Acterra has had so many programmatic successes this year and the team has been so busy achieving them, that it’s good to take a moment to reflect. We’d like to celebrate the effort that goes into all that we do, and the impact that results.

Maybe most importantly, we want to share our gratitude. Everything we do with our local communities is only possible because of your encouragement, support, and continued belief that we are stronger together.

Acterra is in year two of our three-year strategic plan and has stayed hyper-focused on two critical aspects of mitigating climate change: sustainable food systems and electrification of buildings and transportation. We know that reducing food waste and helping people and organizations embrace more plant-forward diets, as well as greening our grid and transitioning fossil-fuel-based devices and vehicles to electric alternatives, create truly high-impact reductions in carbon emissions. This includes our climate-relevant public education and outreach to residents of all ages, businesses of all sizes, and communities across the Bay Area.

Some highlights:

- Our **Healthy Plate, Healthy Planet** program served hundreds of residents on their journey to exploring plant-forward foods through month-long pledge programs, an amazing We Love Earth Festival cooking demo, and an interview series with local plant-forward chefs.

- Our **Beneficial Electrification for All** program launched a brand new **Induction Cooktop Loaner Program** with East Bay Community Energy — first with 50 (and soon-to-be 100) cooktops. If you live in EBCE territory, check them out! We were also selected for a Power Saver Rewards grant to support residents in their decreased power usage during peak-heat days.

Acterra continues to serve residents, local governments, and businesses on the path to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. Stay in touch with your thoughts, attend our programs, and keep the community thriving!

Sincerely,

Rex Northen,  
President, Board of Directors

Alyssa Morrison Bonnette  
Past President

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As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Palo Alto, Acterra draws upon a history of 52 years of service to local communities. We apply science-based decision-making and an equity lens to our approach. Through education and community-building, through individual behavior and more sweeping policy change, we empower residents, businesses, cities, and counties to take action on climate change.

Nearly a decade ago, we recognized the need to uplift disadvantaged communities and improve neighbor access to clean energy resources, energy efficient upgrades, and cost-saving technologies. We also began to ally with proponents of community choice aggregation to encourage broader adoption of clean energy.

Currently Acterra serves nine Bay Area counties with services including educational workshops, clinics, and lectures; a climate change curriculum designed for middle-schoolers; advocacy for home and transportation electrification for all and for a more sustainable local food system; and resources and recognition to incentivize workplace greening.

As climate change has become an increasingly pressing issue, our work has taken on new urgency. In these pages, we invite you to learn more about our community impact.

**Acterra brings people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet.**

**Acterra’s programmatic pillars:**

- Beneficial Electrification
- Healthy Plate, Healthy Planet
- Workplace Sustainability
- Education & Youth

**Equity as a Cornerstone**

Acterra advocates for environmental justice and the equitable treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sexual identity, gender identity, disability or impairment, or income. Through local action and policy advocacy, we strengthen the power of individuals, businesses, and communities by promoting equitable access to electrified homes and transportation, sustainable food, and climate education in the Bay Area.
Acterra’s Community Impact
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

82 events
See pages 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21

See page 9

1545 Climate Actions taken via Acterra’s Climate Action Now app group
See this page

172 Public Comments made by community members on our target policies
See page 5

900+ Emails to California Electeds in Support of EV Charging Equity
See page 6

3,961 attendees
See pages 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21

1344 Volunteer Hours Provided

387 Signups for the Climate Action Now app
See this page

391 Youth served by youth education programming
See page 16

Climate Action Now App
In FY 2022, Acterra partnered with Climate Action Now, a mobile app that lets users take action on climate issues conveniently from their smartphone. The app makes it possible to sign petitions, contact local legislators, and access informative resources. Download it at acterra.org/take-action.

870 Pounds GHG reduced via community dietary challenge
See page 15
Climate Policy Advocacy

Acterra’s engagement in local, regional, and state policy advocacy grew more developed and finely tuned in FY 2022, focusing on three core areas: fossil-free buildings, equitable access to electric vehicle (EV) charging, and growing a sustainable Bay Area food system. In addition, Acterra has been instrumental in recruiting youth from area high schools and community colleges to join our advocacy efforts through the Acterra’s Student Ambassadors Program (ASAP).

**Building Electrification: Major Wins**

**Progress in San José.** Acterra supported the passage of reach code efforts in multiple Bay Area cities and municipalities by contributing public comments. In June 2022, San José City Council voted in favor of the Existing Buildings Electrification Framework, adopted a carbon neutrality goal of 2030, and revised its parking requirements to remove parking minimums. Many residents, including several Acterra staff and volunteers, spoke in favor of these actions. One Councilmember expressed being “inspired” by the feedback from young folks who spoke. As part of this effort, Acterra team members also met individually with individual Councilmembers to discuss climate policies, and partnered with a host of other community based allies including Mothers Out Front.

