



OpenMinds

NextGen Overview

2026



OUR MISSION

More energy. Less emissions. Fast.

- 125+ volunteer experts
- 501(c)(3)
- Disciplined non-partisan selection process
- 360° systems engineering approach

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE



Energy AND climate



Cross-functional expert team

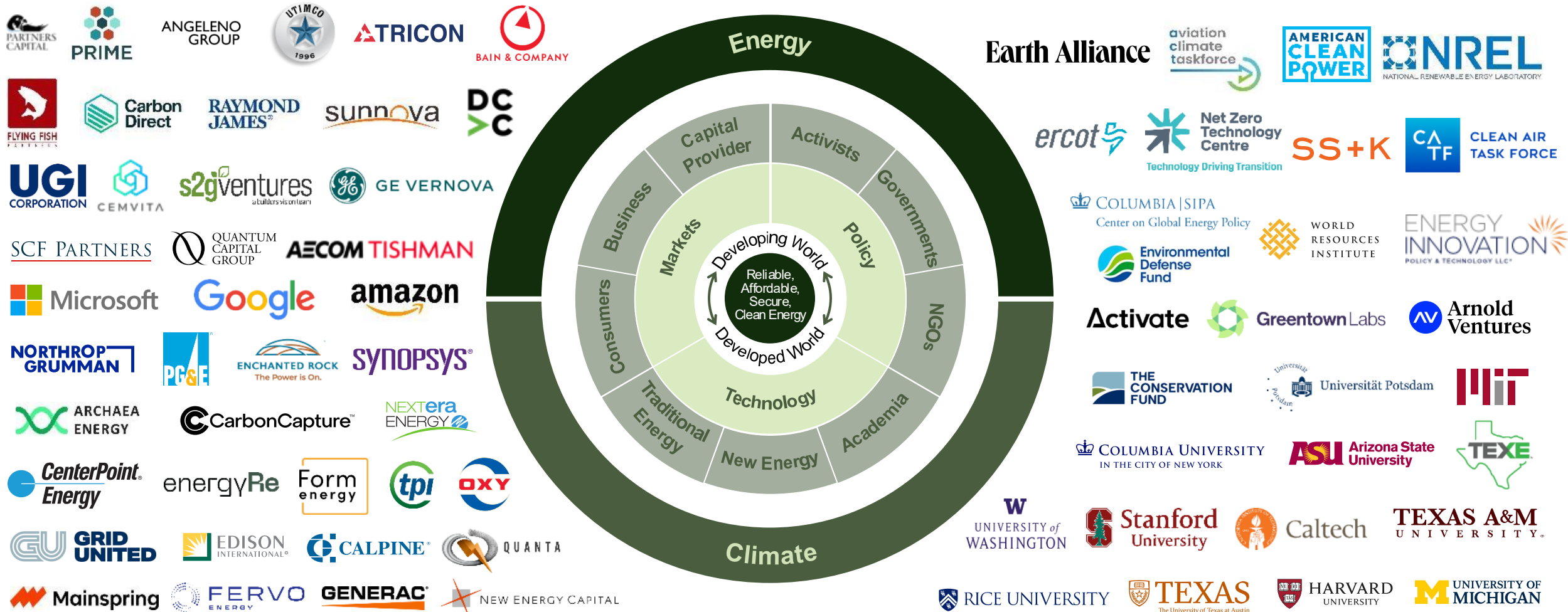


Data-driven solutions framework



Impact progress by 203X

The OpenMinds Network



Mission

More energy, less emissions – fast.

Goals

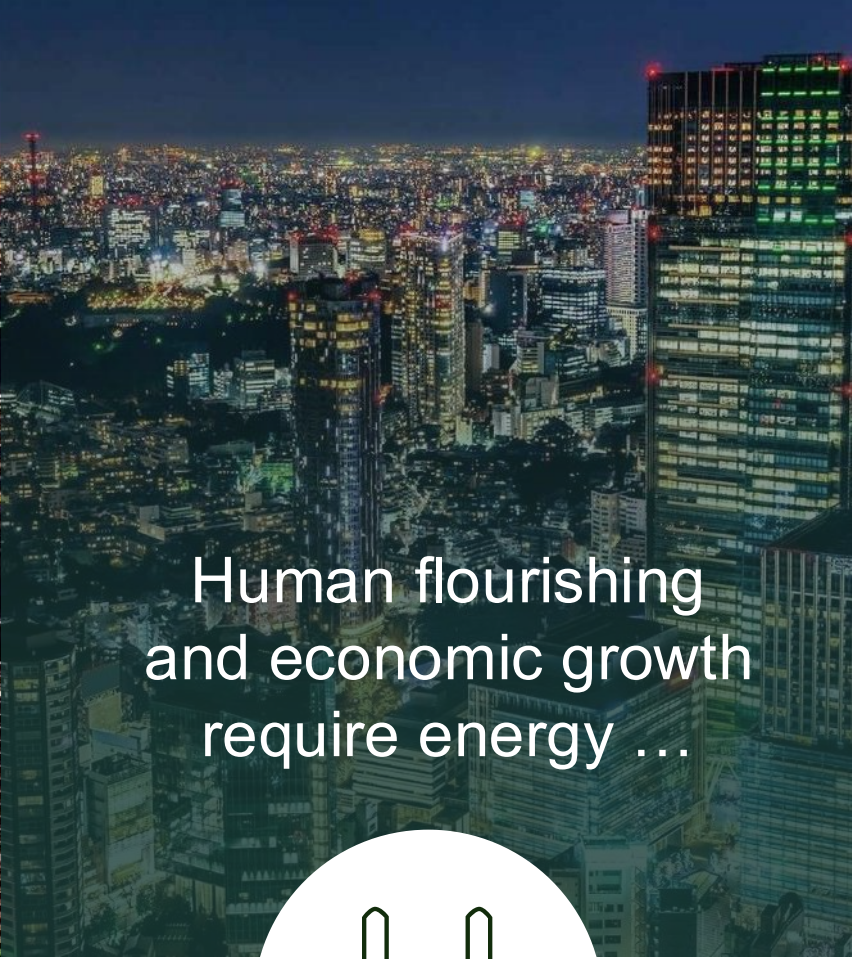
Unite key current & future global leaders on the need to solve for affordable energy access while quickly reducing emissions	Accelerate progress with a practical solutions pathway and develop key initiatives to remove bottlenecks
--	--

