

EarthShare
NORTH CAROLINA

2023 IMPACT REPORT



Read ahead to see how you can ensure innovative solutions for healthier communities and climate resilience. This work is powered by the Annual Employee Giving Campaign.

WHO WE ARE

EarthShare NC provides opportunities for individuals and corporations to actively participate with our Nonprofit Members to create healthy, sustainable communities across North Carolina.

Right now, the opportunities are to learn and give. By contributing through your employer's giving campaign, you directly impact basic needs like clean air and water, healthy places to live, and safe food to eat.

The stories inside spotlight our North Carolina Nonprofit Members' impact over the past year. From Advocacy to Wildlife, these organizations are working each day to mitigate the threats of climate change and create innovative solutions to build resilient communities across the state.

Make a gift to ensure this impact continues to meet the needs of our people and state. Corporate campaigns, use ein # 56-1775025, State Employees Combined Campaign, usecode #1100.

You can also donate here: **Donate Now**





ADVOCATING for Equitable Climate Policies



NC Environmental Defense Fund

Advocated for the adoption of policies and programs to expand the use of natural infrastructure and demonstrate the viability of nature-based solutions to reduce flood risks for communities while improving the health of our state's rivers and streams.

Learn More



NC Conservation Network

Their grassroots base of over 50k email activists and over 25k text alert subscribers sent emails and made phone calls to their decision-makers on issues such as environmental justice, climate change, forever chemicals in our water, and clean energy.

Learn More



NC League of Conservation Voters Foundation

The Power the Vote Team registered over 23,000 voters and trained over 20 fellows from communities of color often most impacted by environmental injustices to serve on local boards and committees, with 14 already appointed.

Learn More



MountainTrue

Advocating for conservation and sustainable public access through participation in coalitions such as the Conservation & Recreation Coalition and the Nantahala-Pisgah Partnership.

Learn More



RAFI-USA

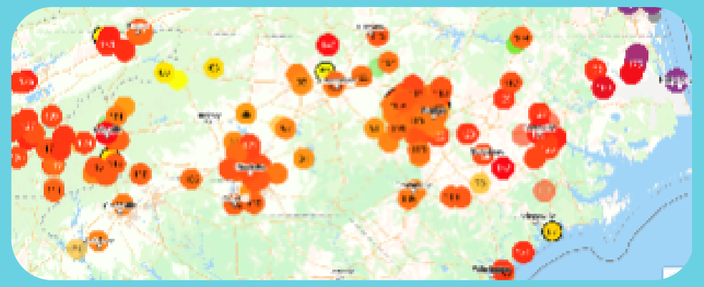
Advocating for Sustainable Change in Agriculture

The Farm Bill is the primary agriculture and food policy legislation of the federal government and is passed approximately every five years determining policy and funding levels for agriculture, food assistance, and conservation programs. RAFI (Rural Advancement Foundation International)has been working on Farm Bill advocacy all year, and it is ramping up this summer and fall. Their Farm Bill platform, like all their policy work, is directly informed by the lessons learned over decades while providing farm advocacy, technical assistance, and other services to farmers. They focus on four pillars:

- Reversing the trend of corporate consolidation in our food system ensuring that food systems serve communities, not solely corporate bottom lines.
- Building local and regional food system infrastructure like processing, markets, and other investments in local, people-first, grassroots economies.
- All farmers deserve a fair shot. Most USDA programs are made for large-scale agriculture — small-scale beginning farmers have a difficult time accessing programs that were not built for them; and farmers of color face historic and current discrimination in accessing those resources.
- This Farm Bill must acknowledge the urgency of the climate crisis and help farmers be a part of the solution, while ensuring that those solutions don't drive further inequity or drive land speculation and consolidation. The solutions need to offer all farms an equal chance to participate — which means that Congress and USDA will need to make an extra effort to include those it has historically underserved.

Interested in lending your voice? **Act Now**

Advancing Clean Energy and AIR for All



CleanAIRE NC

Raising public awareness on wildfires, providing education to help people avoid smoke exposure, and training health professionals to recognize and treat the impacts of wildfire smoke and discuss the risks with their patients.

