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Hello,

Growth. That's the theme you'll find in the following pages.

Last year was a tremendous period of growth for Urban Green Lab. From our staff and board to the programs we lead, our mission grew in new directions and helped make learning about sustainable living more accessible to all Nashvillians.

Of course, what this annual report can't fully capture in pictures and words are the feelings of personal connection between all these educators and colleagues, residents and partners, and donors, especially in the way our staff works together every day. Inclusive, meaningful

citywide relationships
will remain at the heart
of all we do in the years
to come, especially as we
work to achieve the city's
sustainability goals through
learning and exploration.

Thank you for your part in helping us grow our mission in 2023. You are the champions we exist to serve, and we're grateful for you.

Sincerely,

Todd Lawrence & Parry Healy

Todd Lawrence, Executive Director Parry Healy, 2023 Board Chair







The State of Sustainability in Nashville

There's never been a more critical time to teach Nashvillians how to live sustainably.

As director of sustainability and resilience for Mayor Freddie O'Connell and Metro Nashville and Davidson County, I am witnessing the opportunity to invest in sustainability like never before as our city experiences record growth that is impacting our vulnerable communities and more state and federal agencies look to invest in climate-related work.

We accomplished a lot as a city in 2023, but for the sake of space, I'll share four energizing accomplishments.

- We published a climate adaptation and resilience plan for Nashville that compliments our published climate action plan, detailing what we need to do to be responsive to the changing climate affecting Nashvillians today.
- 2. After ten years of conversation, we solidified a partnership with Nashville Electric Service to retrofit all streetlights in Davidson County with LED light bulbs and technology to detect when a light is out. This results in less greenhouse gas emissions, increased public safety, and cost savings through energy efficiency.
- 3. The city launched a curbside food scrap pick-up pilot program for 750 residents.

 Data from that pilot will be used to potentially deploy a citywide food scrap pick-up program in the future.
- **4.** We conducted a Metro property solar cost-benefit analysis and identified 100 megawatts of solar that can be installed across 200 Metro-owned properties.

Interest in mobility, transportation, and decarbonization is at an all-time high; there is potential to increase connectivity between places where people live, work, and play while reducing our environmental impacts. There's also a sense of urgency to solve our solid waste issues. If we can organize and focus hope and enthusiasm in the right places, we can accomplish our goals.

To reach our city's goals, organizations and residents must understand the concept of sustainability and connect their everyday choices to the changes we see in our environment and the effects on their neighbors. Education is the starting point for achieving a more sustainable Nashville, and I am proud of the culture-shifting education Urban Green Lab brought to Nashville in 2023.

Let's keep going,

Kendra Abkowitz

Kendra Abkowitz, Director of Sustainability and Resilience



Wetteda

WHY NASHVILLE'S UNIQUE

communities how to live sustainably.



Our Strategy

Urban Green Lab is making sustainability education a part of life in Nashville. That means ensuring all of us have access to the best solutions for making choices that protect our planet, people, and prosperity in all the places where we learn – our classrooms, households, and workplaces. To do this, we organize champions, train them on how to share resources, and connect them with each other for deeper, more collective learning.

Urban Green Lab also leads special initiatives that capture the imagination of Nashvillians around core current issues. Right now, that includes the Nashville Food Waste Initiative and the Nashville Environmental Justice Initiative.







Our Values

Sustainability is for all of us.

Sustainability is a human right, and our work is for everyone regardless of race, place, and identity. To us, living more sustainably is a journey rooted in compassion, inclusion, and iustice.

Education leads to action.

We believe education is the first step toward taking meaningful action and that learning to live sustainably can be simple and fun. We empower people to try little changes that make a big difference.

Collaboration makes us stronger.

Nothing is achieved alone. Our diverse partnerships allow us to work creatively, accountably, and in harmony. We believe we go further together.

We are good stewards of our organization.

Taking good care of what we have is at the heart of who we are and what we do. We are committed to using your gifts of support responsibly and transparently to deliver credible work toward our shared goals.



2023 at a Glance

With input from our funders and stakeholders, we increased our staff 100%, growing our capacity to further support our mission. We launched new programs, reached exciting milestones in existing programs, and made an impact for the planet, people, and our prosperity, one Nashvillian at a time.

The following program accomplishments go beyond the singular person trained or engaged; they represent systemic change being made in 36 classrooms, 34 households, and 52 workplaces.