Impact Levers

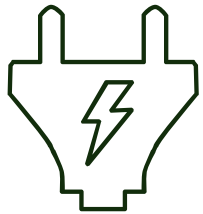
Communicate to Drive Targeted Action and Highlight Progress			
Align Existing Leaders	Develop Future Leaders	Design Solutions Pathways	Lead Impact Projects

Top 10 Solutions

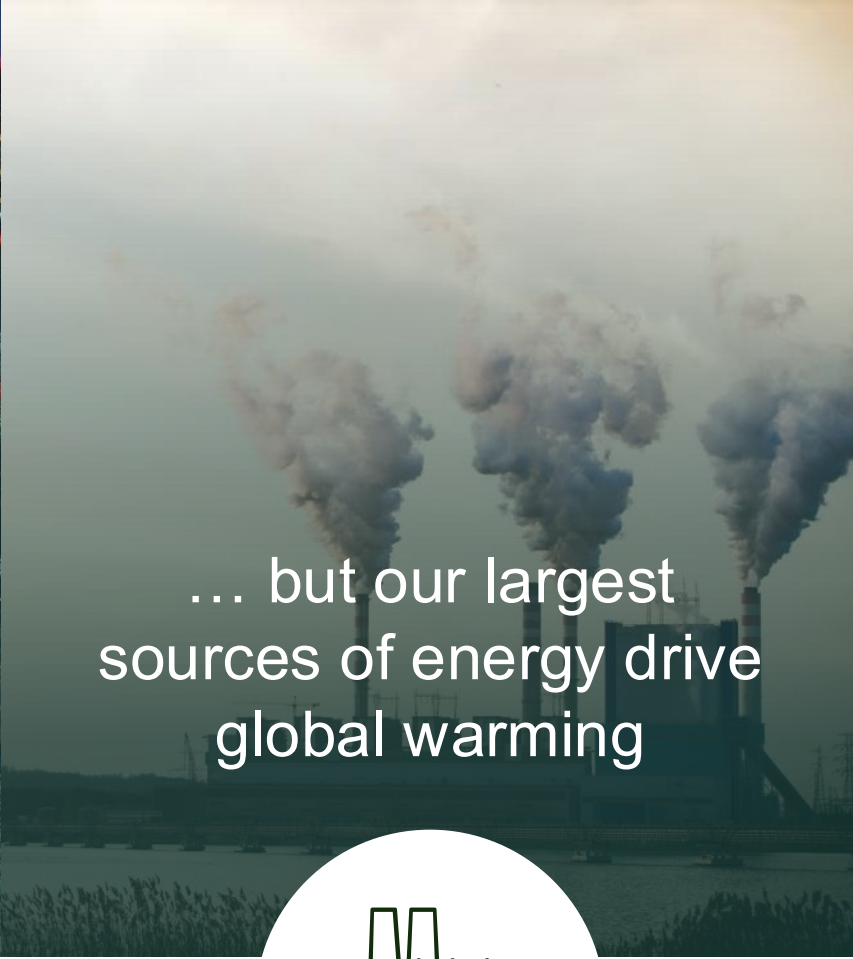
Abate Methane	Renewables	Coal-to-X Switching	CCUS in Electricity and Industry	Transportation Energy Efficiency
Industrial Efficiency and Electrification	Electric LDVs	Heat Pumps	New and Existing Nuclear	Buildings Efficiency



Human flourishing
and economic growth
require energy ...



**More
energy**



... but our largest
sources of energy drive
global warming



**Less
emissions**



**This is the
Dual Challenge**

NextGen Leaders Program: Mission & Vision

MISSION:

Identify, empower, and connect the next generation of purpose-driven global energy and climate leaders to act on the Dual Challenge of **more energy, less emissions - fast.**

We are not just preparing leaders for the future. We are mobilizing changemakers who will redefine it.

