

Celebrating 50 Years of Environmental Action

Annual Report 2019-2020













Our Community Impact

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Lifting Up Underresourced Communities

200 Community members engaged in the East Palo Alto Adaptation Planning Pilot



2160 Volunteer hours to conduct the 2019 East Palo Alto Climate Change Survey





97 Households connected to home weatherization and clean energy upgrades



250 Attendees at 2019 East Palo Alto Community Revitalization Fair

Building a Movement

1900 Community members attending Acterra's events



30% Increased attendance at Public Lectures compared to FY19





of People report a "very positive" perception of EVs after an Acterra test drive



10.7K Impressions from #HowtoGoEV
Twitter Chat

205 Metric tons of atmospheric carbon emissions avoided due to EV usage (four-year total)







492

Volunteer members of the Silicon Valley Green Team Network

OUR MISSION

Acterra brings people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet.

As a community convener, we partner with residents, businesses, local governments, and allied organizations to raise awareness of effective ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to build a broad movement for climate action.

Dear Acterra Community,

What a busy year it has been for Acterra!

Our amazing Executive Director, Lauren Weston, started on June 17, 2019. Prior to joining us formally, she attended our May board offsite where we began developing our Theory of Change. So began our one-year process to formulate our new 3-year Strategic Plan.

We're excited about our Plan which focuses on two critical aspects of mitigating climate change: food sustainability and electrification of buildings and transportation. The Plan's priorities were informed by the latest science culled from sources like Project Drawdown, as well as much input from our community of stakeholders. By reducing food waste and helping people and organizations move to more plant-forward diets, and by greening our grid and transitioning away from fossil-fuel-based devices to electric alternatives, Acterra will be making strides in truly high-impact areas.

As many of you know, COVID-19 threw a monkey wrench into our planned 50th anniversary gala in early March of 2020. Volunteers had spent hundreds of hours preparing by scouring their memories, hard drives, and Acterra's archives for photos and articles from Acterra's long history—essentially from the inception of the environmental movement in 1970. We had planned big posters that attendees could write on to share their own memories. But being nimble is the key to success in Silicon Valley and pivot we did. We shifted to a well-received online event with video presentations, an interactive chat session, and even a virtual dance party. Just wish we had some way to serve Cool-tinis.

And what will the next 50 years bring? With the climate crisis showing few signs of abating, our hope is that Acterra's work will keep reflecting our nimbleness as well as our grit and resilience. With your support, together we will continue carrying out our mission despite roadblocks and setbacks. Acterra is proud to help everyone —residents, local governments, and businesses alike—on a path to reducing our collective carbon footprints.

We can't thank you enough for joining us, both for the last 50 years, and for our forward journey.



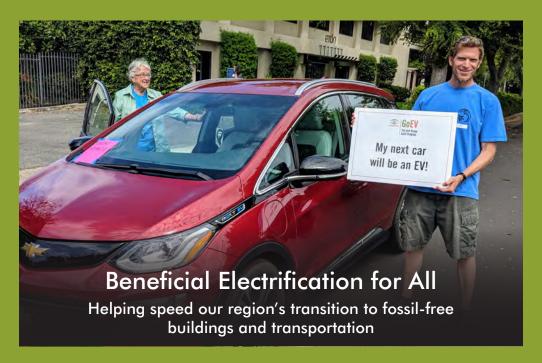
Phil Brosterhous

Phil Brosterhous Board President



Suds Jain Past Board President

OUR WORK









Beneficial Electrification for All

The Future Is Electric

Beneficial Electrification is the transition to clean, renewable energy to power homes, businesses, and how we get around. Converting to electric appliances and transportation is considered beneficial when it saves consumers money over the long run, enables better grid management, and reduces negative environmental impact.

Acterra advocates for building codes and local ordinances, inclusive financing, incentives, and local education. Acterra is a supporting member of the Campaign for Fossil Free Buildings in Silicon Valley. Acterra works with cities to help encourage EV infrastructure and adoption.

Induction cooktop technology is fast, convenient, more energy-efficient than other methods, and preferred by top chefs. In FY20, Acterra conducted outreach to introduce this technology more broadly, loaning out nearly 100 portable induction cooktops to Bay Area residents and receiving rave reviews.

