

# Dear Friends, Neighbors & Supporters

Just over ten years ago, we plunged the first shovel in the ground of our rocky Hudson Valley soil to create **Longhaul Farm**. Longhaul Farm was founded on our vision of creating a *"way of living that is joyful, accepts comfortable and responsible limitations, provides enough for everyone, nourishes and protects health, gives as much as it takes, incorporates productive work that makes us want to get up in the morning, connects us to community and brings us into balance with our ecology."* But we also believed that there were others that longed to live more balanced and caring lives and we created the nonprofit organization the **Ecological Citizen's Project (ECP)** to make life lived around these values accessible to as many people as possible.

While Longhaul Farm remains the hub of our ECP work, over the past three years we have created three public food gardens in Peekskill, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie that are giving a growing, diverse tribe of ecological citizens the opportunity to steward land and bring their own vision of public service - or love in action - into the world. We are proud to be a part of this movement.

**ECOLOGICAL CITIZEN:**  
someone who understands  
that the social problems  
we face are interconnected  
and must be met through  
transformative personal  
change and creative  
collective action in their  
home community.



HUDSON VALLEY 2022

# The ECP has launched three public food gardens in Peekskill, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie

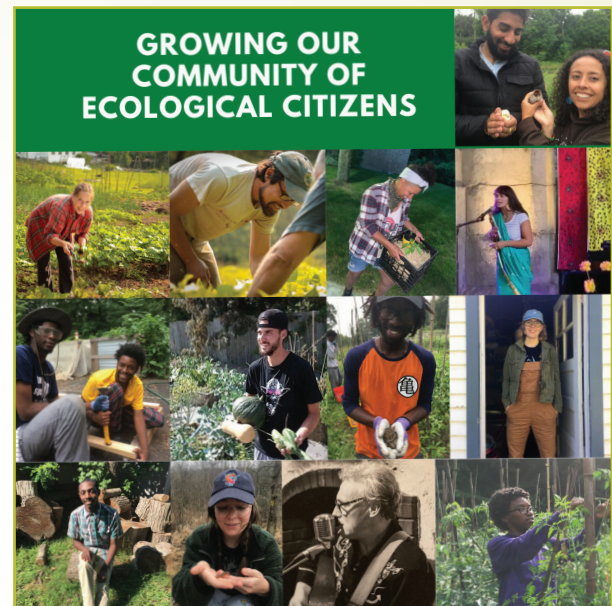
**PUBLIC FOOD GARDEN:** a new kind of public infrastructure, where a community farmer is employed to steward land, grow food, and neighbors are invited to freely harvest fresh produce



## Although the ECP is a small organization, in 2022 we worked to improve communities across the Hudson Valley in big ways:

**LONGHAUL FARM:** On Longhaul Farm, we practice and teach small-scale, regenerative farming techniques that both build soil health and produce abundance. Our half acre vegetable garden produces summer share CSA memberships for 50 families and donations to local food insecure families. Humanely raised livestock thrive in our woods and fields. As part of our **Regenerative Communities** program, which we launched in 2020, we have trained and collaborated with 14 Regenerators. Our aim is to create opportunities for historically underrepresented people to farm and steward land, the majority of which had never had previous farming experience and identify as black, Indigenous and people of color. We love creating ways for people to reconnect with the land: hosting “work-ations” for community volunteers that help the farm thrive, partnering with **New Era Creative Space** to host **Nature Connection Camp** for local youth, and working with **Something Good in the World** to welcome teens from Central America who are seeking asylum in the United States. Of course, food brings it all together as we cook and share meals with ingredients that come straight from the ground and the love of our hands bring us together around one table.

# Since 2020, we have trained and collaborated with 14 Regenerators.



Top row: Kanav Kathuria, Betty Bastidas.

2nd row: Jocelyn Apicello, Jason Angell, Katie Collins, Anusha Mehar.

3rd row: Aaron Mosley, Josh Mosley, Eric Sirvinskaskas, Nick Jackson, Jenn Hull.

Bottom row: Shawn McPhee, Maeve McGee, Steve Chizmadia, Lauryn Dimmie.

