



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2026

ecoAmerica Awards Over \$200,000 to Leaders Driving Climate Action Across the US

People and organizations are moving climate action forward in cities nationwide despite federal backsliding

Washington, DC: From the frontlines of healthcare to youth soccer fields, ecoAmerica's 2026 American Climate Leadership Awards (ACLA) winners are redefining climate leadership — mobilizing diverse communities nationwide to drive climate action at scale amid a backdrop of federal retrenchment.

High school junior and multi-sport athlete Rishin Tandon was recognized with \$10,000 as the winner in the youth category for founding **YESS (Youth Eco Sports Scorecard)**, a first-of-its-kind “green scorecard” that youth sports teams can use to cut waste, reduce emissions, and rethink everything from travel to hydration to protect the environment from the impacts of climate change.

University of Colorado Diploma in Climate Medicine took the top award of \$50,000 for its one-of-a-kind education program that prepares health professionals to bridge the complex and critical connection between climate and health.

U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action was recognized with \$25,000 as the runner-up for its national, farmer-led coalition representing 700,000 farmers and leading companies that advance practical solutions for food security, rural vitality, and climate progress.

Bill McKibben, founder of Third Act and a leading voice on climate change, was also honored for his lifelong work to advance climate solutions nationally. Author of *The End of Nature* and 20 other books, he has received numerous honors, including the Gandhi Peace Prize and the Right Livelihood Award.

“ecoAmerica's American Climate Leadership Awards celebrate leaders whose work is not only bold and creative, but also practical, inclusive, and scalable,

showing that everyone can take action on climate change in their own communities,” said **Bob Perkowitz**, President, ecoAmerica. “What stands out about this year’s winners is the fresh approaches they take to address climate change. Action we can all learn from. They show that anyone, anywhere can move climate solutions forward.”

This year’s winners and runner-up were announced on April 16 during a special award ceremony.

In addition, eight finalists received \$5,000, and 25 semifinalists received \$1,000 each. The award winner and a runner-up were selected by an eight-person nationally recognized panel of judges. Learn about the winners, runner-up, all finalists, and selection committee [here](#).

Interviews are available with the finalists, the selection committee, and ecoAmerica leadership. Media Contact: Press@ecoAmerica.org

About ecoAmerica

[ecoAmerica](#) is a nonprofit organization that moves society toward climate solutions by engaging and supporting trusted national institutions to inspire and empower their millions of members in local communities across America to visibly act and advocate for ambitious, just, climate mitigation, resilience, and restoration.

About the American Climate Leadership Awards

Since 2019, ecoAmerica’s [American Climate Leadership Awards](#) (ACLA) has recognized 200 climate leaders and awarded \$1.2 million to individuals and organizations that are activating broader participation in climate solutions. ACLA advances successful climate action and advocacy with financial awards, public recognition, and guides for others to replicate the finalists’ winning work.