"We are going to go ahead and have an induction range to replace our 1985 gas range to decrease gas consumption. Safety is a big reason we are making the change."

- Katherine, Community member

"Thanks! I used the induction unit to fry a couple eggs. My husband was so impressed by how quickly those eggs cooked that he immediately started preparing a one-pot dinner for us on the unit. By the time dinner was ready, he was completely sold and already researching full-size induction cooktops."

- Kathleen, Community member









The Karl Knapp GoEV Program accelerates the adoption of electric vehicles —powered, in our region, by clean energy.

FY20 Highlights and Impact

Acterra conducted six EV Workshops in locations throughout the Peninsula, including Temple Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, the South San Francisco Library, Signified Corporation in San Jose, the East Palo Alto Community Church, and the UU Fellowship Church of Sunnyvale, reaching a total of 299 people.

At two in-person Ride and Drive events (in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto), Acterra gave out over 230 free test drives. Post-test drive, the percentage of attendees reporting a "very positive" perception of EVs rose from 67% to 81%.

GoEV newsletter subscribers topped 1000.

EV Ambassadors (peer outreach network) totaled 107.

Virtual Community Engagement

April 2020: Acterra fielded community questions via its first-ever Twitter Live Chat, garnering 10,700 impressions.

June 2020: Nearly 90 people attended our "Drive Electric" workshop, an event that included breakout discussions led by volunteer EV ambassadors.

"I am driving my third all-electric car, and would never go back to an internal combustion vehicle. I tell my friends and family that the only cool car is electric (or a bicycle)."

Pam, Acterra EV Ambassador

Learn more at acterra.org/goev





Highlights:

More than 175 individuals attended the May 28 ceremony of the **Business Environmental Awards**, a program that encourages the wider adoption of best-in-class sustainable practices. The 2020 award recipients were selected through rigorous judging with an eye toward innovation, integrity, and impact. The award recipients shown below join the more than 200 Bay Area businesses and organizations that have been recognized by Acterra since 1990.

Learn more at acterra.org/bea

A Digital Milestone: Responses to Our Virtual Awards Ceremony

"I enjoyed learning about what the business community is doing to help our environment." – R. G.

"One of the best Zoom events I have attended." - A. S.









An event highlight was a panel discussion moderated by Acterra Board Member Bill Weihl (far right). Panelists represented past Award-winning organizations, including Numi Organic Tea, Arkin Tilt Architects, and Apple.

The 2020 Business Environmental Awards Recipients



WRNS Studio Acterra Award for Sustainability

FreeWire Technologies

Environmental Innovation



Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen **Environmental Innovation**



MCE Solar One **Environmental Project**



Central Concrete Supply Co. Spare the Air Leadership Award Sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality **Management District**



1212 Bordeaux, Sunnyvale Sustainable Built Environment



Center Street Parking Garage, Berkeley (Marcy Wong Donn Logan) Sustainable Built Environment



Richmond Annex of The Natural Grocery Company (Arkin Tilt Architects) Sustainable Built Environment



Silicon Valley Organizations Taking Action

Members of the Silicon Valley Green Team Network meet twice annually to share resources, hear expert insights, and move the needle on sustainability at their respective workplaces.

Fall Forum, Growing Sustainability Through Volunteerism (hosted by LinkedIn). Of the 40+ forum participants, roughly half were new to the SVGT Network, representing organizations including Amazon, DocuSign, Gilead Sciences, HPE, City of Brisbane, and Verizon Media. Photo credits: Mitchel Chang



The keynote speaker was Salesforce's Sunya Norman, leader of one of the nation's largest corporate green teams.



Small groups brainstormed educational volunteer activities in areas like waste minimization and sustainable food.

Spring Forum, How to Green Your Organization's 401(k) (hosted online). This interactive webinar gave attendees the motivation and tools needed to green their organization's 401(k) fund offerings.



R. Paul Herman delivered the keynote address.

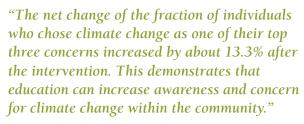


Representatives from stok, As You Sow, and other Bay Area organizations shared their journeys of beginning or completing a switch to greener funds.