**PEEKSKILL:** Regenerator Kanav Kathuria began his one year stewardship of the public food garden in Peekskill, bringing his deep commitment to social justice through food to the community. **Peekskill Regeneration Farm** is situated on city park land next to **Oakside Elementary School**, across the street from Bohlmann Towers public housing, and in the middle of a diverse neighborhood. In 2022, the site distributed shares of produce to the local food pantry, Oakside Elementary families and nearby neighbors. We saw neighborhood families harvest freely from the garden and attracted dozens of community members to volunteer work days. We received a grant from the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** to work on a project - with partner **Working Power** - to develop 1-2 MW of community owned solar that will redirect profits from conventional solar development models towards a 25 year community benefit fund to support expanded food sovereignty work in Peekskill and create electricity bill savings to low income residents. The upcoming year's work includes investing in garden infrastructure to welcome community members, developing environmental education programs for Peekskill students, launching a paid youth apprenticeship program, and hosting a series of community dinners to build community ties.

# Distributed produce to the Peekskill food pantry, Oakside Elementary families and neighbors.



October 2022 community volunteer work day at Peekskill Regeneration Farm, with drum leader Baba Kazi.

**Let's leave behind conventional solar development**

Solar profits leave local communities with the solar developer & private investors

**Build community-owned solar**

Community partners maintain local ownership to redirect solar profits towards a long term community benefit fund for Peekskill

**Build public food gardens**

Community benefit funds help build a network of public food gardens that feed food insecure residents, provide youth training and educational opportunities, and bring the community together.



**NEWBURGH:** Regenerator Betty Bastidas, accomplished educator and award-winning documentary filmmaker, became a steward at **The Sanctuary Healing Farm and Gardens** at Crystal Lake, launched in 2020 by Regenerators Anusha Mehar and Katie Collins on land licensed by the ECP from the **City of Newburgh**. The Sanctuary remains a Black, Asian, Indigenous, and Latinx centered healing garden working to activate community connections through land, food, wellness and art. The ECP is working with The Sanctuary to launch the “Ward 3 Wants a Park” campaign to win the designation of Crystal Lake – the city’s largest greenspace – as a public park for Ward 3, a majority low-income, BIPOC neighborhood which is the only ward without a city park. This year’s upcoming work includes building a children’s playspace, improving the ecological health of Crystal Lake’s water, and installing a forest wellness deck to foster healing practices, community meals, fitness and mindfulness workshops.



Bird's-eye view of The Sanctuary at Crystal Lake.

# Working to designate Crystal Lake as Ward 3's first public park.

**POUGHKEEPSIE:** This year the ECP helped launch the **Pershing Avenue Neighborhood Farm** in Poughkeepsie, in partnership with **Scenic Hudson** and the **Poughkeepsie Farm Project**. Regenerator Nick Jackson – aka Farmer Nick, also a cook, dancer and artist – grew up three blocks from the urban farm site he now stewards. This year, Farmer Nick designed and built a beautiful growing space, distributed free food through weekly farm stands and deliveries to neighboring Corlies public housing apartments, and hosted workshops on growing, preparing and preserving food. While Nick’s ECP year of service has ended, he was recently hired by Scenic Hudson to continue stewarding the community farm in 2023.

“I've seen many programs come and go, but the work we are doing at Pershing feels like we are actually making a difference.”  
- Nick Jackson



**PHILIPSTOWN:** We continue working on the **Philipstown Fights Dirty (PFD)** campaign, which is a 20-year campaign to help our town reach carbon neutrality by 2040. We launched the **Philipstown Climate Fund (PCF)** award program, which provides grant awards to low- and moderate-income households in Philipstown to help them take climate action by replacing fossil fuel-based appliances with electric ones. In 2022, we granted \$11,600 to residents to install heat pumps and electric hot water heaters. We continued to encourage local households to pledge to take climate action using the interactive PFD website ([philipstownfightsdirty.org](http://philipstownfightsdirty.org)). We collaborated with over 40 local organizations on taking climate action and started a pilot program with local businesses to help them determine their carbon footprint and create a plan to decarbonize their business. We also worked with our local school district, **Garrison Union Free School District (GUFS)**, to provide climate and environmental education to all students and embarked on a multi-year project to measure the carbon storage and sequestration in the 181-acre GUFS forest.