**Air Quality Win for Buildings.** Gas appliances remain a serious threat for air quality and public health in addition to a hurdle for climate stability. After a year-long lobbying effort by activists from across the region, including Acterra, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) voted unanimously in October 2021 to support new rules to pursue a zero-NOx emission standard for appliances including gas water heaters and furnaces. The Stationary Source and Climate Impacts committee of BAAQMD directed staff to pursue zero-NOx rules that would go into effect in 2027-2031. These rules would apply at point of sale when an appliance needs to be replaced.

**State Level Heat Pump Requirement.** In August 2021, the California Energy Commission (CEC) agreed to update the state code by requiring heat pumps in new construction, with some exceptions. This decision came about as a result of a strong grassroots campaign including public comments and testimony from groups including Acterra. Even though the CEC’s update was not as far-reaching as advocates requested (i.e., a fully all-electric baseline for new buildings), the move represented a major step toward decarbonizing residential buildings. Prior to the code update, heat pumps were installed in fewer than 6% of new home construction projects, and emissions from all buildings account for 70% of California’s total emissions.
Climate Policy Advocacy (con’t)

Acterra continues to be a key partner in the regional coalition Fossil Free Buildings Silicon Valley, which is exploring beneficial electrification for all through advocacy and collaboration across organizations and local governments. Throughout the year, Acterra has led coalition meetings, developed strategy for passing electrification codes in local cities and counties, and built connections among stakeholders all over the region.

**EV Charging and E-Mobility Equity**

In FY 2022 Acterra put a concerted effort into advocating for electric vehicle (EV) charging access for all, reflecting our twin commitments to equity and to accelerating EV adoption. Without access to affordable and accessible EV charging at home, most people are not going to get an EV. Public charging rates are unregulated and public charging stations are not reliable (a recent study found that 25% of Bay Area fast-chargers were not able to sustain a charge). Even though there are many financial incentives to make EVs more affordable, lack of access to charging at home is preventing many residents of apartments and condos from driving EVs.

In order to increase access to charging in multi-family housing and at the workplace, Acterra is co-leading the **EV Charging for All Coalition (EVCAC)** (acterra.org/ev-charging-all). Acterra signed a formal agreement with Plug In America (PIA), with Acterra taking on the leadership of the EVCAC in California and PIA bringing this advocacy to other states. In FY 2022, our focus was on urging the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) to increase EV Ready charging in new apartments and condos.

In December, we succeeded in **doubling the amount of EV charging required by the 2022 CALGreen code** from 20% to 40% of parking spaces in multifamily housing complexes. In the intervening code cycle, we are continuing to push HCD towards ensuring EV ready charging for 100% of apartment or condo units (not 100% of parking spaces).

To increase the political will for state agencies to more rapidly and equitably expand access to EV charging for residents of new multi-family housing by, we:

- Met with dozens of organizations, including environmental justice groups, to increase the size and diversity of our coalition, and added two new leaders to the EVCAC executive strategy team

- Presented our model building code at **Forth’s 2022 Roadmap Conference** and organized a day-long virtual conference on **EV Charging and Multifamily Housing** (with more than 350 registrants)
Climate Policy Advocacy (con’t)

- Helped write a bill (SB 1482), secured Senator Ben Allen as the author, and officially co-sponsored it, including serving as primary witness at two hearings for the bill in the state legislature.
- Lobbied Senators and Assemblymembers to vote for SB 1482, including generating 900+ emails from residents to their representatives and submitting letters signed by about 100 organizations to each of the three committees considering the bill.
- Helped prepare and secure the publication of an op-ed in CalMatters by Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymember Mia Bonta about the need for EV charging in apartments and condos.
- Sent letters to HCD with detailed policy recommendations and attended official meetings hosted by HCD and CBSC to provide input on the CALGreen 2022 and intervening code updates.
- With input from our supporters, developed mission, vision, and theory of change statements for the Coalition (view them at acterra.org/ev-charging-all).
- Launched an EVCAC newsletter to provide 1,175 subscribers with timely action alerts and updates.

Acterra’s Student Ambassadors Program

Acterra also created a successful outlet for working with high-school youth and community college students on climate change this past year. Acterra’s Student Ambassadors Program (ASAP) empowers and engages students to make a difference on climate change, environmental protection, and/or sustainable societies. We have witnessed firsthand how students demanding action of their elected leaders oftentimes can be highly impactful (even more so than public comments from seasoned activists).

We have come a long way in creating the backbone structure of our student comment project, now under the ASAP banner. Bellamy Cramer and Elijah Mally managed the project for six months, along with the help of high-school interns from Menlo Spark; in the second half of the fiscal year, college students Crystal Hernandez and Gabi Zamora were the project managers. More than 40 students have joined or participated in ASAP, and Saplings have made public comments in Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and many other cities in favor of reach codes for all-electric construction and EV charging in new buildings, as well as burnout ordinances.
HomeGrown Bay Area: Growing a Coalition

Acterra has been a strong advocate for plant-forward eating and climate-smart agriculture. Combining these concepts and “bringing people together” in our mission culminated in a new initiative in collaboration with new and existing Bay Area partners to do something bold: to help reform our regional food system. Our coalition, HomeGrown Bay Area, has 4 core values:

**Good Food for ALL.** We believe healthy food is a right — not a luxury! Here in the Bay Area, we are able to grow a rainbow of fruits and vegetables year-round. Everyone should have access to this fresh, locally grown, nutritious whole food, and should be encouraged to transition high fiber, plant-based meals.