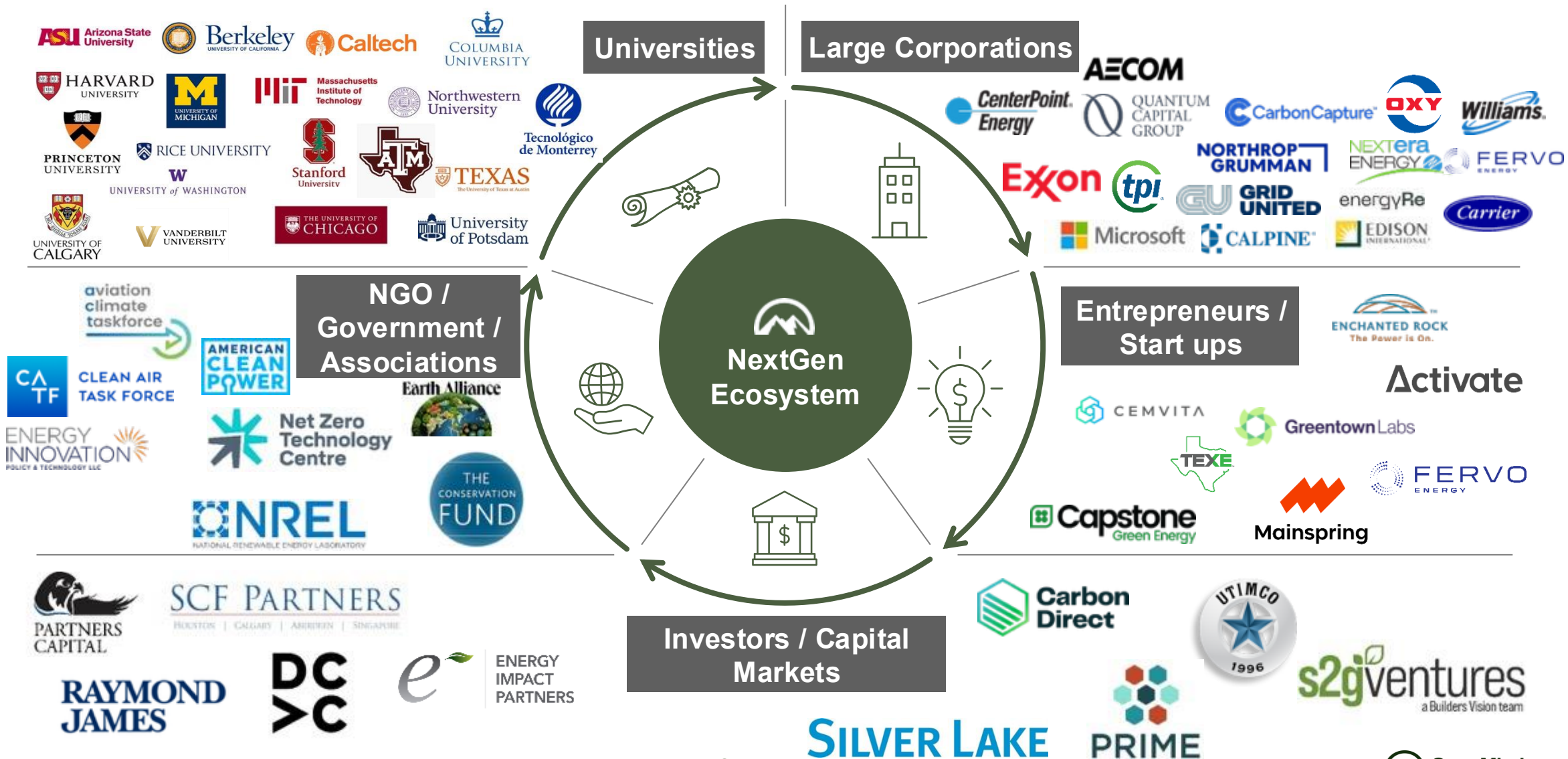


- Best-in-class talent from **leading universities**
- **Diverse** backgrounds and capabilities
- **Impactful** real-world experience
- Rigorous **ongoing training**, networking, and mentorship
- Interconnected **community and voice**
- **Lifelong commitment**

VISION:

*Over the next decade, NextGen will be a community of **300+ exceptional leaders** catalyzing the next generation for significant global energy and climate impact by shaping policy, transforming markets, founding companies, and scaling ideas into action.*

Interlocking Communities Will Contribute and Benefit from NextGen Engagement



Our NextGenerers are Highly Accomplished

100+ Leadership roles



50+ Publications from cohort members



25+ Work with non-profits



6+ Companies founded



3 Veterans of the US Armed Forces



19 Schools Represent the NextGen Population



2024 Was Our Inaugural Cohort



Frank Agwuncha
Columbia University
Masters – Sustainability
Management



David Brown
MIT
MBA – Entrepreneurship



Tam Kemabonta
Arizona State University
PhD – Sustainable
Energy



Hannah Mae Merten
Harvard University
MBA/Masters – Public
Policy



Oyindamola Pedro
MIT
MBA – Sustainable
Fuels



Cameron Andrews
University of Texas
MPA – Policy



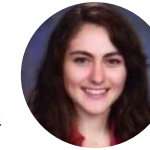
Dennis Cha
Harvard University
MBA – Energy Transport



Vivek Kesireddy
Texas A&M
PhD – Petroleum
Engineering



Hannah Murdoch
Stanford University
MBA/MS – Environment &
Resources



Kimberly Sinclair
University of Washington
PhD – Earth and Space
Sciences & Astrobiology



Edward Apraku
Stanford University
PhD – Environmental
Engineering



Anita Chandrahas
Harvard University
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
– Biomedical Science



César Lasalde-Ramírez
Caltech
PhD – Energy Storage



Kristina Nabayan
Columbia University
PhD – Materials Science
& Engineering



Amanda Studebaker
Stanford University
MBA – Environment &
Resources



Ainee Athar
Stanford University
MBA/MSc –
Environmental Resources



Debjyoti Chatterjee
University of Texas
PhD – Electrical &
Computer Engineering



Daniela Marin
Stanford University
PhD – Chemical
Engineering



Ian Naccarella
Harvard University
MBA – Electric Vehicles



Andrew van Baal
University of Michigan
MS – Sustainable
Systems



Victor Awosiji
Stanford University
PhD - Earth & Planetary
Sciences



Isabelle Dunning
Columbia University
MS – Sustainability
Management



Karina Masalkovaite
Stanford University
PhD – Materials Science
& Engineering



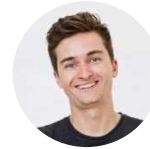
Bianca Derya Neumann
University of Potsdam
MA – Political Science,
Environmental Policy



