



2019 Progress and Plans

The mission of the Ecological Citizen’s Project (ECP) is to support community-led campaigns to build a more just, healthy, democratic and sustainable way-of-life. Over three years, our work has had widespread social impact in the Hudson Valley.

Highlights

100% Renewable Energy

The ECP worked with bold municipal leaders and community partners to establish New York’s second Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), which moved 30,000 homes and small businesses in the Hudson Valley from 80% dirty energy to cheaper, 100% NYS renewable energy.

21st Century Democracy

After a successful Town of Philipstown Community Congress initiative in 2017, we launched the Peekskill Community Congress (PkCC). Over 35 residents proposed priorities, 1,534 cast ballots – nearly half of which were City of Peekskill youth – and 880 residents signed up to volunteer. The PkCC sparked community action around priorities including jobs for youth, making Peekskill more walkable, expanded school bus transportation, and affordable housing. The PkCC has helped shape the Mayor’s agenda and the city’s \$10m Downtown Revitalization Initiative.



Rendering of Regenerative Communities project, from ECP’s proposal to Peekskill’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

Launching next: The Regenerative Communities Project

The ECP’s Regenerative Communities (RC) project will seek to demonstrate an innovative model for community development in the Hudson Valley which gives a new generation of diverse farmers and ecological stewards the tools they need – purposeful training, economic security and access to affordable land and home – to do the regenerative work of building just, healthy, and sovereign communities of joyful abundance.

The ECP is building partnerships with community organizations, landholders, elected officials, philanthropists and community members who share the goal of building regenerative communities, where we can all become ecological citizens.

Phase 1 fundraising goal: \$90,000

We have identified two potential locations for our first two “neighbors farms” in the Hudson Valley. Help us secure them by raising funding to train and pay two new farmers a living wage to develop an urban farm and grow free food for food insecure members in their community.

Highlights (cont'd)

A Roadmap to Local Carbon Neutrality

The ECP is working with the Town of Philipstown's Climate Smart Community Task Force, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, and other local partners to develop NY's first innovative greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory which will measure community-wide emissions from both production and consumption behaviors, as well as account for the carbon storage and sequestration work of our natural resources to create a data-based roadmap to future local carbon neutrality.

Education and Outreach

In 2019, the ECP organized educational events that reached over 500 community members, including events for Peekskill residents and High School students around participatory democracy, Hudson Valley youth on engaging in building a more sustainable way-of-life, and civic leaders and experts around the carbon-sinking power of land and ecology.

Next Stop Now, our ECP podcast which tells stories of regular people who "change their lives to change the world", is entering its second season and has been played over 2,500 times.

Elements of the Regenerative Communities Project:

- ✦ Powering community sovereignty: The ECP works with forward-thinking developers and philanthropists to develop community-owned renewable energy assets, with profits returning to the community to create a source of sustainable funding to support the development of local food systems, affordable housing, and community wealth.
- ✦ Regenerative farming & social change apprenticeship: A diverse group of participants learn *regenerative farming skills* on Longhaul Farm like building soil health, intensive growing practices, and animal husbandry; *sustainable life skills* like cooking, preserving, carpentry and budgeting; and *community leadership skills* like community asset mapping and how policy change is made at the local level.
- ✦ Community farming extension program: The ECP works with partners to identify underutilized properties in the Hudson Valley, with graduate apprentices receiving land access and a living wage to establish a "neighbor's farm" to grow free food for food insecure neighborhood residents.

ECP Financial Statement

The ECP's opening assets and revenues for FY 2018-2019 were \$146,135, with 88% (\$81,116) of revenue coming from foundations and 12% (\$5,116) coming from individual donations. Our net expenses for FY 2018-2019 were \$130,062, with 82% (\$107,699) spent directly on ECP programming. Our remaining balance is \$16,075, with \$4,135 restricted for the completion of the Town of Philipstown carbon inventory.

How to support ECP work:

The ECP is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable non-profit organization. We're an organization that makes a small budget go a long way! To learn more about our work and our awesome Board of Directors, please visit www.ecologicalcitizens.org or call us at 845-309-0887. If you are able to support our work financially, please make your tax-deductible contribution to "Ecological Citizen's Project" and send to PO Box 24, Garrison, NY 10524. Thank you for your support!