**Sustainable Local Farming Practices.** Our hard-working local farmers — rural and urban — are increasingly using environmentally sustainable methods. Regenerative, organic, low-water methods restore and replenish the soil. Sustainable farming must be part of the solution to store and ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions (beyond net neutral).

**Fair Working Conditions.** We must prioritize and ensure the safety and well-being of food workers including providing a living wage. This area is all about social justice and supporting equity.

**Zero Waste.** Prevention and minimizing the loss and waste of food from farm to fork.

After a successful virtual kickoff meeting in September 2021, the HomeGrown Bay Area coalition established five committees, a set of bylaws, and a code of conduct. We released an outreach video in May 2022 to bring our vision to life and spread awareness (watch it at [acterra.org/homegrown](http://acterra.org/homegrown)). Much of the work in FY2022 focused on identifying and curating a “plug and play” menu of solutions that have worked well in other municipalities and counties, then holding dialogues with elected officials and staff to encourage the wider adoption of these policies and programs. The coalition’s first priority, **Good Food for All**, aims to educate the public and set an example through reduced procurement of meat and dairy, while ensuring that all have access to healthy and sustainable food through government sponsored programs. Local East Palo Alto Community Farmers’ Market, image from Fresh Approach
government outreach to create and introduce our Good Food for All menu was strongly supported by Acterra staff, interns and volunteers in Spring and Summer 2022.

We are currently working with 3 Bay Area cities to support implementation of policy commitments they have made. Once implemented, these Good Food for ALL policies will serve as success stories with measured impact to inspire commitments by other municipalities. A set of training videos and tools are also in progress to use in recruiting action teams.

### Code Red

Supported by dedicated team of climate action volunteers, Acterra hosted an event titled **Code Red for Humanity: What Municipalities Can Do**, geared specifically toward informing local government officials and municipal staff about electrification and other impactful decarbonization measures. **Dr. Paul Edwards** (Stanford University), **Saul Griffith** (author of *Electrify Everything*), **Veronika Vostinak** (City of Half Moon Bay), **Dr. Luis Aguirre-Torres** (City of Ithaca, NY), and **Senator Josh Becker** spoke at the event. As a result of this successful presentation, two additional webinars were produced to encourage Bay Area residents to continue advocating for climate policy. All recordings, and a wide range of resources, can be found at [acterra.org/code-red](http://acterra.org/code-red).
**Moving Past Gas: Promoting Home Electrification**

Acterra’s **Beneficial Electrification** pillar debuted in July 2020, encompassing three programs: **Green@Home**, Induction Cooktops, and Karl Knapp GoEV.

Our successful **Green@Home Series** continued to provide information to Bay Area residents on ways to electrify the home, including Heat Pump Water Heaters, EV Charging, Induction Cooking, and Solar Rooftops. The Fall 2022 series, “Steps to Electrify Your Home,” featured renewable energy experts including Wei-Tai Kwok and Mike Balma as guest speakers and educated 169 community members.

After this series…

- **89%** of people responded that they have a better understanding of Heat Pump Water Heater technology
- **83%** of survey respondents said that they have a better understanding of how to charge their electric vehicle effectively and efficiently
- **100%** of people responded that they are more inclined to switch to an induction cooktop

Our Spring 2022 Green@Home workshop series was attended by 110 households and viewed 205 times via video. Insightful presentations from Sudhanshu Jain, Barry Cinnamon, and Matt Londre helped to demystify Heat Pump Water Heaters, Solar Rooftops, and Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging. We were fortunate to feature Peninsula Clean Energy representatives Peter Levitt, Leslie Brown, and Philip Kobernick who joined to provide more information about rebates and electrification opportunities to San Mateo County residents.
Clean Cooking: Induction Inspires

An exciting new partnership and program development with East Bay Community Energy, a Community Choice Energy provider, began in January. June saw the successful launch of the East Bay Induction Cooktop Loaner Program, initially consisting of 50 cooktop kits available for loan at 8 partner sites (including the Ecology Center in Berkeley, Oakland Public Library’s Main Branch, and sites from Alameda County Library). By the end of the fiscal year, more than 200 community members had registered with the new program.

Feedback from residents:

“What a wonderful program — very helpful to be able to test-drive a cooktop in order to decide whether to buy.”

“I had a really lovely time using the cooktop.”