Yingxiao Zhang
University of Michigan
PhD – Climate Sciences
& Engineering



Ines Azoy-Parravano
University of Michigan
Bachelors – Computer
Science



Sam Hall
MIT
MBA – Energy & Climate
Technology



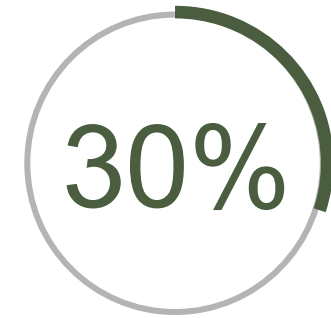
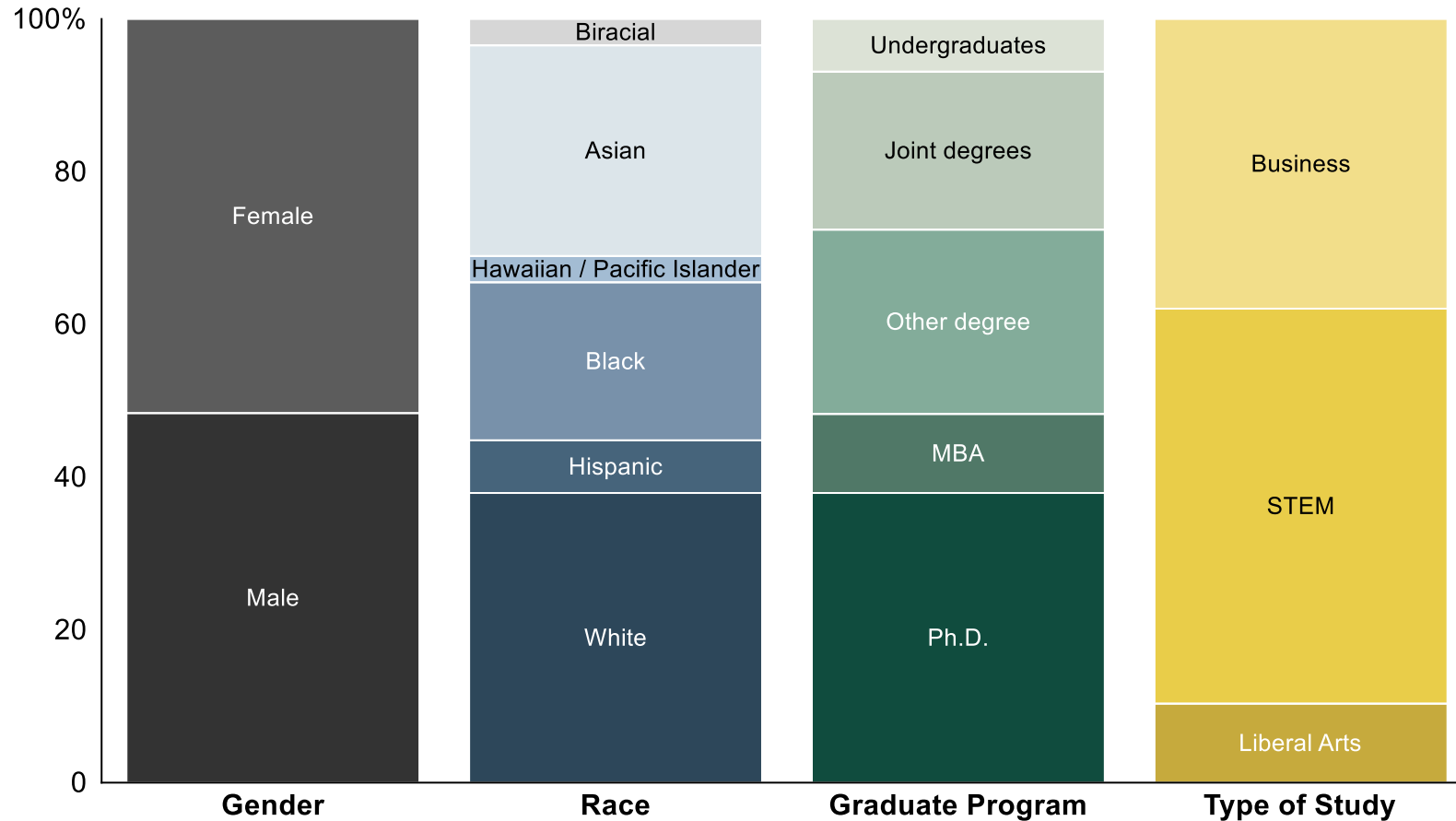
Hillary McKenzie
University of Michigan
MBA/MS – Sustainability



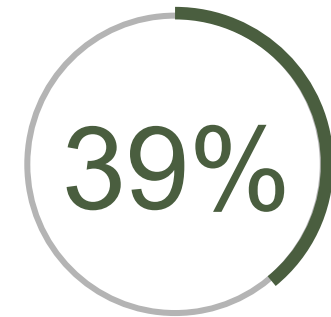
Yogi Nishanth
Harvard University
Masters – Sustainability
ALM

The 2024 cohort represents a very diverse group, from a variety of backgrounds, pursuing a wide range of degrees

of respondents (% of total)



First generation college students



Spoke non-English in their childhood home

2025 NextGen Cohort is Just as Incredible



Nuha Abousam
Harvard University
MBA – Grid Resilience



Dylan Ackerman
Stanford University
MBA/MS – Environment & Resources



Haamid Adam
MIT
MBA – Venture Capital:
Climate & Deep Tech



Heladio Amaya Colación
Tecnológico de Monterrey
MSc – Applied Economics



Adeshina Badejo
Texas A&M
PhD – Petroleum
Engineering



Adin Becker
Harvard University
MPA/MA – Urban Planning



Shashwati Da Cunha
UT Austin
PhD – Chemical Engineering



Marco De Sousa
Texas A&M
PhD – Chemical
Engineering



Oliver Edelson
Stanford University
MBA/MS – Environment & Resources



Michael Ettlinger
University of Michigan
MEng/MS – Ener. Syst.
Eng./Sust. Syst.