Learn More



NC Sustainable Energy Association

Advocated at the NC Utilities Commission for a more cost-effective and timely pathway to meet the mandates of HB 951, a 70% emissions reduction by 2030 and carbon-neutrality by 2050.

Learn More



Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Helping towns and cities throughout the Southeast implement clean energy solutions, such as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who led the way to NC's first electric school bus, and local elected officials who are committing their towns and cities to 100% clean energy.

Learn More

SUSTAIN CHARLOTTE

The Push for a Low-Carbon City & Cleaner Air

In 2022, Charlotte City Council passed the Strategic Mobility Plan, a framework designed to improve Charlotte's public transportation infrastructure, reduce the share of people driving to work alone from 76% to 50% by 2040, and turn Charlotte into a low-carbon city by 2050.

"We advocated tirelessly for this mode-share goal to be included in the Strategic Mobility Plan and believe that all elements of the plan will help Charlotte become a city that's less dependent on cars; is safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders; and is healthier for everyone in our community for generations to come," said Shannon Binns, Sustain Charlotte's Founder and Executive Director.

The transportation sector is now the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions at the state and national level, accounting for 40% of Charlotte's total emissions in 2019, according to the city's Strategic Energy Action Plan. That's well over the national average for transportation, which clocks in at just 28%. According to the state Department of Environmental Quality, North Carolina ranks ninth highest in the U.S. for total transportation emissions.

Driving takes a heavy toll on our environment, and its impacts on climate change already disproportionately affect people with low incomes and existing health conditions. Without intervention, we can expect sea level rise on the coast, more days with dangerous heat, and more extreme weather events.

Check out Sustain Charlotte's tips for using local alternative forms of transportation.

View Tips



Conserving **LAND** for Healthy Communities & Resources



SEEDS

In partnership with Grow Your World and Wall Street Juniors, provided opportunities for 50 Durham youth to spend summer earning money and learning about sustainable food practices through their community gardens and kitchen.

Learn More



Friends of NC State Parks, Inc.

Supports the Schools in Parks Program that ensures every NC 4th and 5th grader can visit a State Park, and offers grants to Local Friends Groups and State Park Staff to complete projects and programs not covered by tax dollars.

Learn More



NC Coastal Land Trust

Conserving lands with scenic, recreational, historic and ecological value, including completion of seven land protection projects at the North Carolina coast, conserving 874 acres in 6 counties.

Learn More



Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Had more than 42,000 volunteer hours help build and maintain the trail and connect communities across the state to the trail.

Learn More



Three Rivers Land Trust

conserved 1,449.6 acres of land, 14.4 miles of rivers and streams, and protected 497.8 acres of farmland, helping protect the places that nourish and clothe us.

Learn More

URBAN COMMUNITY AGRINOMICS (UCAN)

Cultivating Appreciation For the Land

UCAN is dedicated to both education and community engagement, driven by a mission to promote food sustainability and empowerment. They inspire youth and adults to appreciate agriculture and the environment through access to the community garden, educational programs, outreach activities and free food distributions.

UCAN believes that an awareness of the human role in climate change and impact on our world can come with small immersive steps into the world of nature. Walking through the woods is an excellent way to learn, especially when these walks create an interest in the environment and living in harmony with nature. Here one can take a closer look at our human footprints and rejoice as we see few, while reflecting on communities where there have been too many.

This is why UCAN has invested in maintaining the walking tails on the Catawba Trail Farm. Tours include the history of the land and people; the enslaved, enslaver and indigenous. Their walks bring attention to the historical use of the land, how it has looked through the ages, what once lived and grew in these spaces; but more so what grows and lives here now. Through intentional engagement, we ensure that the good we see now is maintained and elevated. At the waterfront, sitting on benches and viewing the Little River, there is time to reflect on the beauty and what's needed to protect it.

Plan A Visit



Working for Clean **WATER** & Healthy Ecosystems



Tar River Land Conservancy

Conducted a tree planting event where 750+ hardwood trees and beneficial shrubs were planted along stream corridors in former hayfields.



