

GREEN CORPS

FALL REPORT 2019

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🌱 ORGANIZERS IN ACTION

ORGANIZERS HELP ARKANSAS GO SOLAR

In the United States, the booming solar energy industry is reaping economic and environmental rewards for states that welcome it. Unfortunately, some states are more reluctant than others to hop on the solar train.

Arkansas ranks 11th in the country for solar energy potential, but that potential is not matched in solar infrastructure. Thanks to regulations that hadn't been significantly updated in 18 years, Arkansas was failing to tap into its solar energy potential and the associated benefits. The old law made solar an unaffordable energy option for many homeowners and businesses in the state.

In the spring of 2019, a team of two Green Corps organizers landed in Arkansas to help advance the Solar Access campaign by passing SB 145 through the Arkansas state Legislature. By amending old regulations, the bill eases

restrictions on the size of solar installations and opens up options to make upfront solar costs affordable for Arkansas residents and businesses.

Green Corps Organizer Lauren Karpinski launched the effort on behalf of Audubon Arkansas in Fayetteville and quickly recruited a team of local leaders to organize letter-writing parties. They generated more than 100 handwritten letters to legislators and collected more than 1,100 petition signatures from the community.

Lauren joined Audrey Beedle, Green Corps lead organizer, in working with Audubon Arkansas to organize a lobby day at the Capitol, at which 55 community members advocated for solar energy in the state. Shortly afterward, the bill passed in the Legislature and was signed into law with overwhelming bipartisan support.



Claire Douglass

In March, Lauren Karpinski and Audrey Beedle organized and spoke at a lobby day in Little Rock, Ark., to encourage state legislators' support for a bill to expand solar energy.

YOU MAKE GOOD ORGANIZING POSSIBLE



Staff

As we launch into our final campaigns before the new decade, I'm reflecting on how far we've come since 2010.

At the turn of the last decade, we had just passed Obamacare, the Tea Party had risen to power in Congress

and in statehouses across the country, and we had failed to pass what could have been our nation's first comprehensive climate change policy.

Since then, we've witnessed the largest mobilizations around climate change the planet has ever seen, passed dozens of statewide climate and clean energy initiatives, and successfully defended critical public lands protections like the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Antiquities Act.

We've had our fair share of losses and setbacks as an environmental movement. But, as with many forms of progress, when we take one step back, we often come back with two steps forward.

Thanks to your support, both during the year and throughout their careers, Green Corps organizers and alumni will continue to make an impact for our environment for decades to come.

Annie Sanders



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.



ALUMNI UPDATE

NICK GUROFF, GC '01



Brooke Duthie

INTERNATIONAL RIVERS

Nick Guroff recently joined International Rivers as their director of communications and development as the 30-year-old Oakland-based

organization accelerates its campaign to legally protect the world's remaining free-flowing rivers.

During his Green Corps year, Nick worked on campaigns with World Wildlife Fund, Toxics Action Center, Clear the Air, Sierra Club and the Human Rights Campaign in four different states. After graduating from the program in 2001, Nick ran the California office of National Environmental Trust (now Pew Environment Group), where he helped launch and coordinate a collaborative of organizations advocating for new environmental health policies. Nick spent the next decade working for Corporate Accountability as a communications and deputy director with Green Corps graduates including Patti Lynn (GC '97), Sriram Madhusoodanan (GC '10) and John Stewart (GC '09).

Alongside his work with International Rivers, Nick continues to work with Corporate Accountability in a part-time capacity while also advising groups such as Pacific Environment on communications, fundraising and program development. Nick says, "the truth is, almost 20 years later, I still reference the trainings and apply the skills I developed in Green Corps in every aspect of the work I do."



Pai Deetes

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING



ALUMNI UPDATE

SAM LOCKHART, GC '11

Courtesy of Sam Lockhart



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

After graduating from the College of William and Mary, Sam Lockhart joined the Green Corps Class of 2011, where she worked to defend California's landmark global warming law,

organized east Texas landowners to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline, recruited student activists to attend the Powershift conference in Washington, D.C., and canvassed in New York and New Jersey to oppose corn subsidies. Following her time with Green Corps, Sam worked with the Power Past Coal Coalition through Friends of the Columbia Gorge to successfully oppose coal export terminals that had been proposed in Oregon and Washington state.

Today, Sam serves as the National Wildlife Federation's eastern regional field director. She works closely with a team of East Coast affiliates and field consultants to build the power of the conservation movement, defend against attacks on the environment, and support opportunities for bipartisanship through vehicles such as the Recovering America's Wildlife Act—a piece of legislation designed to

provide \$1.3 billion annually to support proactive wildlife management at the state level. She also serves as field director for the Clean Water For All coalition, and continues to build trainings and tools to serve the organization's campaigns team across the country.



Michael Lang

Sam has worked with the National Wildlife Federation since 2013, where she has advocated for strong federal environmental standards and enforcement under the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, organized trainings across the country, and more.

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MEET THE GREEN CORPS CLASS OF 2020!

INGRID ECK



Ingrid Eck attended Wesleyan University, where she majored in government, environmental studies and French. During her

four years there, she worked on the Wesleyan Green Fund; founded Veg Out, a student group dedicated to food justice; and served as president of Wesleyan's only sorority, Rho Epsilon Pi. Ingrid also worked as the sustainability coordinator for the city of Middletown, Connecticut, over the summer before joining Green Corps in August.

LINDA YU TREY



Linda Yu Trey graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in environmental science this past June. In

college, Linda was active in the Phoenix Sustainability Initiative, served as a resident assistant for three years, and canvassed for Clean Water Action. She also interned with Seven Generations Ahead, where she developed zero-waste educational tools for hospitals and other stakeholders.

JASON ATWOOD



Jason Atwood recently graduated from Duke University, where he majored in

public policy with an emphasis in environmental policy, and obtained a certificate in policy journalism and media studies. Jason joined the League of Conservation Voters last summer as a communications intern in Washington, D.C., and spent this past summer working with residents in Costa Rica to further environmentally friendly practices such as reforestation, rain garden construction and water conservation.