



2022

Annual Report

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Southern California Gas Company

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- Maryam Mojdehi

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///A Letter From Our Leader

A Reflection on 20 Years of Environmental Action as We Celebrate Our Anniversary

It is no simple mission we set out on 20 years ago, when California Greenworks moved from idea to reality. Yet, it is the simple things over time that have left an impression.

As a founder, I, alongside my good friend Nancy, was baffled at the urban blight that plagued the inner city. Yet, motivated by an inner passion for green spaces and equal rights for disadvantaged communities - we testified against the litter in our oceans and streets, the environmental inequities that faced the world, a community filled with systems of injustice ... we started California Greenworks.

We took on our mission as protecting the planet from these systems of injustice: not solely for the sake of the planet, but, importantly, for the sake of our fellow citizens.

This first step was two decades ago.

One of the most important lessons we have learned is scalability. We do not - and in fact, cannot - solve every issue wholly and miraculously. One tree can make a difference. One community clean up can create positive outcomes. One student's life impacted can make a difference.

For example, I remember a student participating in our youth education program, and he told me this program gave him his first opportunity to see the ocean. It really struck me how simple things like a visit to the beach may not be simple to others. This scenario is one among the long list of burdens of climate injustice.

While every one act makes a difference, the fact of scalability is one we must address our current climate with now. The world is on a path towards calamity. Since an ecosystem is, by definition, about connections and systems, an often overlooked connection within environmentalism is the social justice aspect.

We must recognize this and march forward together, tackling issues of climate inequity, climate change and planet earth sustainability. We have to take a more proactive position, and get in control of our environment and that means finding ways to reduce fossil fuels and be more responsive to the needs of our climate.

As we reflect on successes of the past, our team at California Greenworks is excited to celebrate its 20th anniversary this coming year 2023. We'd love you to join us this year in our mission to create a more equitable and green community

Thank you,

Mike Meador, Founder, CEO



/// Tree Maintenance

About TreeCareLA

TreeCareLA is a combined arborist consulting and tree care company based in Hyde Park, serving the Los Angeles area. We provide tree care services primarily to residential customers, but also commercial and public entities. Most importantly, no matter the client, our work is rooted in the same guiding principles - mitigating risk, providing high quality tree care, and preserving trees whenever possible. Where most tree services may have one ISA Certified Arborist, we have nine! To learn more about us, visit treecarela.com.

Karina Nordbak, ISA Certified Arborist & Owner of TreeCareLA

Karina is an ISA Certified Arborist and brings 15 years of experience in business management to the daily operations of TreeCareLA. She holds the company's Qualified Applicator License to manage treatments of tree pests and disease. She provides arborist consulting services and leads the writing of arborist proposals and reports. Prior to joining TreeCareLA, Karina spent 11 years in business management in the nonprofit sector helping to grow and sustain small businesses.

/// Tree Plantings

At the core of California Greenworks is the mission to improve the quality of life in urban communities in Southern California through environmental education, urban revitalization, and green economics advocacy. One of the ways we work towards this mission is through sustainable, community-based restoration to eliminate urban blight and promote green space development.

In 2022, we hosted two community tree planting events at Jefferson Park and North Long Beach.

Each day brought together community members' shared interest in helping to preserve our communities and environment.

22

total trees planted
at the Jefferson Park
event

10

total trees planted
at the North Long
Beach event

25

total community
members helped at our
2022 tree plantings



*"The tree is more than first a seed, then a stem, then a living trunk, and then dead timber. **The tree is a slow, enduring force straining to win the sky.**"*

-Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Wisdom of the Sands

State Senator Lena A Gonzalez helps Adiran Hightower works for Metropolitan Water District plant trees on Earth Day, 2022.

/// Events



Mische Duffy, the Equity Series Host, speaks with Dr. Adiran Hightower works for Metropolitan Water District



SoCal Edison Volunteers pose for a picture at the first Climate Equity talk featuring Dave McNeil of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

Climate Equity Series

Our Climate Equity Forum Series raises awareness about environmental issues plaguing many South Los Angeles communities, while offering an opportunity for attendees to join in on the upward battle. Our event speakers, David McNeill, Executive Officer at Baldwin Hills Conservatory and Adrian Hightower, Sustainability and Resilience Manager at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California each presented on different environmental topics.

This is a 2-day series event that will take place on both September 10 AND October 8 with each day offering different speakers and environmental topics and collaborative discussions.

Community Outreach Walks

In February 2022, we hosted two community outreach walks along Jefferson Blvd. The walks gave us an opportunity to meet with our community, discuss relevant topics around the environment, while enjoying the outdoors.

SEED Consulting Group Project

SEED Consulting Group is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides pro-bono consulting to influential organizations pioneering a healthier and more environmentally sustainable California. This past Spring, California Greenworks participated in their Spring Cycle group consulting session at which SEED matched us up with a volunteer consultant to help us strategize for 2022 and beyond.



Cesar Chavez Day of Remembrance

In March 2022, the California Greenworks team had the privilege of participating in the Cesar Chavez Day of Remembrance hosted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Cesar Chavez, a civil rights, Latino and farm labor leader, is often recognized as one of the first environmental justice leaders. One major example is his leadership in the Grape Boycott, protesting the use of harmful pesticides on the fruit. The Keynote speaker, Teresa Romero, President of the United Farm Workers, offered an empowering perspective on the history of social activism in environmental justice, as well as calls to action.

Other Community Events

Throughout the year our team was able to attend a number of community events including community farmer's markets, community engagement workshops, different business event, and more!