Conserving Carolina

Protected over 48,000 acres of mountain and piedmont landscapes, clean rivers, productive farmland, including restoring a natural corridor along the French Broad River.



Sound Rivers

Launched the Litter-Free Rivers program as part of a statewide study on microplastics: where they come from, how they get in waterways, how long it takes them to break down.



Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation

Hosted 1,479 volunteers contributing 2,500+ hours of impact to our waterways.



Piedmont Land Conservancy

Protecting 848 Acres on the Dan River for a new Educational State Forest.

NC COASTAL FEDERATION

Stormwater Solutions for Severe Storms

One of the NC Coastal Federation's main goals is to improve stormwater management along the coast to sustain healthy water quality. Recently the Coastal Federation along with the town of Pine Knoll Shores began working together to improve stormwater run-off during severe storm events.

Portions of the east end of town frequently flooded after heavy rains. The high-water table coupled with impervious roads and driveways reduced the amount of rain that can soak into the ground. Instead, the water ponded and caused localized flooding.

Together with Coastal Stormwater Services Inc. the project team came up with the innovative idea to pump groundwater from the town to the Crystal Coast Country Club's golf course. If a large-scale rainfall event is forecasted, such as a tropical storm, the system allows the town to preemptively draw down groundwater and pond storage space to prepare for flooding without discharging to the sound. During a major flood event, the Oakleaf pump can run at a rate that will bypass the infiltration basin and quickly move water off the land. Thanks to funding from NC Land and Water Fund an engineered system incorporating perforated pipes, pumps, drainage lines, and wet wells was installed to accomplish these goals.

This integrative approach to proactive flood management which incorporates sustainable water filtration and environmental stewardships makes this one of our most innovative stormwater projects. The system has reduced the chronic flooding on several streets and has proven so effective that the town is currently working to expand it.

See Their Storm Protection Efforts



Protecting & Restoring **WILDLIFE** & Their Habitats



Carolina Raptor Center

Hosted a successful, emergency vaccine trial in partnership with private, state, and federal organizations, which resulted in the authorization and immediate use of the vaccine to help protect critically endangered California Condors from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Learn More



Carolina Tiger Rescue

Became a member of the Species Survival Plan program conservation efforts by providing a space in the sanctuary for 2 red wolves.

Learn More



NC Wildlife Federation

Encouraged people to get outdoors, celebrate the state's vibrant biodiversity, and engage the broader community of conservationists and wildlife enthusiasts this summer by hosting an iNaturalist Bioblitz.

Learn More



BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY FOUNDATION

Protecting Wildlife in the Blue Ridge Mountains

Scientists have been working with the Blue Ridge Parkway to help an important, but almost always unseen resident of our North Carolina mountains - the bat. There are sixteen known bat species found along the Parkway, with several of them being rare or threatened species. These mammals are an essential part of our mountain ecosystem in North Carolina:

- As we sleep, they eat insects that threaten human health, and beetles or moths that devastate our forests.
- They provide critical pest management for farmer's crops by feeding on crop-destroying pests and provide a natural alternative to pesticide.
- They are pollinators and assist with seed dispersal.

In a variety of ways, these mammals provide vital ecosystem services. However, the world's bat population is dramatically declining. A network of scientists and government agencies are studying one of the major causes of this decline in North America - the deadly disease known as White-Nose Syndrome.

Knowing their location and status will help park management, and this data can assist scientists as they work to save America's rapidly dwindling bat populations. Park scientists and students from area universities are surveying the species found along the Parkway using acoustic detectors. Through funding from the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, a member nonprofit of EarthShare NC, the students and project leaders have the equipment needed for counting these elusive creatures.

Support This Program

HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Invest in this Work

You can support this work with a gift to EarthShare NC through your workplace giving program or by clicking "Donate Now" below. Your gift will be invested equally among all NC Members. No fee will be charged on your gift.

Donate Now

Impacting NC & Beyond

Environmental issues transcend borders and require solutions at the local, state, and national levels. Together, EarthShare North Carolina and National Members work to conserve and protect our health and quality of life.

View all Nonprofit Members

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earthsharenc.org

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

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