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#PGC2025

WHEN THE WATER TURNED TOXIC, SHE TURNED UP THE PRESSURE - LAURENE ALLEN



Who is Laurene Allen?

Laurene Allen is a community health advocate and mom from Merrimack, New Hampshire. She has lived there since the 1980s and cares deeply about her town's health and the environment!

What did she do?

Laurene led a campaign to expose dangerous "forever chemicals" called PFAS in her town's drinking water. These chemicals came from the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics plant, which polluted the area for over 20 years. The plant was able to be closed in May 2024 because of her work and advocacy.

When did this happen?

The problem was discovered in 2016, when tests showed the water was contaminated. Laurene fought long and hard for countless years to make sure the issue was taken seriously.

Where did this happen?

This took place in Merrimack, a town of about 29,000 people in southern New Hampshire.

Why is this important?

PFAS chemicals are harmful and linked to cancer and other diseases. Thousands of families in Merrimack were exposed to these toxins through water, air, and soil.

How did Laurene make a difference?

Laurene taught herself about PFAS, started a local group called Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water, held meetings, and worked with scientists and officials. She helped raise awareness, pushed for laws to protect the community, and kept up the pressure until the plant closed. She continues to make a difference as she still fights for such causes today!

Laurene Allen is an inspiration to me because:

Laurene didn't give up even when things were hard. Even without a background in science, she learned everything she needed to fight for clean water and hold big companies accountable. Her story teaches me that no matter the challenge, standing up for what's right and working with others can make real change happen. Her determination and courage is something which is inspiring to me and reminds me to use my voice to fight for things I care about despite the obstacles and challenges there may be!



Personal Takeaway:

Laurene is super influential because she showed me how one person's courage and hard work can fight a serious environmental problem and protect a whole community. Her story inspires me to believe I can do the same! Moreover, it taught me that it is important to speak up for what's right!



Link to Insta where it is

posted: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DPm4CEVDYLS/?igsh=MTN3eDJiem9kaDhjaQ==>

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