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Laura Stieghorst

Summary

Founder, researcher and consultant working to advance the knowledge of ocean carbon dioxide removal to ultimately deliver scientifically-backed and community-informed climate policy decisions. Experienced in leading teams on complex scientific projects to develop ocean alkalinity enhancement technology for commercial, nonprofit and academic partners. Highly collaborative with strong client relationships, creating a broad and diverse network. Developed deep industry knowledge of carbon removal and marine science, having worked on projects across lab and field science, policy, and industry. Skilled public speaker, project manager, and event organizer, closely connected with youth climate leaders.

Experience

Founder, Basico Carbon

August 2021 – Present

Miami, Florida & Brooklyn, New York

Founded Basico Carbon in 2021 to advance Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE) as a viable method of marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) through research and development.

Project Management

- Coordinated research, public engagement and communications as a Field Research Associate for the Carbon to Sea Initiative in Halifax, NS, CAN (Sept – Dec 2024).
- Managed the budget, timeline and deliverables for XPRIZE Carbon Removal funded research in partnership with the University of Miami and Planetary Technologies (Dec 2021 – April 2023).
- Led Basico Carbon as a research team in the XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition, resulting in a \$100K award (Aug – Nov 2021).

Field Building

- Managed the Carbon to Sea Initiative's Fellowship Program resulting in a strategic roadmap for the organization's future funding and research (Nov 2024 - Feb 2025).
- Led coalition building for a campaign to introduce legislation on OAE permitting in Florida, securing support from over 80 individuals, organizations, and state officials (Nov 2023 - Sept 2024).
- Developed a database of over 200 peer-reviewed articles on OAE science and environmental impacts to support the approval of a field research permit in Iceland (Oct 2023 – Mar 2024).

Research

- Measured, and recorded pH data on NOAA GO-SHIP A16N (April – May 2023).
- Coordinated XPRIZE research on the impact of alkalinity enhancement on coral growth and the dissolution kinetics of $Mg(OH)_2$ on CO_2 uptake efficiency. Published in Marine Chemistry journal (Yang, 2023).

Executive Assistant, RiveroMestre LLP

May 2018 – March 2020

Miami, Florida

- Conducted thorough public records searches, drafted witness questionnaires, and prepared documents for legal proceedings to assist attorneys with case preparation.
- Managed calendars, scheduled client meetings and court visits, and tracked media appearances of high-profile clients to ensure smooth operations and effective communication.

Administrative Assistant, University of Miami Wellness Center

February 2019 – January 2020

Miami, Florida

- Supported the administrative office staff by processing payments, digitizing files, and answering

calls and questions from current and prospective members.

- Developed customer service, record maintenance, and conflict resolution skills.

Education

University of Miami

August 2017 – December 2021

Miami, FL

B.A. Ecosystems Science and Policy, minor in Spanish

Relevant Coursework: Environmental Decision Making, Public Speaking, Climatology and Extreme Weather, Public Policy, Environmental Economics, Sustainable Development.

Universidad de Sevilla

August 2019 – December 2019

Sevilla, Spain

Completed four months of coursework towards a Spanish minor while integrating with a Spanish-speaking host family.

Grants & Fellowships

- Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB) Gulf Regional Node co-leader 2024
- 776 Foundation Fellowship 2022 - 2024 Cohort
- Aspen Institute Future Climate Leaders 2022 - 2024 Cohort
- XPRIZE Carbon Removal Student Competition - MRV category 2021
- Leadership UMiami 2018 Cohort

Certifications

- Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute 2023

Conferences

- Ocean Visions Biennial Summit. March 25-27. 2025
- AGU, Workshop facilitator, OAE Data Management Guidelines. December 9. 2024
- OCEANs Canada, Workshop facilitator, Data Dive: Setting the Standard for Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement. September 25.
- Ocean Sciences Meeting, Workshop facilitator, Advancing Responsible Field Trials: A Workshop for OAE Research. February 19-22. 2023
- Aspen Ideas: Climate Summit, Future Climate Leader, press, workshop facilitator, March 3-9.
- NACP/US Carbon Cycle Science Program Workshop: Measuring, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MMRV) for Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR). February 21-23. 2022
- NYC Climate Week, UN Youth for Climate forum, September 19-21.
- Future of Water Conference, August 8-10.
- Aspen Ideas: Climate Summit, Future Climate Leader and panelist speaker, May 9-12.
- Climate Resilience Academy Symposium, poster presenter, April 26.

Interviews & Press

- 2025
 - The Carbon to Sea Initiative, blog, Reflections from Laura Stieghorst on Climate Innovations in Nova Scotia. January 13.
- 2024
 - Climate Stories Atlantic, digital, A fine counterbalancing act. October 15.
- 2022
 - The Miami Herald, newspaper, Can adding minerals to ocean curb climate change? November 15.
 - The Miami Herald, newspaper, Deploy variety of carbon-removal methods to make Florida more resilient to climate change, Opinion, August 27.
 - Important, Not Important, podcast, Fellowship of the Climate, August 15.
 - Aspen Ideas: Climate Summit, closing speaker, Miami: An Ocean Innovation Hub, May 12.
 - House on Fire, podcast, The power of Young Minds: Laura Stieghorst and the XPRIZE, April 30.
 - Cafecito Talk with Mayor Francis Suarez, interview, Cafecito Talk with Laura Stieghorst, February 9
- 2021
 - WLRN, public radio, UM Student Wins \$100,000 Elon Musk Prize to Study Capturing Planet Warming Carbon, December 9.
 - News @ the U, newspaper, Students Win \$100,000 Prize from Elon Musk's Carbon-Removal Competition, November 10.