

# GREEN CORPS

SUMMER REPORT 2022

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## ORGANIZERS IN ACTION

### GREEN CORPS CAMPAIGNS ORGANIZES TO SAVE CALIFORNIA SOLAR

California might be the last state you'd expect to make it harder for people to go solar. But that's exactly what the state's Public Utilities Commission planned to do—until a public outcry, amplified by Green Corps Campaigns organizers, convinced state leaders to hit the pause button.

Popular policies such as net metering are helping millions of Californians to tap into the sun's power, with positive results including cleaner air and fewer climate-changing carbon emissions. Swayed by the lobbying of such interests as Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), however, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proposed a plan that would double the cost of installing rooftop solar panels. The impact of the change would extend beyond California, which is the world's fifth-largest economy and—for now anyway—a global leader on clean energy and climate action.

Among the groups working to stop the anti-solar plan have been Environment California and Solar Rights Alliance, the latter partnering with Green Corps Campaigns to mobilize

public support for saving rooftop solar.

In the fall of 2021, a team of four Green Corps organizers went to work. They hosted media events that earned coverage in the Los Angeles Times and on NPR. One event, held at Huntington Beach, the site of a recent oil spill, featured a 300-foot pro-solar message carved in the sand. The team also mobilized 5,480 people to sign a petition and 600 people to call Gov. Gavin Newsom, urging him to support rooftop solar.

Last but not least, Green Corps organizers helped turn out some of the more than 2,500 people who attended pro-solar rallies in Los Angeles and San Francisco. We don't know yet what the CPUC's final proposal will look like, but our organizing helped make sure the commissioners will think twice before they roll back California's pro-solar policies.



Courtesy of Solar Rights Alliance

Organizer Cailey Underhill leads a march at a rally to save California solar in Los Angeles, Calif.

## YOU MAKE GOOD ORGANIZING POSSIBLE



Staff

And just like that, the members of the class of 2022 are nearing the end of their Green Corps year. The craft of organizing hasn't gotten any easier over the past few years—besides the continuing effects of COVID-19, the current class has had to deal

with gridlock in Washington, D.C., climate angst and more. That's why I'm especially proud of all that our team has accomplished this year in the face of these challenges.

Working with Toxic-Free Future this fall, we were able to help secure a commitment from Burger King to phase out dangerous "forever chemicals" from its food packaging. Meanwhile, in California, Green Corps Campaigns helped build enormous public pressure to save access to solar energy in the state.

Organizing is never easy, but I'm particularly impressed by the resilience and dedication of this year's class. As always, thank you for your support of their work.

Sincerely,

*Annie Sanders*



## ALUMNI UPDATE

### BILL HOLLAND, GC '01



Courtesy of Bill Holland

## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Bill Holland is the senior director for state policy, advocacy and network-wide campaigns at the League of Conservation Voters (LCV).

At LCV, Bill designed and launched the Clean Energy for All (CEFA) program, uniting LCV's network of 32 independent state-based organizations for the first time in a shared campaign to translate their political expertise into ambitious and equitable climate policy. Through CEFA, LCV has secured commitments to 100% clean energy from more than 1,300 elected officials at every level of government and used those promises to secure commitments to 100% clean energy in 15 states since 2018.

Bill uses skills he learned in Green Corps every day—from establishing a clear set of lobby targets in each campaign, to the importance of building sustained long-term power at the state and local levels to advance ambitious policy.



Courtesy of LCV



An illustration from the cover of LCV's report, "Clean Energy Success in the States."

## 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](mailto:plannedgiving@greencorps.org).

# FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING



ALUMNI UPDATE

## EMILY REUMAN, GC '12

Courtesy of Emily Reuman



### BREAST CANCER PREVENTION PARTNERS

Emily Reuman is working to prevent breast cancer and other diseases at the root by eliminating our exposure to toxic chemicals. Emily joined Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP) in 2015 to organize the Coming Clean coalition in California, which passed the first U.S. law to require full labeling of the ingredients in cleaning products. She now supports BCPP as senior tech and communications manager. Since she joined, BCPP has passed six public health and environmental justice bills into law, including an act that bans PFAS chemicals in paper-based food packaging and requires the disclosure of toxic substances in cookware.

During Green Corps, Emily fell in love with the jewel that is Duluth, Minnesota, while organizing support for small family farms. The highlight of her campaign involved putting a famous labor organizer on TV in a chicken suit and supporting local activists protesting in the snow. She also served as canvass director in Atlanta, Georgia, knocking on doors to stop pollution of the Chattahoochee River.

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Courtesy of Emily Reuman

Emily poses at the Come Clean campaign rally in Sacramento with California state Sen. Ricardo Lara, who authored a bill requiring disclosure of cleaning products' ingredients, which Emily's advocacy helped pass.

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## SUMMER REPORT 2022

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## MEET THE GREEN CORPS CLASS OF 2022



### SARAH HUNKINS

Staff



Sarah Hunkins graduated from Boston College with a degree in sociology and a minor in environmental studies in 2019. Sarah spent two years prior to Green Corps as an educator, specifically focusing on environmental issues. She worked as the environmental educator and curriculum organizer at Christodora and as the junior counselor trainer and sustainability specialist at the Girls Scouts of the Nation's Capital's Camp May Flather. Sarah ran Green Corps campaigns with Toxic Free-Future in Raleigh, North Carolina, and with PennEnvironment in Philadelphia. She loves traveling, thrift shopping, reading non-fiction, finding local vegetarian restaurants, hiking and soccer.



### BEN ROWLEY

Staff



Ben Rowley graduated last May from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. He double-majored in communications and political science & international relations. At Truman State, Ben worked with local youth, teaching and mentoring middle school students at the Joseph Baldwin Academy. In addition to serving as preceptor, he also helped Taiwanese students develop English proficiency at Joseph Baldwin. Ben ran Green Corps campaigns with Toxic Free-Future in Miami and with PIRG's Right to Repair campaign in Boston. He studied abroad in Ireland and enjoys photography and community building.