To sign out your cooktop, visit acterra.org/induction-cooktop-loan-eastbay

Acterra’s monthly cooking classes — featuring inventive plant-based recipes designed by Chef in Residence Kelvin Briggs and cooked on induction cooktops — attracted 97 community members in FY 2022.

Rave reviews from participants:

“Kelvin is incredible, he is fun and very responsive, a great chef!”

“Fun! Learning new techniques of chopping and saving leftovers.”

Spotlight on Community Choice Aggregation

East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) is Alameda County’s not-for-profit public agency which governs clean energy procurement. As a Community Choice Energy service, also called Community Choice Aggregation, EBCE is one of many such entities in the San Francisco Bay Area that lets communities join together to purchase clean energy on behalf of their residents. EBCE was formed by unincorporated Alameda County and the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, and Union City. Residents or business customers who want to make the most environmentally friendly choice can opt up to the “Brilliant 100” or “Renewable 100” plans which provide 100% carbon-free or 100% renewable energy mixes, respectively. Learn more at ebce.org
The Karl Knapp GoEV Program, founded in 2018 to honor the memory of Karl Knapp, a bold EV advocate and educator, is dedicated to accelerating an equitable transition to electrified transportation.

Electric vehicles benefit public health by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases as well as local pollution from tailpipes. Swapping out a gas car for a clean energy-powered EV helps everyone breathe easier, especially benefiting under-resourced communities that typically suffer from elevated pollution levels and related disease.

In FY 2022, electric vehicles dominated automotive news and trends, leading us to call this “the Year of the EV.” With EVs more popular than ever, Acterra’s educational programming continued to expand both in content, audience attendance, and number of events. We also provided multiple events for low-income and Spanish-speaking audiences, to dispel the idea that EVs are out of reach for these residents. In support of “EVs for EVeryone,” our presentations now include information on charging options in multi-family buildings and our website content can be read in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

Highlights from FY 2022 included:

- Interactive online EV 101 workshops covering the basics and benefits of electric vehicles
- An online presentation on 18 upcoming or newly available makes and models
- Three online Financial Incentives Clinics for income-qualifying Bay Area residents seeking grants and other financial programs for making EVs more affordable. Each clinic was followed by one-on-one consultations to provide extra support
- Our first in-person events since the start of Covid: Latino Summit at Los Altos High School, an EV expo at First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, and an EV101 workshop and expo at the Mitchell Park Community Center
- Our first-ever in-person e-bike test ride event and EV expo at Palo Alto’s Mitchell Park featuring Espin Bikes
- Outreach to the Spanish-speaking community through the James Cary Smith grant (Bay Area Air Quality Management District) and a partnership with Veggielution, a nonprofit community-based organization based in East San Jose, as well as the City of Pittsburg in the East Bay
Karl Knapp GoEV Program (con’t)

- In total 1,568 people in FY 2022 were served by our workshops, clinics, EV expos, and other outreach events
- Thank you to program sponsors Electrify America, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, City of Palo Alto Utilities, Peninsula Clean Energy, City of Sunnyvale, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Testimonials from EV 101 workshops

“Great resources and wonderful enthusiasm and positivity demonstrated by the hosts and the EV Ambassadors. Keep up the good work!”

“Very informative session, especially about current rebate information and availability of different models!”

“This was a great resource to help me further understand the benefits of owning an EV. Thank you.”

“I learned just what I needed to know in order to make the decision to buy an EV.”

Financial Incentives Clinic Testimonials

“I’m definitely low income, so I’m thrilled to hear about all the financial incentives — far more than I’d have guessed. I’m seriously revved now about getting an EV (couldn’t help it, had to pun)!

“Knew about EVs, but grants and financial aid was most valuable!”

“So glad you’re doing this important work.”

“Very informative! Thank you for providing this free service.”

“Fantástica inducción” (“Fantastic presentation”)
Acterra’s Healthy Plate, Healthy Planet program celebrated its two-year anniversary by spotlighting local chefs, restaurants, food authors, nonprofits in the food space, and local residents making a difference.

Cooperatives, Celebrity Chefs, and Love for the Earth

FY 2022 our events brought attention not only to climate action but also social justice and cultural inclusion. In a new partnership: Mandela Grocery Cooperative located in Oakland CA. Jeneba Kilgore and Nikia Durgin from Mandela engaged in a conversation about food justice and solutions in their community while they demonstrated how to make a plant-based creamy polenta and balsamic mushroom dish, with a side of kale.

Holiday reFresh, a festive plant-based cooking demonstration event sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, featured leading chefs such as Crystal Wahpepah, Martin Yan, and more. Over 130 people attended and received a free copy of the recipes of the featured dishes. The event was also covered by KQED Arts and the Peninsula Foodist.

Community members’ appreciation for Holiday reFresh:

“Thanks for putting on a wonderful event!”
“Loved the diversity of presenters and recipes shared”
“So grateful for the generosity of the cooks and I so love the vegan / plant based community :)”
Community Connections: Dietary Challenges and Culinary Leaders Series

January’s “Plantiful New Year” community pledge event called on Bay Area residents to cut the amount of meat, eggs, and dairy they consumed throughout January 2022. In total, the challenge participants collectively reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 869.7 lbs.

