

GREEN CORPS

WINTER REPORT 2021

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ORGANIZERS IN ACTION

ORGANIZERS PUSH FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD WITH MIGHTY EARTH

The meat industry in the U.S. is the leading source of our nation's water pollution and a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, and it's driving the destruction of our last remaining prairies. Leading food companies have the power to rein in the environmental consequences of their meat supply chains to prevent water pollution and protect our nation's most iconic landscapes, but unless there is consumer pressure to change, it's easy to maintain the status quo.

Minnesota-based Cargill, one of the largest agribusinesses in the world, has made repeated and highly publicized promises to end deforestation in its supply chain. Unfortunately, it has not yet lived up to that commitment.

This summer, Mighty Earth partnered with a team of two Green Corps organizers to convince grocery store chains Stop & Shop and Costco to cut ties with Cargill until the agribusiness fulfills its commitment to adopt sustainability practices across its entire supply chain.

Green Corps organizers Angie Torres and Hayley Berliner worked virtually to recruit people from the key states of

Massachusetts and Washington as well as other excited volunteers from around the country. When their virtual kick-off meetings turned out nearly 50 people, they built toward even larger webinar events on Corporate Campaigning 101 and "The Story of Meat." Meanwhile, organizers worked with dozens of volunteers who drove grassroots tactics such as petitions, social media posts and calls.

By the end of the campaign, Angie and 17 volunteers had delivered comments to 10 Stop & Shop locations in five states across the Northeast and turned out more than 20 attendees to their virtual press conference. They also helped organize four online campaign events that turned out nearly 100 people. Meanwhile, Hayley's volunteers in California and Washington turned out 39 attendees to their virtual press conference and sent 147 member comments to Costco.

In all, Angie and Hayley engaged more 40 volunteers, put grassroots pressure on some of Cargill's biggest customers, and helped elevate the issue and build a people-powered base that will keep urging one of the largest, most powerful agribusinesses in the world to do its part to protect our planet.



Mike Ritter

Volunteers campaign at a Stop & Shop in Massachusetts, calling on the company to protect forests by cutting ties with Cargill until it fulfills its commitment to adopt sustainability practices across its entire supply chain.

Mike Ritter



YOU MAKE GOOD ORGANIZING POSSIBLE



Staff

2020 was an intense year, from coronavirus spikes to raging wildfires to record voter turnout before a historic election. I hope you have continued to stay safe, healthy and sane as 2021 gets underway.

The Green Corps Class of 2021 has been hard at work learning the craft of organizing, and while entirely remote campaigning wasn't part of the original plan, they're taking it in stride and adapting, as we all are, to this new temporary "normal."

As we double down on campaigns to protect public lands, oceans and pollinators, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our work to train the next generation of environmental leaders. We need them now more than ever in this critical time for our planet.

Sincerely,

Annie Sanders



ALUMNI UPDATE

BEN HELLERSTEIN, GC '13



Alumni on Assignment

ENVIRONMENT MASSACHUSETTS

Ben Hellerstein (GC '13) serves as the state director for Environment Massachusetts, the statewide, citizen-funded environmental advocacy organization.

Ben joined the staff of Environment Massachusetts in September 2013, following his Green Corps year. In 2016, Ben launched a campaign to transition Massachusetts to 100 percent renewable energy economy-wide. Since then, a majority of state House and Senate members have endorsed a bill that will transition Massachusetts to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035 and 100 percent renewable energy for heating and transportation by 2045.

Ben credits his experience with Green Corps for giving him the skills necessary to collaborate with a broad coalition of environmental and civic organizations, municipal officials, business leaders and medical professionals supporting a transition to 100 percent renewable energy. During his Green Corps year, he worked to build support for environmental policies in diverse communities in South Texas, Los Angeles and Philadelphia.



Training the next generations of environmental organizers

Help train 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.



Althea Rogers Photography

As state director for Environment Massachusetts, Ben Hellerstein (GC '13) is campaigning to put the Bay State on a path to 100 percent clean, renewable energy.

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING

ALUMNI UPDATE

ODETTE MUCHA, GC'06



Kyle Fricker

VOTE SOLAR

Odette Mucha (GC' 06) joined Vote Solar in 2019 as the south-east regulatory director, where she is advancing innovative solar access and clean energy equity policies. She focuses on state-level utility regulatory engagement, particularly in the Carolinas, Florida and Virginia, and organizes in partnership with local environmental and social justice groups.

She's happy to be back at an advocacy organization and using the organizing skills she learned in Green Corps after nearly a decade in federal and city government. Odette led the U.S. Department of Energy's low-income solar research and deployment programs and also managed the District of Columbia's low-income solar grant program.

During her Green Corps year, Odette ran campaigns in Florida, Tennessee and Wisconsin. Afterward, she joined GC alums Eric Antebi and Orli Cortel at the Sierra Club's media team.



Courtesy of Odette Mucha

Odette Mucha (GC' 06) now works to expand access to solar energy with Vote Solar.

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WINTER REPORT 2021

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MEET THE GREEN CORPS CLASS OF 2021

AYLA BULLOCK



Ayla Bullock attended Florida State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in environment and society. At FSU,

Ayla founded and was co-president of FSU Surfrider Foundation. Ayla was also a campus ambassador and intern with the Florida Climate Pledge campaign affiliated with the CLEO Institute. Off campus, she interned with the Animal Department at the Tallahassee Museum and with the St. Francis Wildlife Association, where she worked as a wildlife rehabilitator.

Courtesy of Ayla Bullock

ERIC GERSON



Eric Gerson graduated from Michigan State University in 2018 with degrees in international relations and comparative cultures and politics.

He served as president and co-founder of the MSU Foreign Service Organization and worked as a field organizer in a local state house of representatives campaign. After college, Eric served as a project manager for the Turkish Resource Center in Istanbul, provided services in a refugee camp in Greece, and worked for the American Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan.

Courtesy of Eric Gerson

ROSIE SKOVRON



Rosie Skovron attended Wesleyan University where she studied anthropology. She served as a peer tutor in

anthropology, environmental studies, and history, and was a member of Long Lane Farm, the student-run on-campus farm. Rosie was also a two-sport athlete at Wesleyan, serving as captain for both the varsity cross country team and the varsity indoor and outdoor track teams. Off campus, Rosie interned with the Ted Smith Conservation program, the Tilth Alliance and the Cook Inletkeeper in Homer, Alaska.

Courtesy of Rosie Skovron