Fostering Leadership, Education, and Community Action

"The community Acterra has brought together is in itself powerful. When we can all come together... we often each come from our own worlds of experience and hard work in the areas we hope to influence and bring about change. We are one and united in making a difference.

- Kimberlee Luedee-Chase, Co-Founder & Vice President, Marketing & Business Operations, NewGen Surgical (Business Environmental Awards 2020 Finalist)



- East Palo Alto Climate Change Community Survey, 2019

"We got our first EV in January 2017 (a Chevy Bolt) because we knew it was one of the most impactful things we could do to address the climate crisis. What we didn't realize at the time was all the other benefits of driving electric the performance, savings of time and money on fueling and maintenance, and zippy drive. We loved it so much that the following year we decided to replace our remaining gas car with an electric one."

- Janelle, Acterra GoEV Ambassador







While thinking globally and acting locally, Acterra's science-based approach gives us hope while reinforcing community."

- Longtime Acterra donor Rich Schwerin

Learn more at acterra.org/greenteam 10 11

Resilient Communities

In FY 2020 **Climate Resilient Communities** provided outreach and opportunities to underserved communities in East Palo Alto.

Highlights:

Acterra's door-to-door outreach enabled 97 households in East Palo Alto to receive environmentally beneficial and money-saving services such as free home energy audits, home renovations and weatherization improvements, and solar panels through partner organizations (Pono Home, Habitat for Humanity, El Concilio, and Grid Alternatives).



The EPA Climate Change Community
Team—a collaborative effort launched
by Acterra and funded in part by the San
Mateo County Office of Sustainability—
explored community-directed approaches
to climate adaptation planning. Members
of the Climate Change Community Team
include city residents, city officials, youth,
and business and faith leaders.

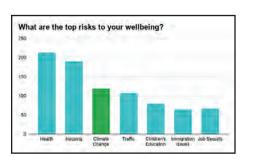
Activities:

Acterra recruited 60 local volunteers who devoted a total of 2,160 hours to administer the East Palo Alto Climate Change Survey. Climate change was identified as the third priority affecting residents' wellbeing, after health and housing.

To understand local vulnerabilities to climate change impacts, Acterra and

partners convened three focus groups (Pacific Islander, youth, and Latinx) to solicit feedback directly from these communities in East Palo Alto.

Acterra conducted a pilot project on the potential benefits of local rain gardens to reduce flooding while boosting water supplies and food security. The work was done in collaboration with the Urban Permaculture Institute and Youth United for Community Action.





"I wanted to become an intern for Acterra's Resilient Communities Program because of my passion for helping people in the community, and for advocating for climate justice and the Earth. This internship was a great intersection of both. I have learned effective ways to outreach with communities and about climate change education. I am grateful for my experience and growth as an intern at Acterra, and the professional relationships I have made."

- Maya Paulo, undergraduate at San Jose State University



"Under Violet's leadership as an Acterra intern, I have learned so much about effective community advocacy, strategies for elevating voices of POC residents and engaging youth, and about how East Palo Alto can meaningfully respond in the face of rising sea levels and other climate impacts and environmental burdens driven by the systems of injustice and exploitation."

- Zoe Brown, undergraduate at Stanford University



"This experience with Acterra has been mind-blowing and eye-opening; I've got more involved in environmental justice, not just in my community but worldwide."

– Heleine Grewe, CCCT member and youth leader in East Palo Alto

Noteworthy

In April 2020, "South Bay Sponge" received an "Honorable Mention" in Fast Company's North American World Change Ideas Contest. This collaboration between Acterra, Resilient by Design, and James Field Corner Operations aimed to restore South Bay wetlands to provide natural flood protection.



What's on Your Plate?

The **Healthy Plate**, **Healthy Planet** program helps individuals, organizations, and communities understand the power of their food choices to curb climate change by advocating for low-carbon diets and less wasted food.



