

Michelle Luu

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Shortly after graduating from Haverford College, I became a Digital Marketing Intern for the Climate + Energy Project and continued as a Program Assistant. As an intern, I worked to educate and turn out climate and energy voters in Kansas for the November 2020 election. My work continued in helping plan and execute CEP's first virtual WEALTH Days, including organizing the [first youth-led panel on environmental advocacy](#). Hoping to help CEP engage more youth in its work, my final task at CEP was to fully launch the Kansas Environmental Youth (KEY) Network - stay tuned for more details!

COVID-19 meant this election year would be different; organizations would have to shift the majority of their work virtually instead of the typical in-person canvassing. My main priorities were creating informative and engaging content for our social media outlets. We wanted to help Kansans understand the technicalities of voting and *why* it was important for climate + energy voters to turn out this year. Alongside posting infographics and sharing resource links, we hosted live webinars (i.e CEP Votes, Voting in the Kansas Primary, Voter Registration Drive) with invited guests and organizations to provide assistance in how to apply to vote by mail, how to vote in the Kansas primary, how to register to vote, and more. I learned how we could empower and support Kansans to use their vote to advocate for environmental issues they cared about at the polls. I also engaged with Kansans who supported CEP's work and wanted to take action beyond voting through relational organizing with our Voter Ambassador program.

As my work shifted towards helping CEP develop a youth engagement plan, I was inspired by the youth advocates that Joyeta (a fellow intern) and I recruited for our WEALTH Days Youth Advocacy Panel and Workshop. Despite this being the first time our panelists met, conversations flowed naturally as they found alignment in their values with fighting the climate crisis in Kansas. Joyeta and I realized there was no existing network that connected these movements - this realization sprouted the creation of the Kansas Environmental Youth (KEY) Network. We worked together to propose a network where environmental youth advocates and organizations around Kansas could connect to share resources, opportunities, and knowledge.

Working with CEP has helped me gain a greater understanding of non-profit organizations and how they work to make progress in environmental issues. CEP's approach is fact-based, which is impactful when talking about environmental issues in more conservative states like Kansas. Aside from the hands-on experience that developed my digital communication skills, I was given the autonomy and freedom to propose new youth-centered programming. One of the best parts of this experience was getting to know environmental advocates and the organizations we were collaborating with. It was inspiring to learn more about the work of these different organizations CEP worked with in Kansas and in the Midwest (REAMP). I feel lucky to have gotten the chance to work with CEP these last few months and I

am excited to take what I have learned to my next position as a Development Coordinator for [Faith in Place](#) (a multifaith environmental non-profit based in IL).