“Everything was very helpful. My intention is to keep the vegan healthy eating for 5 days out of the week if it is at all possible.”

– Community member who joined Plantiful New Year

Acterra created an interview series called Conversations with Culinary Leaders to highlight local chefs, small business owners, or home cooks who have placed an emphasis in food waste prevention, plant-based cuisine, and attention to sustainability. We interviewed six leaders spanning the Bay Area and reflecting diverse culinary styles, including Anne-Marie Bonneau, The Zero-Waste Chef (Palo Alto), Chris Gantan, the Vegan Ramen Home Chef (San Francisco), and Ginger Espice, Founder of Gay4U vegan restaurant (Oakland). In each interview, readers get a taste of some of the secrets to making sustainable food and learn about each leader’s journey. Acterra’s sharing of these stories helps amplify the efforts of those in the food space who are helping protect our planet. Explore the Conversations at acterra.org/healthy-plate-news

Photo credit Leo Leung, Pro Bono Photography
You(th) Be the Change

Future Leaders, Future World

You(th) Be the Change (YBtC) is Acterra’s Next Generation Science Standards-aligned educational curriculum for students in grades 6 through 8. The curriculum covers climate change science and solutions at the local and global scale, as well as communications and leadership skills. In its first iteration, in early Covid, YBtC primarily served as a self-paced online offering. In FY 2022, YBtC transitioned to providing in-school or after-school sessions held in-person, and facilitated by Acterra or host school staff.

During FY 2022, YBtC was piloted in a train-the-trainer model at Martin Luther King Middle School (MLK) in Clovis, CA (Fresno County) in an after-school setting by Gabby Faria, a seventh grade science teacher at MLK. At Casa Di Mir Montessori School, in Campbell, Nueva School in Hillsborough, and Luther Burbank Middle School in San José, YBtC was offered to middle schoolers and taught by Acterra staff.

Additional Highlights:

- Every student participating in YBtC committed to a personal climate action pledge (and most students chose multiple!).

- Strengthened our partnership with San Mateo County Office of Education and Office of Sustainability’s Youth Climate Ambassadors program, where YBtC Associate Lily de la Espriella began coaching students through community projects.

- YBtC completed its first teacher training to four staff members from Veggieution who now have the tools needed to include climate change education in their youth programming.

- YBtC conducted its first in-person class at the Cupertino Public Library.

- YBtC is exploring ways to bring the curriculum to schools for the hard of hearing in California by offering the content in American Sign Language.
Survey Results:
After completing the program, 63.9% of survey respondents selected a 4 or 5 (out of 5) in characterizing how personally prepared they felt in regards to taking some climate change action as an individual, compared with only 38.3% before the program. Read more survey results in the You(th) Be the Change FY 2021-2022 Impact Report online.

This work is made possible by generous funding from Applied Materials Foundation and Mitsubishi Corporation.

“I now understand some of the things I can do to help make changes in my community and even globally.” – MLK Student

“It was a great experience. I think you should extend the program for students who like learning about these things.” – MLK Student

“Working with Acterra has been very fun. I’ve been able to work in the different areas around Acterra.... Everyone is so kind and always happy to help. The work that was given to me was challenging at times but still enjoyable and I was able to power through it. As well as being kind, everyone I worked with was so understanding as to what was expected of me. It has been a pleasure to work with Acterra this school year.” – Bella F., High School Student
Public Lecture Series

Transportation Electrification in the Bay Area

The theme of Acterra’s three-part Fall 2021 Lecture Series focused on equity and innovation in electrified transportation in the Bay Area. Vanessa Morelan of EV Noire spoke about equity and EVs. EV expert Hillary Rupert moderated a panel discussion with Bhavin Khatri (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency), David Rubin (Cruise), and Kristin Slanina (Charge Across America EV Race) on mass transit, autonomous vehicles, and scaling up electric vehicles. Kameale Terry of ChargerHelp! closed the series in a presentation on overcoming hurdles to green workforce development.

Climate, Drought and Fire

The Spring 2022 Lecture Series delved into the connections between climate warming, California’s intensifying drought, and its effects on human communities, wild species, and landscapes. This series was produced in partnership with the Forum at Rancho San Antonio. Dr. Pablo Ortiz Partida (Union of Concerned Scientists) outlined the drought’s impacts particularly for underresourced communities in the Central Valley. Water policy expert Caitrin Chappelle (The Nature Conservancy) spoke about the impacts of water scarcity on salmon populations in northern and central California. Kristen Shive (The Nature Conservancy) reviewed California’s history of fire suppression and the climate change-fueled megafires now burning in the state.

