



**CLIMATE  
INNOVATION  
CHALLENGE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Youth-Led Climate Solutions Take Center Stage**

*Prizes awarded in 14 categories*

**Santa Fe, N.M.** – Students and their climate solutions from across New Mexico, five other states, and Kenya took the stage during the 2021/2022 [Climate Innovation Challenge](#) (CIC) Virtual Student Showcase in front of an international audience. The CIC Showcase was the culmination of a science-based climate adaptation and resilience curriculum created and produced by Climate Advocates Voces Unidas (CAVU).

The CIC program cultivates student leaders who can think innovatively and communicate effectively about addressing problems that arise in our changing climate. Students produced two to four-minute videos or presentations that evaluate a specific climate vulnerability or impact and present a creative solution. In its third year, CIC grew to serve nearly 1,500 students and more than 200 projects were submitted. Youth from across New Mexico, New Jersey, Florida, Colorado, Idaho, Massachusetts, and Kenya submitted stories about their ideas for local climate change solutions.

The event included a screening of award-winning student video projects, award presentations, and a keynote address by Armon Alex, a 22 years old accomplished science communicator, ocean conservationist, and a TEDx speaker from Corpus Christi, TX

“I strongly believe young people like you and I will drastically change the future of our world. That may seem like a large weight on our shoulders, but truthfully I see it as a moment of greatness and opportunity. There is no doubt in my mind that you can change the world because it starts with invigorating change in our communities”, Armon Alex said to students at the event.

“As you've learned through your participation in the Climate Innovation Challenge, adaptation and mitigation strategies help address climate change in different ways, but no single option is sufficient by itself. That is why we need to think locally, addressing smaller impacts as they present themselves in our own communities. If we approach the problem this way, it becomes more manageable, and we will feel more empowered by the success of our actions,” Phil Lucero, education director at CAVU said during the event.

All CIC entries were judged by a panel of scientists, educators, and visual media professionals.

A full list of prize winners is below. Winning videos are available on [CAVU's YouTube channel](#).

**1. Best In Show - the MacGyver Award**

- a. "Addressing Inevitability: Composting for a Healthier Earth" by Maia, a 10th-grade student at New Mexico School for the Arts, Santa Fe, NM. Teacher: Sarah Rowe"
- b. <https://youtu.be/IGuaAm2-z80>

**2. Outstanding International Entry**

- a. "Waste to Fashion" by Byron & Sheldon, 7th-grade students at SMS Juniors, Kenya. Teacher: Belinda Awuor Khama
- b. <https://youtu.be/Ys6ethBIPQE>

**3. Outstanding Entry by an Individual**

- a. "Repurposing Weeds" by Rayne, a 9th-grade student at Peak to Peak Charter School, Lafayette, CO. Teacher: Kristie Letter
- b. <https://youtu.be/4Qn7kq-vb8A>

**4. Outstanding Entry by a Large Group or Class**

- a. "Playground Trellis" by Amarie, Caitlin, Mateo & Samuel, 4th-grade students at Amy Biehl Community School, Santa Fe, NM. Teacher: Malcolm Smith Carlile
- b. <https://youtu.be/WILv1PRX9UA>

**5. Outstanding Entry in Elementary School**

- a. "Fish Paradise" by Jacob, Seth & Austin, 5th-grade students at Amy Biehl Community School, Santa Fe, NM. Teacher: Malcolm Smith Carlile
- b. [https://youtu.be/B7R\\_anc4lXA](https://youtu.be/B7R_anc4lXA)

**6. Outstanding Entry in Middle School, sponsored by Positive Energy Solar**

- a. "Biochar: Soil's Best Friend" by Alex, Adrian & Athena, homeschool students in 5th & 7th grades, Albuquerque, NM. Teacher: Anni Hanna
- b. <https://youtu.be/b3MPx5qppbk>

**7. Outstanding Entry in High School**

- a. "Our Native Lawn," by Quinn, a 10th-grade student at the Sage International School of Boise, Boise, ID. Teacher: Eric Oliver
- b. <https://youtu.be/84QuJEZxfig>

**8. Best Style: Presentation**

- a. "Wood Paper Alternatives" by Maelle, a 7th-grade student at Santa Fe Prep, Santa Fe, NM. Teacher: Robin Koval
- b. <https://youtu.be/mgwRQ1eJqaA>

**9. Most Engaging Project**

- a. "TempSafeWatch" by Lauren, a 9th-grade student at Peak to Peak Charter School, Lafayette, CO. Teacher: Kristie Letter
- b. <https://youtu.be/WDt2CUkK6bY>

**10. Most Practical Concept**

- a. “Sustainable and Biodegradable Menstrual Hygiene” by Neve, a 10th-grade student at New Mexico School for the Arts, Santa Fe, NM. Teacher: Sarah Rowe
- b. <https://youtu.be/wqgZEFsnQJk>

**11. Most Effective/Efficient Concept**

- a. “Community Gardens” by Ada & Leela, 9th & 10th-grade students at Albuquerque Academy, Albuquerque, NM. Teachers: Meg Reese & Mandy Busby
- b. <https://youtu.be/kTK3NhIaxZs>

**12. Most Innovative/Creative Concept**

- a. “3D Printing Homes” by Alexandra & Lilly, 6th-grade students at the New Mexico International School, Albuquerque, NM. Teacher: Amanda Kraft
- b. [https://youtu.be/UPUPpo9\\_9TI](https://youtu.be/UPUPpo9_9TI)

**13. Best Style: Film/Video/Animation**

- a. “Stop Eating Meat” by Addie, a 10th-grade student at the New Mexico School for the Arts, Santa Fe, NM. Teacher: Acacia McCombs
- b. <https://youtu.be/yzT-HqGkoxY>

**14. Most Effective Storytelling**

- a. “CIC Video Project” by Sydney, a 9th-grade student at Peak to Peak Charter School, Lafayette, CO. Teacher: Kristie Letter
- b. [https://youtu.be/PpMJvTI\\_Soo](https://youtu.be/PpMJvTI_Soo)

*Climate Advocates Voces Unidas is a nonprofit that seeks to inspire community engagement in support of locally-led solutions to the climate crisis with visual storytelling and educational initiatives. Learn more at [CAVU.org](https://CAVU.org).*

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The 2021/2022 Climate Innovation Challenge Student Showcase is sponsored by:

LANL Foundation, State Farm, Sandia National Labs, McCune Foundation, PNM, Positive Energy Solar, MacGyver Foundation, Livingry Foundation, Liberty Ranch, Element 6 Dynamics, Santa Fe Independent Film Festival