



May 18, 2020

Dear Supporters,

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. The shock of COVID-19 has revealed how socially and economically vulnerable many of us are in the current system and we believe the world at his moment needs living examples of how to build communities that have secure access to local food, a durable and prosperous local economy, and a more socially connected community. We have the work of regeneration ahead of us.

The ECP is a small non-profit organization that makes charitable support go a long way on the ground. Since our inception in 2016, we have hosted dozens of community convenings, produced a series of podcasts that tell personal stories of change, and also:

- Helped found the Hudson Valley Community Power CCA, which moved nearly 85,000 Hudson Valley residents to 100% NYS renewable energy and lowered our electricity GHG emissions by an estimated 96.7% from previous power sources;
- Developed a Community Congress model that engaged over 2,500 residents in the Town of Philipstown and City of Peekskill in defining their community's priorities which resulted in numerous new citizen-led efforts which have tangibly improved their communities; and
- Completed New York State's first local carbon inventory report for the Town of Philipstown to measure the full life-cycle emission impacts of the goods and services residents consume and the work of our natural resources to remove and store carbon from the atmosphere. We believe that this report will help create a data-based road map to local community carbon neutrality and serve as a national model. To read the report, please go to ecologicalcitizens.org.

In the coming year, we are undertaking a great deal of new work that we believe responds to this moment and can help regenerate communities across the Hudson Valley. We have secured a significant amount of funding to get these programs off the ground, but are asking for your support so these efforts are fully-funded and functional. In particular, we are prioritizing three programs:

- **Regenerative Communities program.** This summer, we are launching the ECP's Regenerators program which will demonstrate an innovative model for community development in the Hudson Valley. We will teach five apprentices regenerative farming and local community building skills on Longhaul Farm and work to secure them land and start-up funding to develop a community farm and civic hub in the Hudson Valley. We have secured funding from The Endeavor Foundation, Inc., the Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund and an individual donor for all four

apprenticeship positions, but are still aiming to raise \$21,000 towards the costs of establishing the community farm/civic hub to provide free access to fresh food for food insecure neighbors;

- **COVID-19 Expanded Growing program.** As many experts project increasing food insecurity in the coming months due to COVID-19, we will work with apprentices this summer to convert an abandoned tennis court into expanded growing space at Longhaul Farm while experimenting with urban-applicable growing techniques. We have secured funding from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and a private donor in the amount of \$8,000, but are still seeking \$11,000 in contributions to fund the full expansion; and
- **Philipstown Local Carbon Offset Fund program.** We know the road to carbon neutrality will call for systemic change across many different fronts. Given the uncertainty of the federal response to climate change and the strain on state budgets from the coronavirus response, how can we pay for the broad array of initiatives needed at the local level? We are seeking support to develop a “Philipstown Local Carbon Offset Fund,” an innovative model based on the Finger Lakes Local Climate Fund. This fund would create a dedicated source of new revenue for climate work, allowing residents to purchase local carbon offsets towards annual reduction goals and funding local employment in activities that reduce emissions and protect natural resources. While we have secured \$22,100 from the Endeavor Foundation to support program development, we still need to raise \$19,600 to cover remaining year one costs.

If you are able to make a charitable, tax-deductible contribution at this time, please know that it will go directly into ECP programs to do the work on the ground of helping people to build more just, healthy, democratic, and regenerative communities. Checks can be made payable to “Ecological Citizen’s Project, Inc.” and mailed to “69 South Mountain Pass, Garrison, NY 10524.” Donations can also be made by credit card or Paypal online at ecologicalcitizens.org/donate.

If you have any questions or would like to hear more about our work plan, please feel free to call Jason at 845-309-0887 or by email at jason.angell@ecologicalcitizens.org.

Sincerely,

Jason Angell
Executive Director

Jocelyn Apicello
Program Director



Dear friends, neighbors, supporters,

There are a lot of things about 2020 that we'd probably all like to leave behind.

But thanks to the support of our friends and neighbors, we have been able to forge forward in our work at the Ecological Citizen's Project (ECP) to help create a more equitable, healthy, regenerative and democratic way-of-life for all of us. In 2020, we have tackled our world's most pressing challenges through local action:

- **Climate change** - We used our innovative GHG inventory to help the Town of Philipstown adopt the goal of community carbon neutrality by 2040 and began to develop the *Philipstown Fights Dirty* public engagement campaign to make taking and tracking local climate action contagious.
- **Food insecurity** - We worked in partnership with local governments to license two underutilized properties in Peekskill, NY and Newburgh, NY to develop into community farms that provide fresh, affordable food to local residents as part of the ECP's Regenerative Communities program. In addition, we expanded growing space at Longhaul Farm to meet COVID-19 food needs and distributed nearly 200 free shares of produce -- equivalent to over 1,000 meals -- to food insecure families.
- **Racial equity** - With only 2% of American farmlands managed by Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), we have worked to ensure the Regenerator Sanctuary Healing Farm + Gardens in Newburgh, NY is stewarded by local BIPOC leaders and our goal is to continue creating more BIPOC land opportunities at future sites.
- **Alienation from nature** - We expanded ECP capacity for impact by hiring five Regenerators, training them in the practice of regenerative farming and connecting them to land to create civic spaces for people to connect with nature and each other. In addition, we partnered with the New Era Creative Space Nature Connection program to provide weekly summer and fall nature-based education to youth from Philipstown and Peekskill, NY.

While we remember all who have suffered or lost loved ones in 2020, we will power forward in our work. We need support to hire and train a class of 2021 Regenerators, secure land for BIPOC farmers, build community-owned renewable energy and create nature-based jobs for youth. We hope you consider joining us in this work. Please visit ecologicalcitizens.org/donate.

Sincerely,

Jason Angell

Jocelyn Apicello