“Dr. Pablo Ortiz Partida gave an excellent session on CA water, environmental justice and climate change.” – Anne G., Community Member

“Important subject.” – Larry S, Community Member
Workplace Sustainability

Workplace Leaders and Learnings

Acterra’s Workplace Sustainability pillar includes two programs: the Business Environmental Awards and the Green Team Network. The Awards program celebrated its 32nd year and announced a first-time category, the Sustainable Food Systems Leadership Award. The Green Team Network program organizes semi-annual Forums of relevance to working professionals involved in their organization’s sustainability efforts.

Business Environmental Awards

The Business Environmental Award for Sustainable Food Systems Leadership (a new award) was given to Hodo (a medium-sized business) and ReGrained (a small business). Recognition for Hodo stemmed from their dedication to plant-based foods, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, production methods that reduce food waste, and sustainability education. ReGrained was recognized for creating a highly scaleable business-to-business model to upcycle food residues. The Environmental Innovation Award was presented to Clarity Movement and Brightline Defense to honor their Brightline Air Quality Monitoring Program, a community-driven effort to monitor local air quality to benefit underserved residents in San Francisco. More information about these and other Business Environmental Award recipients can be found in the updated Awards database (acterra.org/bea-database).

Watch the awards ceremony including project videos highlighting each of the awardees.

In February 2022 all Acterra staff held a four-week Equity Challenge to grow our awareness of implicit bias and promote racial equity, diversity, and inclusion in our workplace. We modeled our activity on the City of Palo Alto’s “21 Day Racial Equity Challenge,” available online. We examined and discussed several kinds of resources (videos, audio, and readings) and applied many of the learnings to further the progress of our staff’s Equity Working Group.
Green Team Network

In FY2022, the Green Team Network held two online Forums: Reimagining the Workplace and Wellness in the Workplace — on the ways businesses have reassessed and adapted the nature of their work environments during uncertain times.

More than 75 people registered for the Fall Forum to better understand and explore shifts in workplace scenarios taking place during the pandemic. Our cross-section of industry experts discussed flexible work options, transportation and higher education considerations around employee satisfaction and sustainability and ways their workplaces have adapted to serve their internal and external stakeholders.

Panelists: (pictured below from left to right)
Christine Luong, Sustainability Manager, City of Palo Alto
Amelia Timbers, Principal Planner, Sustainability, Caltrain/SamTrans
Camille Johnson, PhD, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Success, College of Social Sciences, San José State University

During Earth Month, the Spring Forum featured an expert panel discussing ways to build health and wellness into an organization’s fabric while integrating it with environmental and sustainability considerations. The discussion included an overview of WELL certification to build spaces that enhance human health and well-being; Genentech’s programs and frameworks in support employee wellness; and biking as a transportation mode to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Speakers (pictured below from left to right):
Kena David, Director, Sustainability, Wellness and ESG at BCCI Construction and WELL Faculty Member
Victoria Michalchuk, Healthy Sustainable Design Expert
Tim Oey, Program Manager, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Our second annual virtual-format climate action benefit brought the Acterra community together to focus attention on — and celebrate — the ways in which the Bay Area is leading on climate action. A networking reception featuring youth poet Ashia Ajani and remarks by climate policy expert Professor Leah Stokes set the stage for the evening. Stokes asked, “Why are you passionate about climate change?” and urged the audience to pledge to make a specific change within the year.

Our keynote speakers were Panama Bartholomy of the Building Decarbonization Coalition, and Jermaine Fowler, of the podcast “The Humanity Archive.” Both stressed the themes of community-building and ensuring an inclusive movement. Bartholomy spoke to the opportunity for more inclusive solutions via building electrification: “Everybody needs heating, everybody needs hot water, everybody needs to cook.” He also cited the lower costs of constructing all-electric buildings compared with gas/electric buildings. Meanwhile, Fowler discussed the importance of unifying the climate movement and environmental justice movements. And he made a simple yet powerful statement to all those motivated to take climate action: “You are not alone.”

“Methane gas is one of our most entrenched and dangerous climate challenges, and unfortunately those that are the hardest hit by it are the ones who can least afford to escape it…. [O]ne of our key roles, at Acterra and the Building Decarbonization Coalition, is how to expose this lie in a way that brings people into the conversation — and then to jointly develop and deliver the solutions that we’re gonna need.”

– Panama Bartholomy

Smaller group sessions were led by a stellar lineup: Monica Chen of Factory Farm Awareness Coalition, Dana Gunders of ReFED, Professor Mark Jacobson of Stanford University, Lauren Ritchie of the Eco Justice Project, and Kat Taylor of Beneficial State Bank. They offered a deeper dive into plant-based diets, addressing the problem of food waste, clean energy solutions, environmental justice, and sustainable banking.
2022 Business Environmental Award recipients:

Sustainable Food Systems Leadership Awards to Hodo and ReGrained

Environmental Innovation Award to Clarity and Brightline Defense

Champions of Promise Awards

Also conferred were four Champions of Promise awards recognizing individuals’ leadership in activating change at the community level. The awardees were: Katie Rueff (Santa Clara County youth climate activist), Gabriela Valencia and Ever Rodriguez (residents and community leaders in the San Mateo County community of North Fair Oaks), and Elaine Salinger (San Mateo County citizen climate activist).

