

GREEN CORPS

FALL REPORT 2021

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ORGANIZERS IN ACTION

ORGANIZING WINS LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION IN COLORADO

With record-setting temperatures sweeping the country, severe storms battering our coasts and raging wildfires scorching our forests, the need to take bold climate action grows clearer and more urgent everyday. As polarization moderates and slows climate action in Washington, it's up to the states to lead. In Colorado, a pro-conservation majority in the Legislature gave the state a unique opportunity to make meaningful progress in the spring of 2021.

This was the impetus for Conservation Colorado to hire a team of five Green Corps organizers this spring for virtual campaigns in Pueblo, Denver and Jefferson Counties. Organizers worked to build public support and organize grassroots action to help sway key legislators, ensuring their yes votes on key climate bills that were introduced in Colorado's 2021 legislative session.

In response to our organizing, citizens placed 647 calls with legislators or their staff and made 108 posts on social media over the course of the campaign. Additionally, they employed other key grassroots tactics that swayed legislators, such as having citizens publish 11 letters to the editor in local publi-

cations. They also put together an Activist Training Series for their volunteers to gain organizing skills to use in this campaign and in those to come. Finally, they took advantage of opportunities to meet with their target legislators and center the conversation around climate action.

In late April, the state Senate passed the Reduce Greenhouse Gases, Increase Environmental Justice bill, focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting disproportionately impacted communities. After a veto by Gov. Jared Polis, the bill was combined with another legislative priority of the campaign and was eventually signed into law by the governor, marking a major step toward Colorado's meeting its climate goals.

Our organizers recruited more than 20 volunteers who continued working with Green Corps and Conservation Colorado through the rest of the legislative session. The success of the campaign, and the future leaders activated by Green Corps organizers, will strengthen the state of climate activism in Colorado for years to come.

Courtesy of Emilee Brown



Organizers Emilee Brown and Jonah Kasdan host a virtual kick-off meeting attended by more than 60 volunteers and community members.

YOU MAKE GOOD ORGANIZING POSSIBLE



Staff

Throughout one of the most turbulent and challenging years in recent history, we at Green Corps have continued our work to train the next generation of environmental organizers. While last year's class navigated a digital world with poise and

resilience, we hope the Class of 2022 will resume and continue in-person organizing to advance solutions to some of today's most pressing environmental problems. As we launch this 30th class of Green Corps, I can't help but feel inspired by their energy and enthusiasm as they put their values to work for our planet.

This fall we're launching campaigns to protect strong solar energy policy and stop the use of toxic chemicals that threaten our environment and public health. While more challenges are sure to come, we'll continue to adapt, improve and fight for our planet—because it's worth it. As always, thank you for your support, which makes our work possible.

Sincerely,

Annie Sanders

ALUMNI UPDATE

ELIOT ABEL, GC '04



Courtesy of Eliot Abel

NAMASTE SOLAR

Eliot launched his career with Green Corps, running campaigns for the Sierra Club in New Hampshire and the Alaska Coalition

in North Dakota (in the winter) and helping to direct one of the largest door-to-door canvassing operations in years in Washington, D.C. He now leads commercial sales and project development at Namasté Solar, an employee-owned B Corp based in Colorado that develops, designs, installs and maintains residential and commercial solar systems. Prior to joining Namasté Solar, Eliot was the Founder and Principal of Abel Clean Energy Advisors. Earlier in his career, Eliot worked in business development roles at a UK-based thin film solar startup, GE's global Renewable Energy business, and San Diego-based Renovate America. Eliot serves on the Boards of the Colorado Solar and Storage Association and Namasté Solar, holds a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from the Yale School of Management, and was the recipient of a 40 Under 40 award from the Denver Business Journal in 2020.



Courtesy of Eliot Abel

Eliot with Energy Secretary Granholm (center) and U.S. Sen. Hickenlooper (left) at the Community Solar Gardens developed by Namasté Solar and built in Aurora, Colo.



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



OLIVIA ROSS PERFETTI, GC '20

Courtesy of Olivia Ross Perfetti



PENNENVIRONMENT

During her Green Corps year, Olivia Perfetti mobilized University of Maine students to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling and launched a local clean energy campaign in Charleston, South Carolina. She now works as the Western

Pennsylvania Field Organizer with PennEnvironment in her hometown of Pittsburgh, where she builds public support to address critical issues affecting the state's residents including climate change, fracking, air and water pollution, and single-use plastics. Since joining PennEnvironment in 2020, Liv has built a robust network of volunteers in the Pittsburgh region who are ready to take action to protect our environment by calling legislators, writing letters to the editor, testifying at public hearings, and joining action events. She's particularly motivated by PennEnvironment's work to clean up Pittsburgh's dirty air, the problem that originally inspired her to get involved in environmental organizing.



Courtesy of Anya Fletcher

Olivia (left) meets in Maine with members of Defenders of Wildlife in 2019.

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FALL REPORT 2021

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MEET THE GREEN CORPS CLASS OF 2021

ROZ SOHEILI



Roz Soheili graduated from Indiana University with a dual degree in marketing and international business. At IU, she was involved in

multiple capacities with student government, including serving as the co-lead for a carbon neutrality initiative that focused on fossil fuel divestment. She also has held jobs in marketing, style, and social media with Fully Styled, Free People, and Plug and Play Tech Center. Roz is interested in social justice, sustainability, and equestrianism.

Courtesy of Roz Soheili

COLETTE BARTEL

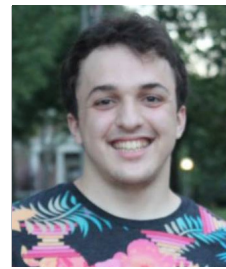


Colette Bartel graduated from the University of Southern California, where she majored in environmental studies. Her love for the

environment shows through in the many activities she was involved in, whether it be educating elementary school students on sustainability with Enrich LA, serving as her campus PETA representative, or coordinating an alternative spring break program that focused on service and sustainability. Colette has also been a lifeguard, Spanish teacher, and worked at a donut shop.

Courtesy of Colette Bartel

BEN ROWLEY



Ben Rowley graduated this past May from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. He double-majored in communications and political

science & international relations. At Truman State, Ben worked frequently with local youth, teaching and mentoring middle school students at the Joseph Baldwin Academy. In addition to serving as preceptor at Joseph Baldwin, he also helped Taiwanese students develop English proficiency. Ben studied abroad in Ireland and enjoys photography and community building.

Courtesy of Ben Rowley