Andres Fierro Lopez
UT Austin
PhD – Computational
Nuclear Engineering



Megan Hung
MIT
MBA – Entrepreneurship



Mansi Joisher
MIT
PhD – Electrical Eng. and
Computer Science



Robert Juckett
University of Michigan
MBA/MS – Sustainability



Emma Kerr
Stanford University
PhD – Energy Science and
Engineering



Iuliia Kukula
Arizona State University
PhD – Sustainable Energy



Andrew Lin
Rice University
PhD – Chemical
Engineering



Amy Liu
University of Washington
PhD – Atmospheric and
Climate Science



Sofia Mantilla Salas
Stanford University
PhD – Earth and Planetary
Sciences



Brighton Mogaka
Arizona State University
PhD – Systems
Engineering



Carson Muscat
Stanford University
MBA/MS – Environment &
Resources



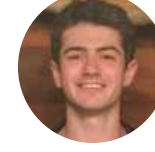
Katelyn Parsons
University of Michigan
MBA/MS – Environment &
Sustainability



Milenia Rojas Mendoza
Stanford University
PhD – Chemical
Engineering



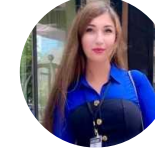
Gursheel Sahni
Columbia University
MS – Sustainability
Management



Sam Sandefer
Vanderbilt University
BS – Mechanical
Engineering



Rishav Sen
Vanderbilt University
PhD – Electrical and
Computer Engineering



Mahsa Shabani
University of Washington
PhD – Mechanical
Engineering



Caroline Shipley
Harvard University
MBA – Sustainability



Benjamin Strzelecki
Columbia University
MPA – Climate, Energy and
Environment



Serena (Thi) To
University of Calgary
MPP/MBA – Data Center
Policy



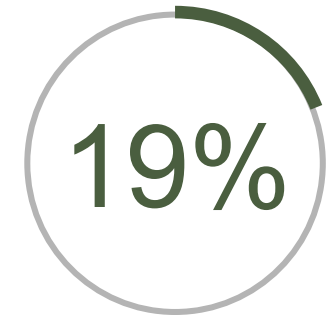
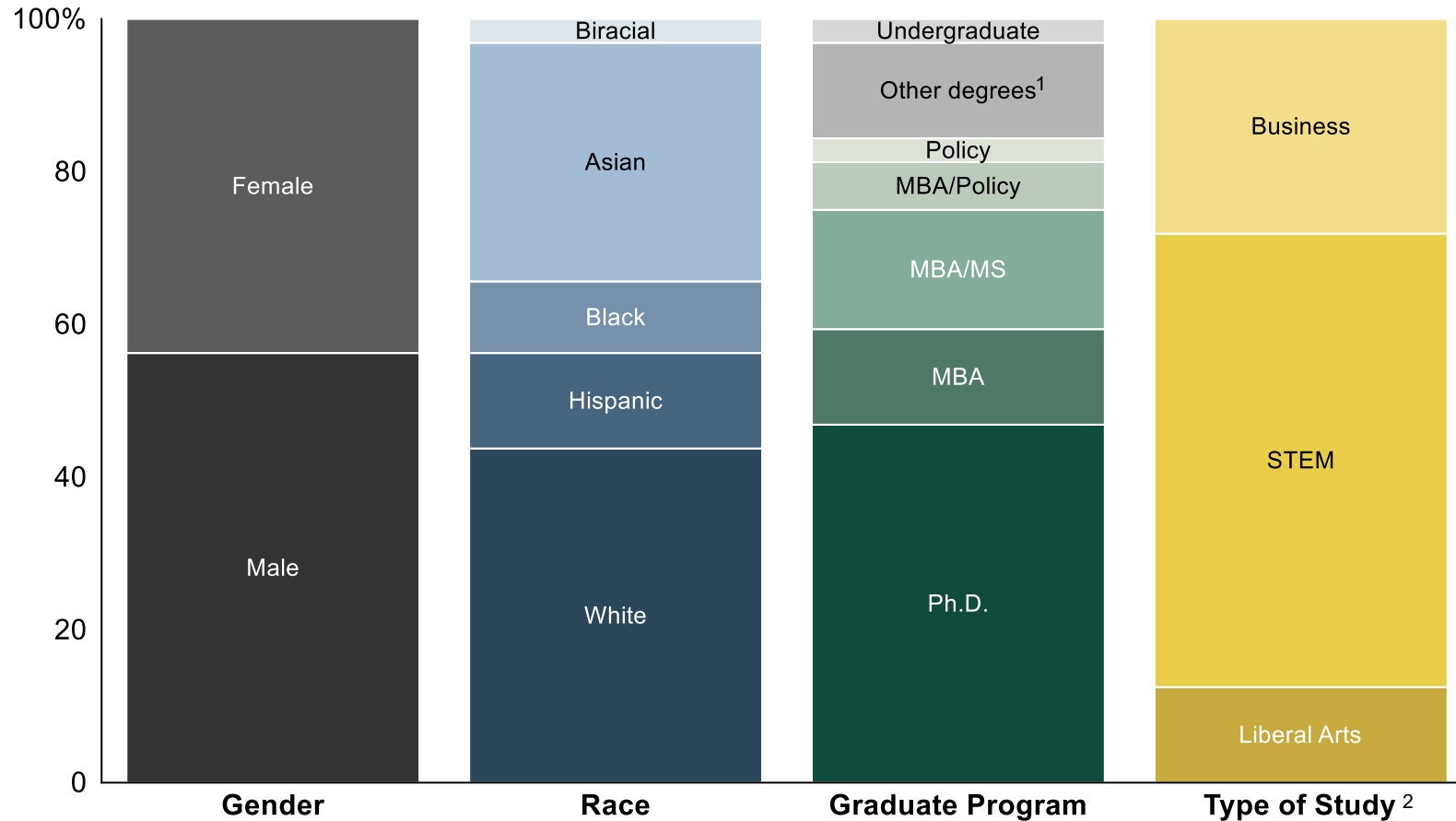
Liwei Yang
Stanford University
MS – Atmosphere and
Energy



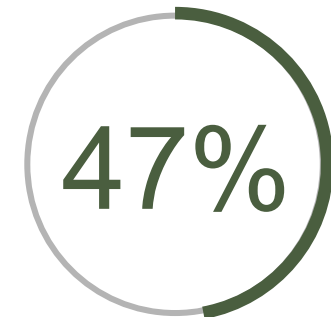
Christopher Yeh
CalTech
PhD – Computational and
Mathematical Sciences

