothing short of transformative for Sacramento City College. We’re always seeking innovative ways to enhance the student experience, and Energize Careers fit perfectly into that mission. The program’s funding structure has allowed us to push forward with initiatives we may not have otherwise been able to pursue such as participating in the California Capital Airshow and connecting a student who lacked a driver’s license with resources to overcome that barrier.”

– Robert Gentry (left), Professor & Department Chair of Mechanical-Electrical Technology Department, Sacramento City College

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at SEI

Thoughtful Expansion of Programs

Over the 2022-2023 Climate Corps Fellow cycles, SEI worked to build capacity with BIPOC-led organizations in the Pacific Northwest. With financial support from regional foundations, SEI Climate Corps Fellows focused on energy equity and policy at a regional and statewide level, and SEI created a series of trainings with regional and national experts focused on Just Transition principles and Justice 40 opportunities for partners.

Addressing Place-Based Issues

SEI has been exploring partnerships in rural Washington State with local workforce trainers and other key educators to consider what the transition from coal can look like in terms of community investment and clean energy career program development. Though in early stages, SEI sees this as a significant aspect of workforce development programming and is receiving requests to support clean energy transition nationwide.

Always Learning

The Climate Corps Education Outside (CCEO) Racial Equity Action Plan is a comprehensive plan to make tangible changes that support racial equity within the CCEO program and our partner schools. The Action Plan is grounded in community-based feedback from our Fellows and school partners, and it is an accountability tool to ensure program staff hold racial equity as inseparable from our work in environmental education. In the past year, the CCEO program team has made progress within various domains of the plan including implementing a new sliding scale fee structure for our partner schools and updating our Fellow recruitment procedures to strive for an inclusive interview process.

Looking Ahead

There is much work ahead, especially within SEI. Intentional, meaningful, and equity-centered change takes both time and resources. SEI is committed to this path as a critical and necessary approach to sustainability and is looking forward to taking actions and learning from external consultants and partners. Learn more about SEI's commitment to DEI on our [website](#).

Get Involved

Join us in harnessing the power of emerging leaders to create a resilient world where all communities thrive.

Give

Contributions to SEI impact thousands of emerging leaders each year through SEI's programs. Your support helps SEI strengthen our valued partnerships with schools, communities, and businesses to develop a sustainability leadership pathway from K-12 through early career. We are deeply appreciative of your gift to make our work possible. Thank you!

- [Make a donation](#)

Partner

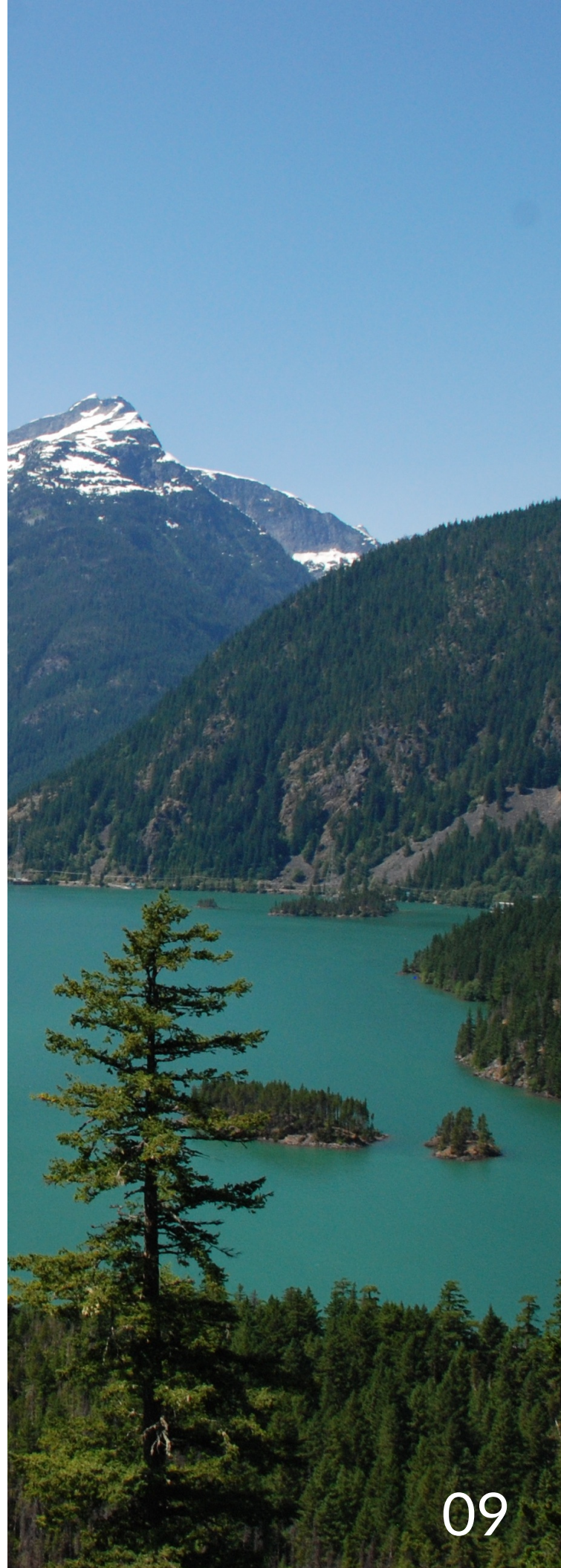
The ways we can work together to build sustainability leaders continue to grow. We'd love to partner with you. Please get in touch!

- Email us: sei@seiinc.org
- Give us a call: (415) 507-2181
- [Learn more](#)

Connect

Champion our emerging leaders' stories by connecting with us online and sharing our impact with others.

- Sign up for our [newsletter](#)
- Network with us on [LinkedIn](#)
- Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Like us on [Facebook](#)
- Visit our [website](#)



Thank You

We appreciate being part of a strong network of individuals & organizations committed to addressing the climate crisis.

To our board members

Thank you for the time spent advising our teams, making connections on our behalf, and providing organization oversight.

To our partners

Thank you for the myriad ways you have collaborated with us to build sustainability leaders from elementary school through career.

To our funders

Thank you for enabling us to make sustainability impacts in education and workforce development. The work would not be possible without your support!

A Special Thank-You: The Littlefield Foundation

Thank you for your partnership in the purchasing, roll out, and adoption of our Salesforce system. Your contribution allows for an organizational efficiency that will support us in maximizing our impacts long into the future.