Read more about the invited speakers and award recipients at acterra.org/promise.

“What are we willing to do? Do we have the capacity and the energy to take action — with our dollars, with our intellect, with our dialogue, with our votes, with our boycotts, with our protests?”

“Look at what we have to gain. A clean planet, a healthy planet. A green planet.”

– Jermaine Fowler

Save the date for our next Promise to Our Planet event on Thursday, March 23, 2023!
Acterra is a Certified Green Business

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SAVED

51,478,530 lbs of CO2 total $ savings of $87,514 = That's the equivalent of planting 80,019 acres of urban trees

SOLID WASTE DIVERTED

24,962,683 lbs of waste total $ savings of $1,676,244 = That's the equivalent of 1,558 garbage trucks worth of diverted waste

WATER SAVED

3,806,247 gallons of water total $ savings of $11,971 = That's the equivalent of 90,622 bathtubs of fresh drinking water

FUEL SAVED

11 gallons of fuel total $ savings of $44 = That's the equivalent of removing 0 cars off the road

HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCED

254 gallons of hazardous waste total $ savings of $162 = That's the equivalent of 4 fifty-five gallon drums of hazardous waste

THERMS SAVED

35 therms of natural gas per year total $ savings of $32 = That's the equivalent of heating 1 home for an entire year

In December 2021, Acterra proudly achieved re-certification as a California Green Business in Santa Clara County. Read more about the growing network of Green Businesses at greenbusinessca.org
Acterra gratefully acknowledges the following supporters for their gifts received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, representing their commitment to environmental and climate action.

**BUSINESS, ORGANIZATION, AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Contribution Range</th>
<th>Supporters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold Tier</td>
<td>$10,000+</td>
<td>Adobe, Applied Materials, Citizens Environmental Council of Burlingame, Electrify America, Elemental Excelerator, Energy Upgrade California, Mitsubishi Corporation, Palo Alto Medical Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper Tier</td>
<td>$1-999</td>
<td>Amazon Smile, Autodesk, Bagito, Barr Charitable Foundation, BRINGit, Castilleja School, Charge Across Town, Inc., Dolby Laboratories (Dolby Digital), eScrip, Fresh Approach, IBM, Intel, LinkedIn, Los Altos Community Foundation, Planisware USA, Inc., Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Silicon Valley Bank, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Upcycled Foods, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Tier</td>
<td>$5,000-9,999</td>
<td>Herbst Foundation, Herbst Foundation, Herbst Foundation, Herbst Foundation, Herbst Foundation, Herbst Foundation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**GOVERNMENT FUNDERS**

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- City of Hayward
- City of Palo Alto
- City of Sunnyvale
- County of San Mateo
- East Bay Community Energy Authority
- Marin Clean Energy (MCE)
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Peninsula Clean Energy
- Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy

Your gift will help Acterra address climate change and create local solutions for a healthy planet. Acterra’s “Sustainer” monthly giving program provides engagement and stewardship to donors at all levels. Learn more at [acterra.org/ways-to-give](http://acterra.org/ways-to-give)

**ACTERRA LIVING LEGACY SOCIETY**

Acterra recognizes the generosity and forethought of the following individuals who have informed us that they have included Acterra in their estate plans.

- **Anonymous**
- **Barbara Erny**
- **Katie and Jean-Louis Excoffier**
- **Linda Gass and Rob Steiner**
- **David Green and Jane L. David**
- **Jerry Hearn and Rebecca Reynolds**
- **Joanna Holmes**
- **Mike Kasperzak**
- **Judith and Hans Steiner**
- **Laura and Boris Teksler**
- **Lauren Weston**

For more information about providing a lasting legacy, please visit [acterra.org/legacy-giving](http://acterra.org/legacy-giving)

Because you, our supporters, are important to us, these lists were developed with great care. We sincerely apologize for any errors. If errors are found, please contact us at (650) 962-9876 so we can correct our records.
INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

Peak Level ($25,000+)
Anonymous (2)
Clinton and Mary Gilliland
Maria Salz

Summit Level ($10,000-24,999)
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Peter and Melanie Cross
Ranee DeSantis Foundation
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Niliang Gao
David Hitz
Jerre Hitz
Armand and Eliane Neukermans
Laura and Boris Teikler

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Nancy and Bill Grove
James and Renate Kempf
Bev and Peter Lipman
Steve and Linda Monosson
Elizabeth Schwerer and
Kington Duffie

Ridge Level ($2,500-4,999)
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Bruce Hodge and Elizabeth Weal
Larry Klein
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Rez and Mercedes Northen
Mark and Sandy Ostrau
Virginia Tinch Van Kuren
Bill Weilh