The 2025 cohort represents a very diverse group, from a variety of backgrounds, pursuing a wide range of degrees

of respondents (% of total)



First generation college students



Spoke non-English in their childhood home

Note: 1) Other includes MS, MEng, and MSc degrees. 2) Business includes MBA and MBA/MS degrees, STEM includes PhD, MS, and BS degrees, Liberal Arts includes Policy, MBA/Policy, and MSc in Economics degrees

Our Newest NextGenerators – the 2026 NextGen Cohort



Vladimir Abdelnour
Arizona State University
PhD – Systems
Engineering



Natalie Chung
Princeton University
PhD – Science, Tech &
Env. Policy



Zara Inam
MIT
MBA



Keerthi Medicherla
Harvard University
MBA



Harshvardhan Sanghi
Harvard University
MS/MBA – Engineering
Sciences



Yasmin Afshar
Arizona State University
PhD – Human & Social
Dimensions of S&T



Dylan Cooper
Rice University
MBA



Yeondoo Jeong
UT Austin
MBA/MA – Energy & Earth
Resources



Bright Odike
Texas A&M
PhD – Chemical
Engineering



Aarav Seth
Stanford University
MS – Atmosphere/Energy,
Civil & Env. Eng.



Mofopoluwa Ajani
Stanford University
PhD – Energy Science &
Engineering



Sylvia Ebenbach
Northwestern University
JD-MBA



Young Ko
MIT
PhD – Mechanical
Engineering



Hari Krishna Parthasarathy
Arizona State University
PhD – Electrical
Engineering



Kira Smiley
Harvard University
MBA



camera
shy

Mohammed Aldossary
Harvard University
MBA/MPA-ID



Helena Epstein
UC Berkeley
MBA



Aria Kovalovich
Columbia University
Master of International
Affairs



Subhechchha Paul
Stanford University
PhD – Mechanical
Engineering



Kenneth Taylor
University of Michigan
MBA



Mitchell Breitbart
Harvard University
MBA



Guilherme Fasolin
Vanderbilt University
PhD - Political Science



Tyler Mangini
Harvard University
MS/MBA – Energy
Science



Nazifa Rahman
University of Calgary
MSc – Sustainable Energy
Development



Dimitrios Voulanas
Texas A&M
PhD – Petroleum
Engineering



Isabelle Callaghan
MIT
MBA



Elana Fortson
Harvard University
MBA



Audrey McManemin
Stanford University
PhD – Energy Science &
Engineering



Ryan Rastegar
University of Chicago
MPP/MBA – Energy & Env.
Policy



Ka Ying Wong
Columbia University
MPA – Climate, Energy &
Environment

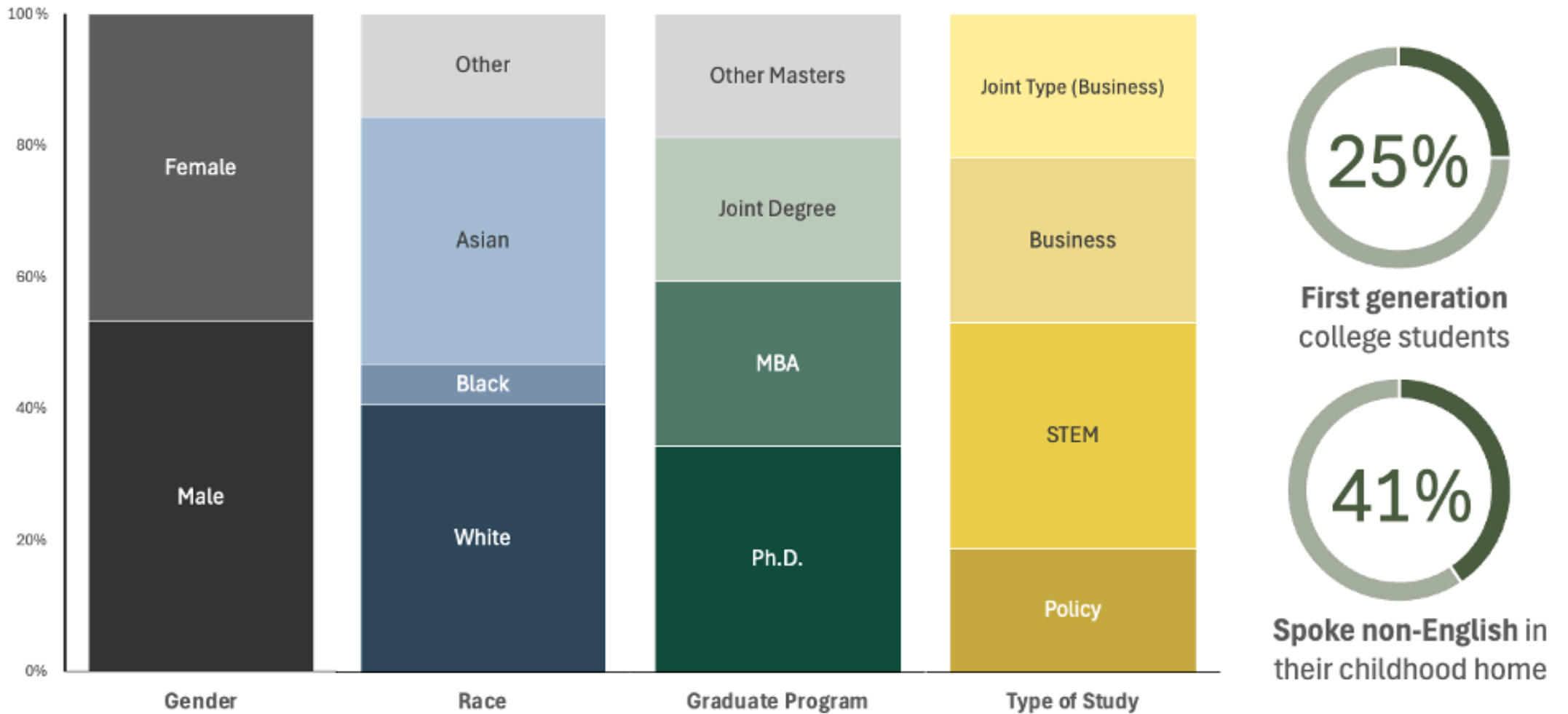


Corson Chao
MIT
PhD – Materials Science &
Engineering



Yirui Gui
Columbia University
MPA – Climate, Energy &
Environment

The 2026 cohort balances Policy, Business, and STEM degrees with study diversity and international backgrounds



