

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023



A Message from Our President

Dear GreenTown Los Altos Supporters and Volunteers,

As we usher in a new fiscal year, it is with immense appreciation to each one of you who has contributed to the success of GreenTown Los Altos. In the face of unprecedented climate change globally, our dedicated volunteers have risen to the occasion, demonstrating a remarkable resilience and passion for creating positive change at the local level.

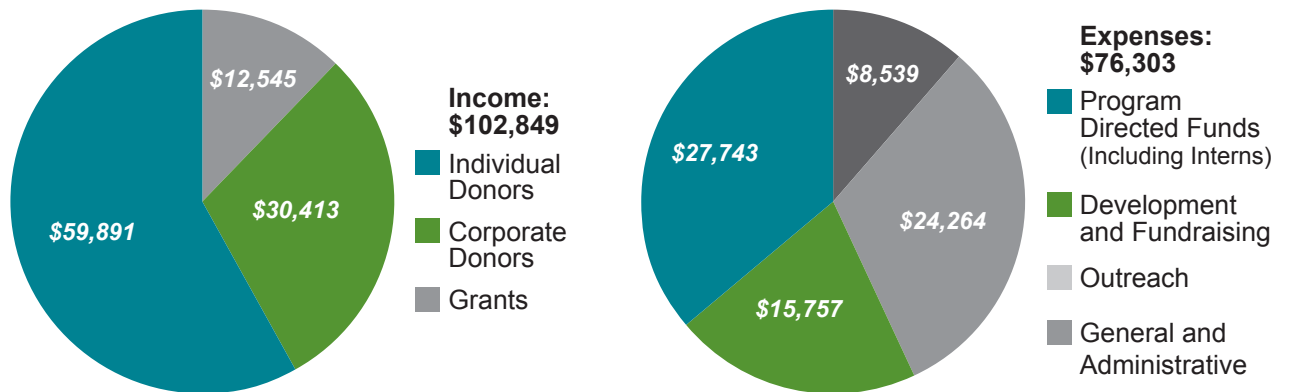
Together, we have achieved significant milestones in each of our five program areas of Clean Air, Conservation, Eating Green, Transportation, and Zero Waste. These programs act as building blocks toward our community becoming healthier and more resilient. They heighten public awareness of the impact of individual choices and encourage practices toward a more sustainable and healthier environment. In concert with influencing individual behavior, we have seen success at the policy level in collaborating with our city leaders toward sustainability practices. Perhaps most meaningful of our efforts, is our work with student volunteers and interns who will long be positively impacted by these changes.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for your continued support, and the positive impact you have made. As we navigate the ongoing journey towards a truly sustainable community, let us remain inspired by the progress we have achieved together and continue to work towards a more sustainable and vibrant future. The challenges ahead are significant, but with your continued support and the dedication of our volunteers, I am confident that we will overcome them.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Suresh Venkatraman



GreenTown Los Altos Fiscal Year 2022/2023 by the Numbers



Meet Our Environmental Heroes – The Clean Air Advocates Team

Each year, we recognize one individual in our community who has inspired others to make an environmental impact. Since 2019, the GreenTown Clean Air Advocates have waged a relentless public education campaign informing residents of Los Altos that gas leaf blowers disrupt quiet neighborhoods, their emissions are unhealthy, their use is prohibited, and fines could result. Towards that effort, over 1,000 “Don’t Blow It!” flyers, were given to Los Altos residents and workers. When the efforts failed to achieve meaningful results, the group advocated with the City of Los Altos for a strengthened ordinance shifting responsibility for the violation to the property owner. In response to this multi-year effort, the City of Los Altos hired a new code enforcement officer in April 2023 and enhanced the existing ordinance to make the property owner responsible for gas leaf blower violations. This sustained, team effort shows what persistence can produce. We applaud the Clean Air Advocates for their tenacity and their results.

Program Highlights

Clean Air



- Advocated for the passage of a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and Reach Codes 2.0
- Championed for the stronger Gas-leaf blower code that passed
- Partnered with Fossil-free Building of Silicon Valley (FFBSV) on an Electric Home Tour
- Mentored student interns who produced a “Home Electrification Guide”
- Promoted Los Altos Hardware’s “Electric Leaf Blower Promotion”
- Continued the Induction Cooktop Loaner Program



Summer Student Interns (from left to right) Trinity Willis, Mira Haldar, Bella Castaneda, and John Tabk – all from Homestead High School.

Conservation



- Planted 104 more trees through the “500 Trees” program
- Adopted and cleaned sections of Adobe Creek and Permanente Diversion Channel
- Joined Saint Francis High School students to clean up their adjacent creek
- Maintained the Woodland Library drought tolerant demonstration garden
- Hosted a “Library Talk” with Valley Water District representative
- Organized a Summer art contest on water conservation



GreenTown Los Altos Volunteers (from left to right) Phil Jelfs, Don Weiden, Angelo De Guili and Nucci Franchini keep the ramps at Magdalena Road and Highway 280 debris-free through our Adopt-a-Highway program participation.

Eating Green



- Expanded the Eating Green Food Club with Acterra
- Mentored high school student interns to create An Eating Green Cookbook
- Supported 2 Eating Green food tastings
- Led an Edible Urban Forest walk

Transportation



- Partnered with Los Altos on the first “Destination Electric” EV fair
- Collected 105 bikes for students at the “ReCycle Bike Drive”
- Managed bike valets at festivals parking over 450 bikes
- Led bike rides for the Winter & Summer Solstice.
- Partnered with the City of Los Altos and others to put on May 2023 Bike Month activities
- With the City, and the K-8 schools, promoted the Safe Routes to School and bike safety
- Helped “leads” promote the Wow! Program



Bike Valet during Art in the Park. Many volunteers covered the multi-day festival in support of citizens using carbon-free transportation (from left to right) Karen Janowski (KJ), Hans Zeller, Daniel Lenz, and Ethan Chow.

Zero Waste



- Adopted the on/off ramps of 280 @ Magdalena via the Adopt-A-Highway Program
- Library Talk on “Low Waste Living Journey” offering consumption reduction ideas
- Provided free “Party Packs” loaners of reusable food ware
- Ongoing programs to engage those at The Terraces Retirement Community to improve their waste flow

General

- Kicked off “Coffee with GreenTown,,” drop-in events

For more information, email: info@greentownlosaltos.org

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Thank you for supporting our efforts. To donate:

