

GREEN CORPS

FALL REPORT 2023

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🌱 ORGANIZERS IN ACTION

ORGANIZING TO WIN IN 2023

2023 will be a year for the books. More often than not, the work of an organizer is behind the scenes and may only pay off in concrete action or tangible policy change after years of hard work. This year, our organizers have been able to provide field support to environmental campaigns that resulted in the passage of concrete policies to protect our planet.

In Oregon, Green Corps partnered with OSPIRG Students and raised visibility in and around Eugene for a statewide ban on polystyrene foam products, including takeout containers, packing peanuts and coolers. After our organizers collected thousands of petitions and mobilized citizens to call their state legislators, Gov. Tina Kotek signed bills to do this in early May.

In Colorado, we worked to protect bees and other pollinators. We built public support to reduce the sale and use of neonicotinoids, a harmful class of pesticides, in key communities across Colorado. Natalie Woodland mobilized more than 149 small businesses and beekeepers in support of the campaign and hosted three different student lobby days at the state capitol. The corresponding bill passed

the state Legislature and Gov. Jared Polis signed it in May 2023.

After multiple teams of Green Corps organizers worked on this effort between 2020 and 2022, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is going to conduct a study for how to best reconnect fragmented wildlife habitat. Green Corps organizers recruited more than 180 recreation businesses, elected officials and environmental groups to support this first step toward increasing the resiliency of Pennsylvania's wildlife.

These are just a few of the victories our team participated in this year. There were countless other highlights in the form of media coverage earned, volunteer leaders trained, and educational events designed to engage local communities. Since then, the Class of 2023 organizers launched their last Green Corps campaigns to advance renewable energy in the Northeast, reduce the use of toxic pesticides in California, protect mature and old-growth forests across the country, and hold corporations accountable for single-use plastic production in Virginia.



KIRO 7

Green Corps Organizer Sam Cowles spoke to KIRO 7 News in Seattle, opposing the development of polluting fish farms.



YOU MAKE GOOD ORGANIZING POSSIBLE



Staff

Dear Friends,

Fall is always my favorite time of the Green Corps year. It is a time of transition as we graduate the outgoing class of organizers and welcome a new class to begin their own journeys

in critical environmental work. As the Class of 2023 finalizes their future plans, many of them are particularly excited to engage other young people in climate advocacy and conservation in the years ahead.

Upon writing this, we have seen July 2023 clock in as the Earth's hottest month on record. While the stakes are high, we know it is a privilege to be able to do this work, with your support. We will continue to come to work each day with the knowledge that this is both an incredible opportunity and unique responsibility to use our skills and resources to build a lasting environmental movement.

Onward,

Renee Wellman
Executive Director



ALUMNI UPDATE

VICTORIA HIGGINS, GC'19



Staff

CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Victoria Higgins is the Virginia Director for Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) and its sister political arm, CCAN Action Fund. CCAN is the first grassroots, nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to fighting global warming in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Her work at CCAN mobilizes people to advocate for state policy solutions that allow the state to achieve a zero-carbon economy by 2040, including through the advancement of clean energy, the retirement of fossil fuel infrastructure, and the expansion of access to non-driving modes of transportation.

Currently, her work in Virginia is heavily focused on defending existing climate policy and fighting numerous pipeline and methane gas generation projects. Her work in the climate advocacy world began with Green Corps in 2018, which brought her to the Virginia area. After Green Corps, she worked at Virginia Conservation Network in a role focused on encouraging coalition partners to coordinate closely in the grassroots realm and mobilize their membership for environmental solutions.



Courtesy of Victoria Higgins

In November 2022, Victoria coordinated CCAN's annual Polar Bear Plunge in the Potomac River to fundraise for their ongoing work to address climate change.



Training the next generations of environmental organizers

Support the training of future generations of environmental organizers by including a gift to Green Corps in your will, trust or retirement accounts.

For information, call (800) 841-7299, or email plannedgiving@greencorps.org.

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING

ALUMNI UPDATE

JOSH SWIFT, GC'20



Courtesy of Josh Swift

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, CANADA

After graduating from the University of Western Ontario, Josh Swift joined the Green Corps class of 2020, working on three different campaigns aimed at driving forward state and federal climate legislation.

After his Green Corps year, Josh moved back up to Ontario to the country's capital, Ottawa. There he worked with GreenPAC, Canada's only nonpartisan nonprofit working to build environmental leadership and political action on the environment.

Josh now works as a policy advisor to Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, a prominent lifelong climate activist. In his role, Josh harnesses his campaign skills to strategically map out pathways to success, identify most useful tactics, and build the coalitions needed to advance Canada's ambitious emissions reduction and nature protection goals.



Courtesy of Josh Swift

Josh (right) spoke at Canada's Commission for Environmental Cooperation's annual conference on the topic of coordinating Canada-U.S.-Mexico climate and environmental work.

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MEET THE GREEN CORPS CLASS OF 2024



AMELIA FARRELL

Courtesy of Amelia Farrell



Amelia comes to Green Corps by way of the University of South Carolina, where she majored in environmental studies. Amelia spent much of her time as a student working to address climate change as a government relations intern with Conservation Voters of South Carolina and an environmental education intern at the Annapolis Maritime Museum. She also completed the Citizens' Climate Lobby's Climate Advocacy Certificate Program. As a high school senior, she organized the Annapolis Youth Climate Strike in the spring of 2019.



ZUZELLE RAMOS

Courtesy of Zuzelle Ramos



Zuzelle recently completed her bachelor's degree in political science and government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Originally from Miami, she is particularly passionate about protecting her home community from the threats of sea level rise, as well as conservation issues more broadly. At UNC, she served on the Student Library Advisory Board and engaged in research on the impacts of PFAS chemicals. She spent much of 2020 volunteering with Engage Miami to help young people register to vote.