2026 NextGen Steering Committee

Co-Leaders



Dr. Naomi Boness
 Managing Director
 Stanford Natural Gas
 and Hydrogen
 Initiatives



Dr. Robert Johnston
 Director, ENR, and
 Professor, U of Calgary

NextGen Representatives



Michael Ettlinger
 Michigan MEng/MS
 NG25



Andrew Lin
 Rice University
 PhD ChemE NG25



Sam Hall
 Founder,
 GrowthFactor
 MBA MIT NG24



Amanda Studebaker
 Senior Associate SCP
 Stanford MBA/MS
 NG24

Committee Members



Carrie Braddock
 SLP MD
 Stewardship/ Impact



Keila Diamond
 Managing Director and
 Head of ESG
 Quantum Energy
 Partners



Georgina Flatter
 CEO
 Greentown Labs



Dr. Neil Fromer
 Executive Director
 Resnick Sustainability
 Institute, CalTech



Ira Joseph
 Global Fellow
 CGEP, Columbia
 University



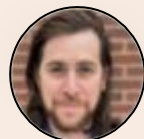
Dr. Shannon Miller
 Founder & CEO
 Mainspring Energy



Dan Recht
 MD Activate Boston



Monika Simões
 CEO & Founder
 Energy Dialogues, Inc.



Ben Soltoff
 Entrepreneur in
 Residence
 MIT's Martin Trust
 Center for
 Entrepreneurship



Dr. Mike Witt
 Chief Sustainability
 Officer
 Northrop Grumman



David Pruner
 Executive Director
 TEX-E



***Dianne Ledingham**
 Advisory Partner
 Bain & Co

* Former Chair

SteerCo Chair



Tom O'Toole
 Executive Director
 Kellogg School of
 Management

NextGen Program Director



Kristin Barbato
 Director of NextGen
 Program

Our Steering Committee comprises leaders in industry, academia, and NextGen Leader representatives.

They serve as corporate and university liaisons as well as NextGen mentors and coaches.

This sounding board provides insights for our long-term vision and driving the impact our leaders can make to support the Dual Challenge.

Together We Build Systems to Drive Mission Success

Refine Strategy & Vision

Engage in high-impact initiatives that shape direction

- *SteerCo Leads*
- *Impact Project Members*

Promote Connectivity

Foster strong networks to enhance collaboration & impact

- *Connectivity Leads*
- *Cohort Buddies*

Assemble Top Talent

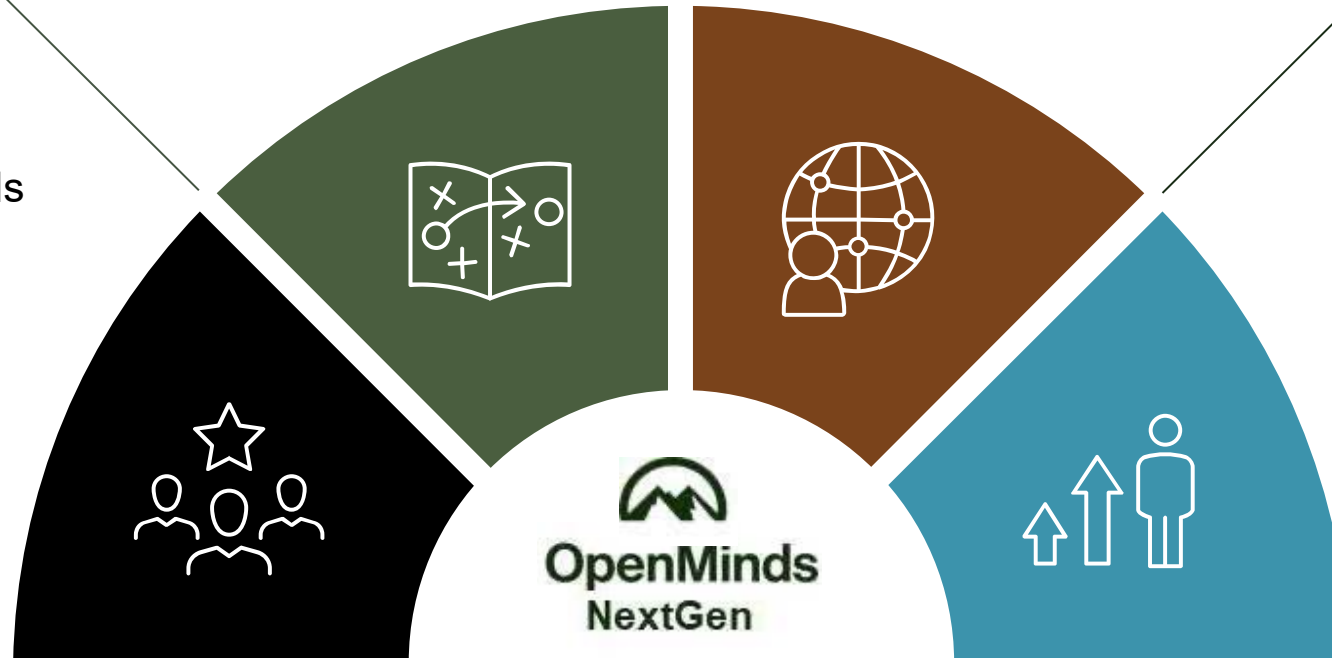
Unite exceptional individuals to maximize impact