Acterra hosted a screening of the groundbreaking film "The Game Changers" about high-performance athletes who have adopted a plant-based diet. About 100 community members enjoyed plant-based tacos alongside the film's optimistic message about living healthier, more vital lives thanks to the power of plants. Joining us for a discussion were expert panelists in family health, physical fitness, and carbon accounting. (February 2020)

Acterra partnered with The Darwin Challenge, a Sydney-based nonprofit, to encourage the use of a free iOS app to track people's meat-free days. In one month, Acterra's group on the app collectively tallied 213 meat-free days, saving the carbon dioxide equivalents of driving 830 miles. (May 2020)

Acterra's Meatless May Challenge



Saved 5 tennis courts of forests & woodlands



Saved 766 pounds of CO2eq. from meat production and saved 76 USA tons of CO2eq. due to reduced destruction of forests and woodlands



Saved 380,000 pints of fresh water

Images courtesy of The Darwin Challenge



Did you know? More American consumers are making the switch to plant-based foods, citing many reasons: health (91%), how food companies affect the environment (71%), and/or helping to reduce global warming (64%)

Leiserowitz, A., Ballew, M., Rosenthal S., & Semaan, J. (2020). Climate change and the American diet. Yale University and Earth Day Network. Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

Learn more at acterra.org/healthy-plate

Coming in 2020-21 is a series of online events including film screenings, cooking demos, webinars, and panel discussions to inspire and empower food-related climate action.

Acterra is currently initiating an inclusive **online community** centered around sustainable food and plant-forward eating and welcomes your participation. Email healthyplate@acterra.org to sign up.



"We found it fairly easy to go meatless three or more days per week. Both my daughter and I agreed we want to continue having more meatless days."

- Cathy L., Meatless May participant

A planetary health plate

with very limited (and optional) meat and dairy consumption



Copyright ©2011 Harvard University. For more information about The Healthy Eating Plate, please see The Nutrition Source, Department of Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, http://www.thenutritionsource.org and Harvard Health Publications, health.harvard.edu.



Celebrating Acterra's 50th Anniversary

"Acterra does a wonderful job of identifying a theme and then finding really inspiring speakers to fill out the picture."

- Annie, Community Member

In FY20 Acterra's **Public Lecture Series** addressed climate solutions in many fields: corporate advocacy, transit-oriented urban planning, and the food sector—including healthy soils, biodiverse ecosystems, and regenerative agriculture.

FY20 Speakers and Topics







Prof. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, Prof. Whendee Silver, Adria Arko: Soil carbon and carbon farming



Chance Cutrano: Ecology, agriculture, biodiversity, and climate change



Anthony Myint: Regenerative agriculture and community choice aggregation for restaurants



Jill Gibson: Transit oriented communities and BART extension in the South Bay



Bill Weihl: The need for corporations to take climate action

View past lecture videos at *youtube.com/planetacterra* and look for upcoming lectures at *acterra.org/lectures*.

FY20 Public Lecture Series were made possible by generous support from our underwriters (Mary and Clinton Gilliland, Armand and Eliane Neukermans) and sponsor organizations (the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Foster Art and Wilderness Foundation).



As part of its virtual **50th Anniversary celebration**, Acterra unveiled its *Theory of Change* and new 3-year *Strategic Plan*. The moment was somewhat bittersweet, coming just two weeks after the abrupt Bay Area-wide order to shelter in place. Longtime Acterra movers and shakers Michael Closson, Peter Drekmeier, Debbie Mytels, David Smernoff, Laura Stec, and Adam Stern participated, joining generations of our volunteers, supporters, board members, and staff. Attendees appreciated the "warmth that came through" and the virtual "dance party."



Jerry Hearn, longtime Acterra supporter and consummate environmental champion, was honored with the first-ever Acterra Lifetime Achievement Award in March 2020.





Acterra was featured on NorCal Public Media's "Bay Area Bountiful" program on April 21 in an episode titled "Acterra at 50," produced by Rick Bacigalupi.

History of Acterra and Major Environmental Milestones (1970-2020) timelines were added to Acterra's website.

Learn more at acterra.org/celebrate



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ACTERRA LIVING LEGACY SOCIETY

Acterra recognizes the generosity and forethought of the following individuals who have informed us that they have included Acterra in their estate plans.

Linda Gass David Greene and Jane L. David Joanna Holmes Mike Kasperzak Dan and Helen Quinn Jerry Hearn and Rebecca Reynolds Judith and Hans Steiner Laura and Boris Teksler Lauren Weston

For more information about providing a lasting legacy, please visit acterra. org/legacy-giving

"We need community awareness to get everyone on board to fight for climate justice."