# We launched the Philipstown Climate Fund award program to help low-income households take climate action.

Look what we did in Philipstown!		2022
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION		
Launched Community Tree Initiative by planting 24 trees along Chestnut Street with the Cold Spring Tree Advisory Board.		
 Helped gather local businesses together to launch the pilot program for business decarbonization.		
Installed first municipal EV charging stations in county and a pollinator garden at Town Hall.		
 Actively discussing Complete Streets initiatives and prioritizing pedestrian safety.		
Established a large meadow, creating a natural habitat for pollinators and wildlife.		
 Launched the Philipstown Climate Fund Award Program to help neighbors take climate action.		
Installed pollinator gardens and began a community book club.		
 Improved our recycling, turning materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill into art.		
Installed electric hot water heating system and integrated environmental ed in grades K-8.		
 Calculated the carbon footprint of our farm.		
Shifted to an automated thermostat system to save on heating costs and reduce our environmental impact.		
 Reduced the use of fossil fuels by promoting remote meetings and increasing work-from-home availability.		
Piloted the transformation of golf fairways into native meadows and hosted a panel on climate action.		
 Installed two pollinator gardens and began the Sustainable Library Certification program.		
Coordinated volunteers assisting in trash cleanup, pollinator garden installation and invasive removal.		
 Installed heat pumps in Village hall, weatherized the basement and signed the "monarch pledge."		
Installed rooftop solar panels to power the rec center.		
 Adopted the NYS Stretch Code to improve building energy efficiency and launched a food scraps recycling program.		
Held workshops to discuss a path connecting Cold Spring to Garrison and important neighborhood amenities in between.		
 Designed the Little Stony Point Volunteer Center using passive house principles.		
Replaced all incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs and joined a community solar program.		
<p>IS YOUR ORGANIZATION TAKING CLIMATE ACTION? TELL US ABOUT IT SO WE CAN SHARE YOUR STORY, TOO.</p> <p><b>philipstownfightsdirty.org</b></p>		

The Philipstown Fight's Dirty campaign celebrates local climate actions achieved in 2022.



We give thanks to everyone engaged in building a more equitable, healthy, regenerative and democratic world.

In 2023, we will hire and train a new class of Regenerators, secure land for new and diverse farmers, build community-owned renewable energy, create nature-based jobs for youth, increase access to nature and continue to build ecological citizenship. We invite you to join the movement or contribute to support our work. Please visit [EcologicalCitizens.org/donate](https://EcologicalCitizens.org/donate).

Sincerely,



Jason Angell  
Co-Director



Jocelyn Apicello  
Co-Director

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

THE ENDEAVOR FOUNDATION  
formerly CHRISTIAN A. JOHNSON ENDEAVOR FOUNDATION

MALCOLM GORDON CHARITABLE FUND



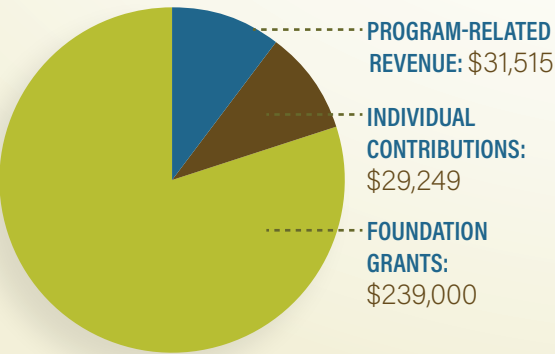
Thank you also to our foundation supporters who would like to remain anonymous and our individual contributors.

Board of Directors:

- Matt Brown, *President*
- Michael Rauch, *Vice-President*
- Betsey Nevins-Saunders, *Treasurer*
- Jason Angell, *Secretary*
- Dahni-El Giles, *Director*

2022 ANNUAL REPORT FINANCIALS

REVENUE 2022  
Total: \$299,764



EXPENSES 2022  
Total: \$236,133