Introduction to Green Jobs E-Learning Module

We developed a green curriculum for high school aged youth. This 35-minute E-Learning module, readily available on a Learning Module System focuses on the Introduction to Green Jobs Pilot Program, an exploratory program that will create best-practices and applications in order to achieve the following goals:

- To create an efficacious and seamless curriculum for instructors to utilize as a means of implementing already established curriculum.
- To generate enthusiasm, increase knowledge, and engage collaboration with high school youth.

/// Education

SPROUT Program

In order to meet the new virtual, online landscape of learning, in 2022 we redeveloped our SPROUT Program to be a complete virtual, on-demand learning program. The content targets high schools with a higher percentage of minority, low-income or otherwise marginalized populations. The goal is ultimately to provide this e-learning content on a widespread scale, to reach an unlimited youth audience and inspire exponential growth in the green collar jobs segment.

Ocean Explorers Education Enrichment Program

This is a 4-week program for middle-school aged students. The goal of the program is to introduce the ocean to disadvantaged communities in our region. Although these individuals live near the ocean, environmental injustices have curtailed enjoyment and education about the local coasts and ocean.



Benefit of Trees and Water Quality Research Report

Our team spent time in 2022, compiling research and data to put together our Benefit of Trees and Water Quality Research Report. The study is filled with information that supports our mission to improve the quality of life in urban communities in Southern California through environmental education, urban revitalization, and green economics advocacy.

Kindergarten Black-Asphalt Cooling Education Map

Artist, Jennifer Jhang helped our vision come to life with her artistic skills to develop our Kindergarten Black-Asphalt Cooling Education Map. The map presents environmental education in a fun ways for young minds to learn as an interactive game.





A volunteer helps maintain CGW trees in Hyde Park.

/// Fundraising

Adopt-a-Tree Program

As a way to continue to expand our programs and services, we started our monthly donor program, Adopt-a-Tree in 2022. Our monthly donors is a passionate community of changemakers who are working hard every day to create an improve the quality of life in urban communities in Southern California through environmental education, urban revitalization, and green economics advocacy.

A monthly gift of \$25, allows us to not only plant a tree, but to provide continued care month after month to ensure the donor's tree grows and thrives. Our focus in the south Los Angeles area provides often overlooked, minority and impoverished communities green space that boosts physical health and mental wellbeing.

Awarded the AmeriCorp Vista Grant

In 2022, California Greenworks was awarded the AmeriCorp Vista Grant. Founded in 1965, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is an anti-poverty program designed to provide needed resources to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to increase their capacity to lift communities out of poverty. AmeriCorps VISTA provides opportunities for Americans 18 years or older from a diverse range of backgrounds to dedicate a year of full-time service with an organization ("sponsor") to create or expand programs designed to empower individuals and communities in overcoming poverty.

/// Website Makeover

Over the course of 2022, we revamped our website to accurately reflect our programs as they have evolved over the last 20 years. We want to ensure our community knows our mission, and the ways they can be a part of our work.

We are very proud of our website today! Check it out to learn more about all that we have been up to and who we are, today, as an organization.



/// Impact Report



SOLA Urban Forestry

32 150

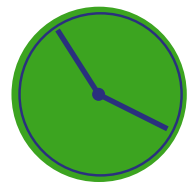
trees planted

trees maintained

Education

4

new educational
programs created



936

hours spent on education and
research of environmental issues

Events

7

community events

120+

total event participants

Other

- Social media following - 2,064
- Email newsletter opens - 16,808

Survey Results

- New Ecological Paradigm Scale Responses

100%

felt strongly that their
community is negatively
and aggressively affected
by climate change

100%

held out hope for change
(varying degrees from
agree, to strongly agree)

- Climate Change Worry Scale

100%

have significant anxiety
about climate change

Respondents are
ambivalent about their
ability to seek out
information about
climate change



/// Thank You!

Thank you to our partners, sponsors and grant funders for supporting our environmental mission during 2022.





/// Ways to Get Involved

Plant a tree, save the planet

This is our monthly giving program to adopt a tree in the southern Los Angeles area. For \$25 or \$50 per month, you can support the planting and ongoing maintenance of trees planted in underserved communities.

[Adopt-a-tree at californiagreenworks.org/monthly](https://californiagreenworks.org/monthly)

Donate annually

If you are interested in a one-time gift, choose how you can make a difference with your giving level. We welcome donors to return each year to continue supporting the planet.

- \$25 - Green Advocate: Enhance our work to promote climate change in the underserved south Los Angeles area.
- \$50 - Green Educator: Enable curriculum creation for today's youth to better understand green issues.
- \$100 - Green Creator: Support hands-on programs to plant trees and clean the community.
- \$300 - Green Ribbons: Support programs such as our essay content and CELA awards in recognizing community green minds.
- \$500+ - Revitalizer: Fund revitalization and park development efforts in south Los Angeles.

[DONATE](#)

Are you a business? Become a CGW Sponsor

Let the community know you support environmentally focused initiatives and equal access to green space with a sponsorship for California Greenworks. [Learn more at https://californiagreenworks.org/sponsorship-opportunities/](https://californiagreenworks.org/sponsorship-opportunities/)

Join our Email List

Help us implement environmental action, outreach, education, justice and beauty in every Los Angeles neighborhood.

Join at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/HJoV2dh/calgrnworks>

Follow us on Social Media

Facebook : @Calgrnwks
Instagram: @calgreen1

/// Looking Ahead to 2023!

As we look to a new year, we look forward to exploring new opportunities to discover and expand the our ways we can green one community at a time.

We are especially excited to continue to expand our education program offerings and to plant more trees. We also look forward to continuing to build our community outreach throughout California, in an effort to educate our community on the work we do and how we can use more support.

All of this work is only possible because of the support of individuals like you. Thank you.



californiagreenworks.org

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