



CLEAN  
COOKING  
ALLIANCE

STUDENT  
ENERGY

IGNITE

YOUTH POWERING  
CLEAN COOKING  
INCUBATOR



## IGNITE:

Youth Powering Clean Cooking (“Ignite Incubator”) is a cross-cutting incubator program that unlocks youth-led innovations in clean cooking through technical project assistance and catalytic funding, with a goal of scaling clean and efficient clean cooking solutions to target regions.

### THE ISSUE — PARTNERING FOR PEOPLE

Ninety per cent of the world’s 1.8 billion youth live in developing countries where 2.4 billion people still rely on polluting fuels and stoves to cook food. The negative impact of traditional cooking on young people is substantial, both for the number of youth affected and the cross-cutting nature of the problem’s adverse impacts on youth, including health, climate, local environment, education and employment.

Yet, young people, and particularly young women, remain underrepresented in the clean cooking sector, despite making up the overwhelming majority of people affected in countries with the largest access gaps. A dramatic scale-up in training and investment towards equipping young people in clean cooking is needed now to achieve universal access by 2030.

**Student Energy** and the **Clean Cooking Alliance** are partnering to address this urgent need through the Ignite Incubator, which will provide an enabling environment and a training platform for young people to launch solutions and businesses in clean cooking, and through that, create decent economic opportunities, empower young women, and improve health and livelihoods.

The need for accessible clean cooking solutions is most acute in Sub-Saharan Africa, where nearly a billion people do not have access to clean modern cooking fuels and technology and have to rely on harmful traditional biomass to cook their meals, according to the International Energy Agency's 2021 World Energy Outlook. Only 17% of the population have switched to cleaner options in Sub-Saharan Africa, less than any other sub-region in the Outlook. While Developing Asia is home to the largest number of people without access, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) programmes and clean air policies have seen this figure steadily decrease since 2010 according to the IEA. The opposite is true for Sub-Saharan Africa, where population growth combined with disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it the only region whose population without clean cooking access has increased.

In 2021, Student Energy asked its network of 50,000+ youth to express their interest in participating in new programming that focuses on topics such as solar project development, clean cooking, and clean energy entrepreneurship. From these responses, Student Energy has identified that there are a significant number of young people ready to be supported in.

**Over 50% of all global responses expressing interest in this programming came from youth in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

**Over 81% of the responses interested in clean cooking programming, and 65% of responses interested in entrepreneurship, came from youth in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

*"Clean Cooking is a youth issue. 90% of the world's youth live in regions with the lowest access to clean cooking. This disproportionately impacts youth education, employment, and health."*

**Katja Lasseur**, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Ghana, at the 2022 Clean Cooking Forum Opening Plenary

*"From where I stand, clean cooking is not just about food. It transcends the goings-on confined to the kitchen and spills into health, gender equality, economic gains and sustainable societies."*

**Cherop Soy**, Ecowarrior Kenya and Youth Delegate at the 2022 Clean Cooking Forum

**2.4 billion**  
people still rely on polluting  
fuels and stoves to cook food.



# APPROACH

The 'Ignite' Incubator is a 10-12 month long cross-cutting incubator program that unlocks youth-led innovations in clean cooking through technical project assistance and catalytic funding, with a goal of expanding clean and efficient clean cooking solutions to target regions.

The program will provide technical assistance, business development support, hands-on coaching, and seed capital to clean cooking enterprises led by youth between the ages of 18-35.

# PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- Curriculum and learning resources in entrepreneurship, clean cooking, and thematic areas in clean cooking
- Technical assistance
- Coaching and technical mentorship
- Project guides
- Seed funding of 10,000 to 30,000 USD
- Networking and opportunity to participate in CCA's Clean Cooking Forum
- Peer-to-peer mentorship
- Needs-based approach: solutions will be responsive to the needs and wants of communities/youth
- **Thematic and focus areas of enterprises including digital innovation, carbon finance, innovation to drive demand, and integrating clean cooking solutions to broader ecosystems.**
- **Regional focus on high-demand in West and East African countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania.**
- **Access to professional gender-specific networks such as the Women in Clean Cooking Mentorship program and mentorship from CCA's Venture Catalyst entrepreneurs and business leaders**
- **Supporting testing of new innovations or scaling existing proven technologies**

## IMPACTS OF IGNITE: YOUTH POWERING CLEAN COOKING

- The program will unlock youth-led enterprises in clean cooking, addressing climate change, creating jobs for women and young people and expanding household access to clean cooking.
- The program will widen opportunities for youth-led clean cooking enterprises to grow, attract financing, and penetrate new markets.
- Student Energy and the Clean Cooking Alliance will ensure that a minimum of 50% of the program's participants are women.

## WORK WITH US

Through this program, Student Energy and the Clean Cooking Alliance are leveraging complementary strengths in youth engagement expertise and market strengthening in the clean cooking sector to catalyze and scale innovative clean cooking solutions led by young people.

We are actively seeking mission-aligned partners to enable the impact of the program through fiscal sponsorship and in-kind support via mentorship, input on program development, technical support on projects, and other areas. This will be a unique opportunity for partners to showcase their commitment towards clean cooking access and the social and economic empowerment of young people, and particularly young women, through entrepreneurship.



# ABOUT THE PARTNERS

## STUDENT ENERGY

### ABOUT STUDENT ENERGY

**Student Energy** is the world's largest youth-led organization focused on energy, empowering 50,000 young people in 120+ countries to accelerate the transition to a sustainable and equitable energy future. Student Energy's Programs Ecosystem offers 9 unique programs which deliver energy education, skills training, and project financing for young people globally, and also works with governments, the UN, and other decision makers to facilitate meaningful youth engagement and mobilize resources, coaching, and mentorship to support youth-led work. Student Energy has built coalitions with over 100 diverse partners, such as Indigenous Clean Energy, Sustainable Energy for All, HSBC Global, the Stockholm Environment Institute, DNV, WSP, and national governments like Canada, Denmark, and Sweden. Student Energy has stewarded CAD\$10 million+ in funding to date, supported the development of over 280 youth energy projects, held 6 international Student Energy Summits, and attracted over 17 million people to its digital energy education platforms. Examples of projects and enterprises supported by SE can be found [here](#).



### ABOUT CLEAN COOKING ALLIANCE

Since 2010, the **Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA)** has worked with a global network of partners to build an inclusive and financially sustainable industry to ensure clean cooking is accessible to the nearly three billion people who live without it each day. CCA's portfolio of programs and projects is designed to protect the climate and the environment, improve health and livelihoods, empower women, and facilitate equitable clean energy transitions. Through ecosystem-wide partnerships, market-strengthening initiatives, monitoring and evaluation efforts, research and knowledge generation, and global advocacy and communications, CCA is the leading organization bringing together stakeholders from across the ecosystem with the aim to achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030 in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Net Zero ambitions. CCA has trained more than 5,000 women entrepreneurs, youths, and educators and provided more than US\$25 million in support for companies across the clean cooking industry. Through its extensive communications, advocacy, and convening efforts, CCA has reached over 100 million people, boosting awareness and action on this critical issue.

*"Clean Cooking is a youth issue. First and foremost young people need to be creative participants and at the center of solutions. Young people also benefit from clean cooking from access to health, education and employment opportunities."*

**Helen Watts**, Executive Director of Student Energy



*"It's time to scale up investments to deliver clean cooking solutions in every household - and we can empower youth to be the driving force of change. I believe this program will give young people access to the tools and networks they need to reach their full potential - to progress in their careers, attain leadership positions, and advance the clean cooking sector as a whole"*

**Dymphna van der Lans**, CEO, Clean Cooking Alliance

