

Keara Hudler

Equity and Community Engagement Manager



As an Equity and Community Engagement Manager at Western Resource Advocates (WRA), Keara Hudler embodies the spirit of authentic collaboration and meaningful relationship building, weaving together the threads of environmental justice and equity to create a future where all communities thrive.

In her role, Hudler fosters equity efforts by coaching and partnering with WRA team members on shared principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, as well as working to center diverse communities, individuals, and coalitions who have been disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis into necessary policy change. Her work transcends checklists, sparking conversations and co-learning experiences that resonate within the organization and the broader environmental movement.

Hudler grew up on the borderlands of Texas and Mexico, a nexus of environmental injustice. Her passion for this work was ignited by a high school AP environmental science class, where her teacher's emphasis on the human side of environmental issues opened her eyes to the deeper complexities of climate crises.

Stepping onto her college campus in 2014, the illuminations of the Ferguson protests and the Student Environmental Activism and Knowledge Club led Hudler to explore the intersection of environmental justice and social equity. This discovery unveiled the intricate connections between environmental concerns and systemic racism, xenophobia, and social inequalities. This revelation set her on a path to bridge the gap between these realms, ultimately shaping her commitment to equitable change.

Hudler's journey led her to WRA in 2023, where she sought an organization that aligned with her values of relationship building, mentorship, and environmental justice. She was particularly drawn to WRA's self-awareness and commitment to challenging historical oppressions perpetuated by the environmental movement. It was here that she found alignment in the goal of bringing the power of the people together to drive environmental justice in the West.

The guiding force along Hudler's personal and professional trajectory is her desire to contribute to dismantling oppressive systems and replacing them with the collective power of communities. In fact, it was her involvement in building a team of volunteers for Sierra Club Independent Action during the 2020 election that stands out as one of her proudest professional accomplishments. This endeavor epitomizes her dedication to relationship-building in the face of adversity, helping communities to come together despite social isolation, systemic injustice, and political divisions.

Coming from a family of educators, Hudler maintains a deep belief in the transformative power of education, mentorship, and co-learning, and hopes to prioritize these learnings in the environmental space. Recognizing that these visions will differ based on cultural, regional, and individual needs, she advocates for embracing a broad spectrum of paths to justice. And this includes expanding the resource bank of approaches, partnerships, and narratives to drive us toward a diverse and vibrant future.

Hudler received a Master of Arts in Sustainable Communities from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Southwestern University. Her master's thesis focused on feminist mentorship's role in sustaining social justice movements and helping activists avoid burnout, underlining her commitment to nurturing relationships that sustain change. She lives in Flagstaff, Ariz., where she enjoys reading fiction and nonfiction as a way to learn from and imagine other ways of living. She can often be found outdoors camping, hiking, and birdwatching.

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