 Heleine Grewe, youth activist and Climate Change Community Team member

Because you, our supporters, are important to us, these lists were developed with great care. We sincerely apologize for any errors. If errors are found, please contact us at (650) 962-9876 ext 346 so we can correct our records.

Acterra gratefully acknowledges the following supporters for their gifts received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, representing their commitment to environmental and climate action.

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Your gift will help Acterra address climate change and create local solutions for a healthy planet. Acterra's "Sustainer" monthly giving program provides engagement and stewardship to donors at all levels. Learn more at acterra.org/ donate-now







On Earth Day 2020, Great Nonprofits named Acterra as one of five climate change nonprofits deserving of support.

During FY2019, Acterra provided nonprofit status and fiscal sponsorship to these projects:

> Barron Park Donkeys Save Agriculture and the Environment (SAGE)



Engage with Acterra

REVENUES AND EXPENSES:

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Includes revenues and expenses of Acterra's fiscally sponsored projects

REVENUES:

Individual Contributions:	\$315,094
Corporate Contributions:	\$79,231
Foundation & Corporate Grants:	\$209,520
Government Contributions:	\$222,487
Other leaves to bird describers and a	

Other (events, in-kind donations, sales,

fees and interest, dividends, and gains): \$72,771 **Total Revenue:** \$899,103

EXPENSES:

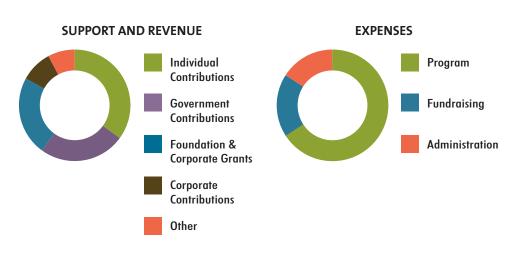
Total expenses:	\$917,222
Fundraising:	\$163,258
Administration:	\$144,823
Programs:	\$609,141

Increase in Net Assets: (\$18,119)

BALANCE SHEET as of June 30, 2020

Assets: \$1,148,295 Liabilities: \$319,083 Net assets: \$829,212

For our most recent financial audit, please visit acterra.org/financial-information.



Participate in our community programs:

GoEV Ambassadors

Healthy Plate, Healthy Planet Online Community

Public Lectures

Silicon Valley Green Team Network

Support our work

View our **Events Calendar** for upcoming events and workshops

Attend a Monthly Virtual Coffee Hour with Acterra's Executive Director

Volunteer with Us

Work with Us

Young Professionals Group – periodic meetings of young sustainability-minded professionals

Subscribe to our monthly newsletters



In January 2020, Acterra joined a coalition of climate and environmental groups to cosponsor a nonpartisan Forum for six candidates for California State Senate District 13, attracting well over 400 attendees.

Photo by Leo Leung, Pro Bono Photography

2019-2020 Leadership

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Darryl Reed, Bookkeeper

Violet Saena, Climate Resilient Communities Program Manager

Communities Program Associate

Patti Sexton, Home Energy Advisor

Logan Spalding, Climate Corps Beneficial Electrification Fellow

Bethany Taylor, Development Manager **Zack Wurtz**, Development and

Operations Associate

Current staff in bold

Gloria Geller, Copy Editor

The healthy and livable world we are working so hard to create is meaningless if it is not open and available to all, regardless of the color of one's skin. Whether afflicted by the impacts of COVID, climate change, or the simple denial of basic rights and freedoms to live and prosper, when people in our society are suffering disproportionately, we cannot stand by and let these heavy burdens continue. Acterra supports #BlackLivesMatter and the movement for justice for BIPOC.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted our activities in a new direction: online. During this difficult time our hearts go out to all those in our extended family who have been afflicted.

Follow us on:









ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

Since 2011, Acterra has saved the following resources by using recycled papers for the production and printing of our projects at ChaseVP.

trees	water		energy
102.7	38,547		65.6
fully grown	gallons	i	million BTU

solid waste greenhouse gases
4,181 12,997
pounds pounds

Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.



ACTION FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

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