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CLIMATE BREAKTHROUGH AWARD ANNOUNCES 2023 RECIPIENTS

Two extraordinary women are each getting US\$3 million in multiyear, flexible grants along with capacity-building resources to pursue ambitious and transformative climate action.



SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 1, 2023 – Climate Breakthrough, the organizer of the distinguished Climate Breakthrough Award, [today has named](#) **GITA SYAHRANI** of Indonesia (*left in above photo*) and **JANE FLEMING KLEEB** of the United States (*right*) as its 2023 Awardees.

The Climate Breakthrough Award is the largest environmental grant for individuals. Gita and Jane join 17 previous Climate Breakthrough Awardees who have used their funding to create and scale novel initiatives with strong climate breakthrough potential.

“Gita and Jane are two inspiring leaders who have already made remarkable contributions to addressing the climate crisis, and now they’re setting their sights on even more ambitious goals,” said Climate Breakthrough Executive Director **Savanna Ferguson**. *“I’m grateful that Climate Breakthrough can serve as a catalyst for*

their transformative climate efforts. Both intend to pursue work at a national level, which, based as they are in two of the world's largest emitters, has the potential for global impact."

Gita has spent her career convening industries, jurisdictions, development partners and communities to spur sustainability action in Indonesia. With her award, she plans to demonstrate a new economic model for Indonesia by catalyzing nature-based businesses in forest- and peatland-rich regions, delivering success stories to drive policy-making, and promoting social campaigns to spark people's imaginations of a sustainable society. [\[Read Gita's profile here\]](#)

Jane, widely known as a key figure behind the successful fight against the Keystone XL pipeline, has proven the power of unexpected alliances among rural Americans. With her award, she intends to build alliances among those communities around their land preservation, break down opposition to renewable energy development, and advocate clean energy development that is beneficial to local residents through what she calls the "American Energy Dividend." [\[Read Jane's profile here\]](#)

LEGACY

With the two new awardees, Climate Breakthrough has now given 19 multi-million-dollar, multiyear awards supporting initiatives that could reduce global annual emissions by hundreds of millions of tons, affect entire industries or regions of the world, and materially change the lives of millions of people.

2016 Awardee John Hepburn launched the [Insure Our Future](#) movement to get the worldwide insurance industry to stop covering fossil fuel projects when most thought that strategy was not doable. 2018 Awardee Bruce Nilles said his funding allowed him to jump-start [a US building electrification campaign at the Rocky Mountain Institute](#) when that sector was largely off the radar of most funders.

2019 Awardee Tzeborah Berman created the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) initiative, which has become one of the fastest-growing global green movements. 2018 Awardee Tessa Khan [founded Uplift](#) to build movements toward ending the development of new fossil fuels in the UK, the second-largest oil and gas producer in Europe. Meanwhile, 2020 Awardee Nicole Rycroft utilized her award to help catalyze the global commercial production of low-carbon and circular climate solutions and keep forests standing. With her team, [earlier this year she received \\$60 million in funding from The Audacious Project](#) to expand that ambitious work.

STRUCTURE AND SELECTION

At its core, the Climate Breakthrough Award is an investment in the potential of climate breakthroughs. Relying on three tenets—larger grants, a longer time horizon, and more flexibility—the Award is a rare philanthropic model that invests in capable individuals to lead big-bet, transformational efforts rather than those with near-term metrics of incremental progress.

Candidates are scouted (no unsolicited applications), vetted rigorously and exhaustively, and then invited to in-depth interviews on their leadership skills and breakthrough ideas.

In addition to the \$3 million grant, awardees receive separate funding for capacity-building services such as executive coaching, fundraising and communications support, legal support, and third-party impact and learning evaluations. Eligible awardees may also receive a \$600,000 matching grant toward the end of the grant period to attract follow-on funding and further support their work.

Additional Information

- Gita Syahrani is the second awardee from Indonesia, following [Arief Rabik](#) in 2019.
- Jane Kleeb is the third awardee from the United States, following [Denise Fairchild](#) in 2021 and [Bruce Nilles](#) in 2018.
- We fund system-change initiatives that harness the immense power of cultural shifts, political reforms, and economic transformations in addressing the climate crisis. We do not fund technology advancements or for-profit strategies.
- Over 60 percent of our awards have gone to women or women-led teams, and more than 70 percent have supported work in the Global South.
- Our awardees have raised over \$180 million collectively in follow-on funding.

Additional Quotes

- **Bill McKibben – Author, Educator, Environmentalist, Founder of 350.org and ThirdAct.org**
 - *“If anyone ever deserved a Climate Breakthrough Award, it is Jane. I have never worked with anybody who’s worked harder, smarter, or in a better spirit.”*
- **Indra Darmawan – Senior Advisor, Ministry of Investment, Indonesia (BKPM).**
 - *“If all of the ideas that Gita has are implemented, I believe Indonesia could be in a better and stronger position in its sustainable development efforts, whether nationally, regionally, or globally.”*
- **Justin Pearson – Tennessee State Representative, US.**
 - *“Congratulations, Jane. Thank you for bringing the same spirit that you brought to the pipeline fights to the movement to make sure that rural communities are given access to the wealth that is created by clean energy.”*
- **Walt Reid – Founding board chair of Climate Breakthrough; Vice President of Environment & Science at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.**
 - *“The strategies and solutions the world is pursuing today are not sufficient to achieve a safe climate future. We need bold new ideas and approaches. By identifying outstanding individuals with different backgrounds from different countries and giving them the resources*



to think big and launch novel, high-impact initiatives, Climate Breakthrough is generating the new solutions that the world needs.”

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ABOUT

Climate Breakthrough is a global philanthropy supporting extraordinary leaders to pursue ambitious and transformative climate action that swiftly and justly closes the gap between the world today and a sustainable future. Launched in 2016 as a multi-funder collaborative, Climate Breakthrough is currently supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the IKEA Foundation, the JPB Foundation, The Lemelson Foundation, Quadrature Climate Foundation, and Vere Initiatives.

Visit www.climatebreakthrough.org for general information.

For inquiries, including awardee portraits and other multimedia assets, email Tony Bricktua, Communications Officer, at press@climatebreakthrough.org.