Vista Level ($1,000-2,499)
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Aaron and Noelle Thurlow
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Julie Weiss, Rich Schwerin,
and Chloe Schwerin
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Jeanine and Patrick Kelly
Ellen Kitamura
Mary Klein
Kathleen Kramer and Sven Thesen
Debra Little
James Lock and Brian Kleis
Adam Loraine
Susan Luttmers and Jerome Coonen
Maaja McDonald
Donor Spotlight

Why I donate to Acterra

“Wanting to do more for my community I serendipitously joined Acterra through a volunteer matching website. Little did I know at the time what a gem I’d found! For the last 6 years I have been an EV Ambassador, participating in ride-and-drive events, EV expos, workshops, and doing one-on-one consultations to get people into the right EV for them. Nerding out with EV enthusiasts, whether Acterra staff, other EV Ambassadors, or community members is the best part for me.

Beyond EVs, I have learned so much about other ways to help the planet and electrify my household - mostly thanks to all the workshops and resources Acterra makes available. Having switched the range to an induction, and the water heater to a heat pump, the only gas appliance left is the furnace but I’ve got plans to swap that for a heat pump soon.

Supporting Acterra, both with my time and charitable giving, is important to me because they have a long track record of being a trusted source for environmental advice in the Bay Area. Over time Acterra has adjusted which programs it offers as the community’s needs change and new technologies emerge. I respect that sort of forward thinking.”

– Sonja Marwood
We were selected for three pro bono projects: one from Stanford Alumni Consulting team (ACT) for organizational design, one for YCore for event processes, and one from San Jose State University. For the last project, two student groups from San Jose State University’s Sbona Honors Program (one from the Information Systems & Technology major and one from the Marketing & Business Analytics major) helped support a) organizational best practices in systems design, and b) the Business Environmental Awards program research and outreach, respectively.
## REVENUES AND EXPENSES
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

### ACTERRA

**REVENUES:**
- Individual Contributions: $252,419
- Corporate Contributions: 63,199
- Foundation & Corporate Grants: 81,097
- Government Grants/Contracts: 565,922
- Other: 565,658
- **Total Revenues:** $1,528,296

**EXPENSES:**
- Programs: $902,027
- Administration: 248,414
- Fundraising: 171,858
- **Total Expenses:** $1,322,298

**OTHER REVENUES:**
- Donor Restricted: $61,000
- Investment Income: 78,409
- PPP/EIDL: 133,670
- **Total:** $273,079

**Change in Net Assets:** $479,077

For our most recent financial audit, please visit [acterra.org/financial-information](http://acterra.org/financial-information).

*Includes Accounts Payable, Vacation Accrual, and Deferred Revenue.

### BALANCE SHEET
as of June 30, 2021

**Assets:** $1,929,011

**Liabilities:** $99,371

**Net assets:** $1,829,640

### FIDUCIARIES

**REVENUES:**
- Individual Contributions: $22,419
- Corporate Contributions: 10,800
- Foundation & Corporate Grants: 396,127
- Government Grants/Contracts: 67,580
- Other: 79,070
- **Total Fiduciary Revenues:** $575,996

**TOTAL FIDUCIARY EXPENSES:** $438,768

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### Chart

**REVENUES**
- Individual Contributions
- Government Grants/Contracts
- Foundation & Corporate Grants
- Corporate Contributions
- Other

**EXPENSES**
- Program
- Fundraising
- Administration

*Does not include fiduciaries or PPP/EIDL

**Does not include fiduciaries**
2021-2022 Leadership

ACTION FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

3921 E Bayshore Road, Suite 210
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326
acterra.org • (650) 962.9876
info@acterra.org

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Wendy Chou, Content and Outreach Senior Manager
Patty Christofferson, Equity, Access, and Partnerships Senior Manager
Ann Blankenship, Beneficial Electrification Associate
Lily de la Espriella, You(th) Be the Change Associate
Ariane Erickson, E-Mobility Educator
Regine Garcia, Digital Media Associate
Linda Hutchins-Knowles, E-Mobility and Advocacy Senior Manager
Jared Johnson, Policy and External Relations Senior Manager
Norman La, Development Director
Irvin Rivero, Beneficial Electrification Associate
Leo Steinmetz, Beneficial Electrification Manager
Zack Wurtz, Chief of Staff

Climate Corps Fellows: Rachel Gates
Acterra Student Ambassador Program Managers:
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Contrad Staff: Kelvin Briggs, Julian Carroll, Curtis Cox,
Darren Don, Judi Eichler (Creative Director), Gabby Faria,
Susan T. Mashiyama, Vanessa Warheit

Annual Report design by Judi Eichler

During FY2022, Acterra provided nonprofit status and fiscal sponsorship to these projects:
Barron Park Donkeys
Bioma Project
BRINGiT
Climate Resilient Communities
Save Agriculture and the Environment (SAGE)

Follow us on:

On Earth Day 2020, Great Nonprofits named Acterra as one of five climate change nonprofits deserving of support.