

Gene Elden Likens

Professor Gene E. Likens is an ecologist best known for his discovery of acid rain in North America with colleagues, for co-founding of the internationally renowned Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study and for founding the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, a leading, international ecological research and education center. Dr. Likens is an educator and advisor at state, national, and international levels. He has been an advisor to governors in New York State, in New Hampshire and in Connecticut, as well as a U.S. President. He currently holds faculty positions at Yale, Cornell, Rutgers Universities, SUNY Albany, the University of Connecticut, and recently was awarded a Chair as Albert Einstein Professor from the Chinese Academy of Science and also named Honorary Professor at Jinan University, Guangzhou, China. Dr. Likens has been awarded eleven Honorary doctoral Degrees. In addition to being elected a member of the prestigious U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, Dr. Likens has been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Austrian Academy of Sciences, and an Honorary Member of the British Ecological Society. Dr. Likens was awarded the 2001 National Medal of Science, presented at The White House; in 2003 was awarded the Blue Planet Prize (with F. H. Bormann) from the Asahi Glass Foundation, considered by many to be the Nobel Prize for Ecology; in 2017 was awarded the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Ecology and Conservation Biology; and in 2019 was awarded the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Earth and Environmental Science. Among other awards, in 1993 Dr. Likens, with F. H. Bormann, was awarded the Tyler Prize, The World Prize for Environmental Achievement, and in 1994, he was the sole recipient of the Australia Prize for Science and Technology. Dr. Likens has served as President of the International Society of Theoretical and Applied Limnology, American Institute of Biological Sciences, Ecological Society of America, and American Society of Limnology and Oceanography. Dr. Likens is the author, co-author or editor of 26 books and more than 600 scientific papers.