

# GREEN CORPS

SUMMER REPORT 2023

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## 🌱 ORGANIZERS IN ACTION

### ORGANIZING TO SAVE THE BEES WITH ENVIRONMENT COLORADO

Starting in the fall of 2022, Green Corps partnered with Environment Colorado to save the bees. As Dr. Michael Engel, an entomologist at the University of Kansas, has written, “Insects are interwoven into the fundamental functions of virtually every ecosystem. An insect apocalypse is our apocalypse. As insects are disappearing, plants everywhere are experiencing a diminution in natural pollination. Without these critical animal species, the basic reproduction of these plants would be compromised and, for many, would grind to a halt.”

In short, pollinators are critical to life on Earth. A U.N. report found that almost 90% of wild plants and 75% of all food crops need animal pollinators to some extent. Bees are dying at alarming rates due to habitat loss, climate change, and the overuse of toxic pesticides, including a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids. One of the easiest ways to save the bees is to stop the consumer sale of neonicotinoids which inhibit bees’ ability to find food.

Green Corps Organizer Natalie Woodland recruited more

than 1,200 Coloradans to add their names to a petition calling on state legislators to stop the sale of neonicotinoids to the general public. Many more participated in campaign actions at the Denver Botanic Gardens, concerts and a “Trick or Seeding” event in Boulder in October. This Halloween-themed event featured University of Colorado students distributing native wildflower seeds to Boulder residents while asking them to sign the campaign petition. One hundred forty-one businesses, farms, beekeepers and health professionals also voiced their support for the campaign, and other supporters wrote letters to the editor in Denver, Boulder and Glenwood Springs newspapers.

After building public support, the team hosted a press conference outside of the Colorado State Capitol before volunteers went inside to deliver petition signatures and coalition letters to elected officials ahead of the 2023 legislative session. Colorado has the opportunity to lead the Mountain West while joining other states, including Maryland and Maine, in taking this necessary step to save the bees.



Staff

Green Corps Organizer Natalie Woodland hosts a news conference to share findings about the alarming rate of bee die-offs in Colorado.

## YOU MAKE GOOD ORGANIZING POSSIBLE



Staff

Green Corps organizers started 2023 with campaigns working to ban single-use plastics, protect marine ecosystems, save the bees, and stop the development of polluting fish farms.

As we approach summer, organizers are launching their third and last campaigns of their Green Corps year, and they will run door-to-door canvass offices across the country to recruit tens of thousands of community members to act on environmental campaigns by signing petitions, taking campaign photos, and donating to support future campaign work. Our team will learn the basics of what it takes to recruit and train a team of paid staff and run a small nonprofit organization.

Organizers are also starting to consider their next steps beyond Green Corps and how they will put the skills and experience they have gained this year to use. We cannot wait to see the impact our 31st class of organizers makes this summer and beyond.

Renee Wellman  
Executive Director

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### KATHRYN LEE, GC '14



Courtesy of Kathryn Lee

### SIERRA CLUB

Since graduating from Green Corps in 2014, Kathryn has focused her skills on building people power through digital organizing tactics.

After working to raise funds for Green Corps as a development associate, she worked as a digital campaigner with PIRG before transitioning to the Sierra Club where she has worked as a senior online organizer and then the acting social media strategy manager.

Kathryn planned and implemented online education and mobilization efforts for the 2019 People's Climate March, resulting in thousands of online action takers and in-person participants. She also used online mobilization to demonstrate public support during administrative rulemaking and legislative lobbying efforts at key moments during the Trump administration.

Kathryn has continued to guide the Sierra Club's social media strategy to effectively integrate fundraising, storytelling and campaign tactics in coordination with Sierra Club campaign leads.

## 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).



Staff

Kathryn Lee worked with Green Corps' central staff as a development associate. She trained the next class of Green Corps organizers on key grassroots fundraising tactics.

# FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### JULIE JOHNSON, GC '20

Courtesy of Julie Johnson



## MOVE MINNESOTA

During her time with Green Corps, Julie organized with Defenders of Wildlife in Arizona, with the Audubon Society in South Carolina, and Environment Iowa on issues ranging from protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to promoting clean energy.

After wrapping up Green Corps in the summer of 2020, Julie moved back to Minnesota to work as a community organizer with Move Minnesota. She is passionate about improving the accessibility and efficiency of multi-modal transportation in the Twin Cities. Move Minnesota works to connect communities, end the climate crisis, expand access to jobs and resources, and improve daily life for Minnesotans of all ages, races, incomes and abilities.

In recent months, Julie has served a key role in organizing the “Boost the Bus” rally while leading volunteer teams in Minneapolis and St. Paul.



Courtesy of Julie Johnson

Julie (center) with volunteers and coalition partners advocating for better public transportation options in Minnesota in February 2023.

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## SUMMER REPORT 2023

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## MEET THE GREEN CORPS CLASS OF 2023



### FELIX DE SIMONE



Staff

Felix De Simone graduated from the University of Chicago in 2022 with a degree in Political Science. He started his Green Corps year

working with the Student PIRGs' New Voters Project in Lansing, Michigan to help young people exercise their right to vote and have a stronger voice in our democracy. Felix then moved to Boston and launched a campaign with Environment Massachusetts to build public support for a new marine protected area, Cashes Ledge, in the Gulf of Maine. Cashes Ledge can be described as an underwater mountain range and kelp forest that provides critical feeding opportunities for fish, whales and sharks.



### ERIN BACHMEIER



Staff

Erin Bachmeier graduated from Lewis University in 2022 with degrees in Environmental Science and Spanish Language and Culture. She served as a team

captain on the university's swim team while serving as president of the Sustainability Club. After August training, Erin moved to Pittsburgh to advocate for wildlife corridors with PennEnvironment. She coauthored an op-ed published in the Pittsburgh Gazette while also coordinating campaign ads and podcast interviews with Outdoor News. In the spring, Erin traveled to Portland, Maine, to help stop the expansion of industrial-scale finfish farms in federal waters with Don't Cage Our Oceans.