- *School Recruiting Leads*

Self-Governance & Growth

Drive sustainable progress through effective leadership

- *SteerCo Leads*
- *Class Leads*



Launch Year Program Components



NextGen 2024 Student Dual Challenge Projects Overview

Projects designed to deliver value across multiple stakeholder groups

NextGen Students

- Provide **real-world experience** in tackling energy and climate challenges, and **develop valuable connections**







Sponsor companies

- Generate **actionable insights** into key challenges on priority topics for each company, and **connect with students** focused on energy and climate







OpenMinds

- Evaluate the **potential impact from addressing specific components** of the identified high priority solutions to **drive impact toward the Dual Challenge**












NG 2024 Projects spanned 6 critical topics in addressing the Dual Challenge in the US

CCUS	What is the potential impact from implementing Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage on gas-fired plants?	
DAC	Who are high priority customer segments for Direct Air Capture , and what is the potential impact from serving them?	
Methane Abatement	How can small-to-mid sized operators be incentivized to pursue methane abatement , and what is the potential impact?	
Coal-to-X switching	What is the risk from growing energy demand on coal plant phaseouts , and what are some mitigation strategies?	
Renewable Power	How is AI impacting energy demand growth in the US, and what is the potential to meet this demand with renewables ?	
Transmission	How much additional energy demand could be met by upgrading existing transmission infrastructure , and what would be the potential emissions impact?	

NextGen Cohort 2025: Dual Challenge Projects

Topic	Sponsor	Overarching question
Carbon Capture Utilization & Sequestration (CCUS)	 CALPINE®	Where is opportunity for moonshot cost reductions , and what is the best path to pursue ?
Geothermal	 FERVO ENERGY	What is oftaker willingness to pay for dispatchable geothermal electricity?
Methane	 Williams®	How do we implement a traceability system to track methane emissions across supply chains? How can deployment of this be accelerated in the US?
HVAC Battery Deployment	 Carrier CenterPoint Energy	How can we accelerate the adoption of battery-enabled residential HVAC systems in the next 6-12 months to unlock a distributed capacity resource?
Nuclear	 Microsoft	What are the critical areas to accelerate advanced nuclear technology ?
Dual Challenge Progress	 OpenMinds	How do we build a global scorecard on the Dual Challenge and the Top 10 Solutions?

NextGen Cohort 2026: Dual Challenge Projects

Topic	Advisors	Overarching question
Battery Storage	   	How far can the US battery storage market go by 2035, and what would realizing its full potential mean for grid reliability, renewable penetration, and the barriers still standing in the way?
Bring Your Own Power (BYOP)	 	How will the surge in US data center power demand unfold through 2035, and what does realizing the full potential of BYOP mean for how much gets built, at what cost per kWh and which technologies lead the way? What obstacles stand in the way of acceleration ?
Geothermal & Nuclear		How much clean firm power can realistically be deployed in the US by 2035, and what does it take to get advanced geothermal and small modular reactor (SMR) companies from promising pilots to at-scale deployment across technology, supply chain, financing, and cost?
Methane Abatement	  	What does the full economic picture of the natural gas supply chain look like when methane leakage detection and remediation are accounted for , and what does that mean for natural gas markets, state and international policy?
Economic Impact of Climate Change		How much is climate change costing and what does objectively quantifying that across economic outcomes through 2030, 2040, and 2050 mean for how we communicate, plan for, and build a call to action around the challenge ahead?

NextGen Leadership Teams

Cross-cohort Leadership Teams of NextGeners across critical areas of community-building functions and initiatives for self-governance, OpenMinds goals, and impact to the broader market

Campus Recruiting



- *Recruit on campus*
- *Develop relationships with professors*
- *Support selection process*

Job Recruitment



- *Create a job board*
- *Track NG jobs post-launch year*
- *Relationships with OM companies*

Community & Network



- *Community initiatives*
- *Support NextGen 2026 Summit - April*
- *Meetups connected to industry events*

Marketing & Comms



- *Communications across NG cohorts*
- *NG newsletter*
- *Develop social media videos and stories*

NextGen Boot Camp & NextGen Summit 2026 Highlights!



Apply by January 30th!

OpenMinds NextGen Leaders Program:
Our mission is to identify, empower, and create a community of the next generation of energy and climate leaders to lead global impact on the Dual Challenge.

Apply to become a OpenMinds NextGen Leader:

Application opens: December 15th, 2025

Deadline: January 30th, 2026

<https://forms.gle/Z3NKcP4E9QDCJFzG7>



What the program entails

- ✓ **Interactive immersion** through a **3-day bootcamp** with other students, industry experts, and policymakers
- ✓ **Leadership opportunities** to launch and **run cross-functional projects** that make a direct impact with leading corporations
- ✓ **1:1 mentorship** with OpenMinds top experts in the climate and energy industry
- ✓ **Networking** with leaders from energy, climate academia, policy as well as students from top universities across US & Europe
- ✓ **Education** on the Dual Challenge of energy + climate
- ✓ **Building a community of exceptional leaders** catalyzing action on the Dual Challenge for the next generation
- ✓ **Self-governance teams** for marketing, speaker series, job recruitment, and regional networking events

Student Launch Year Expectations



Commit ~2-5 hours per week on average across program elements



Participate in the bootcamp and share your expertise with other attendees



Drive projects for OpenMinds and remain an active member of the broader NextGen Leaders group

We look forward to growing this incredible network!

Learn more about OpenMinds, the Dual Challenge, and our Top 10 solutions



<https://openminds203x.org/>



David Baldwin

Co-founder, OpenMinds
dbaldwin@scfpartners.com



Jeff Katz

Co-founder, OpenMinds
jgkatz@me.com



OpenMinds

**Solving for the
Dual Challenge.**