Classrooms

36

Educators trained on bringing a sustainable lens into their K-12 classroom and equipped with our Sustainable Classrooms
Curriculum

Households

34

UGL Volunteers trained on sustainability and how to share sustainability with friends, family, or neighbors in the program's pilot year

Workplaces

52

Businesses engaged across Middle Tennessee to create or improve a culture of learning about sustainability in their workplaces







Sustainability is for all of us.

Our Impact Mapped

Staying true to our value that sustainability is for all of us, we aim to bring sustainability education into all the places we live, learn, and work. The map on the following page showcases the schools and workplaces we have reached through 2023 and the distribution of our UGL volunteers throughout

Davidson County. You'll also see illustrations of key locations connected to our mission or organization. Due to space and geographic constraints, not all places we have reached are showcased on the following map. Please reference the table in the left corner of the map for a fuller picture of our reach.

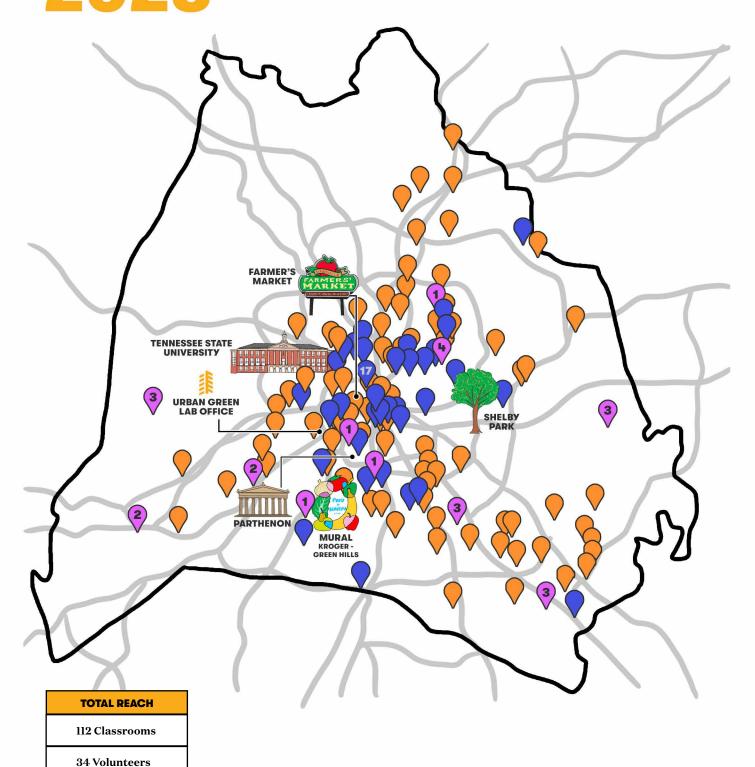






Reach Through 2023





Due to space and geographic constraints, not

all locations reached are shown on the map.

60 Workplaces

Education leads to action.

Classrooms

Urban Green Lab's Classrooms Division trains educators of all kinds on sustainability and how they can bring a sustainable lens into their classrooms. Training educators creates opportunities for year-round learning about sustainability, empowering students to make lifelong sustainable choices.

2023 was a milestone year for the Classrooms Division. We surpassed over 300 educators trained in our Sustainable Classrooms program since its inception, providing the tools, resources, and community to bring a sustainable lens into their classrooms. We also launched a newsletter and online community for our trained educators to continue learning and connecting with their peers.

36

Educators trained in our Sustainable Classrooms program 7

New schools with Sustainable Classrooms trained educators 94%

Of educators trained in 2023 plan to integrate sustainability into their classrooms

Key Successes

- Surpassed 300 educators trained in the Sustainable Classrooms program
- Launched our digital learning community of trained Sustainable Classrooms educators
- Partnered with Recycle & Reinvest and Imani Montessori School to create a sustainability rap song with students - Listen to the song by clicking here.
- Presented on sustainability and social-emotional learning at the Music City Social Emotional Learning Conference
- · Hired our first sustainable classrooms coordinator, Erin Bloom



Overall, teaching sustainability helps my students become responsible global citizens.

CARLOS CALDERÓN
SUSTAINABLE CLASSROOMS
EDUCATOR





Meet Carlos Calderón

Carlos Calderón believes that learning and teaching about sustainability enables him to develop knowledge, skills, values, and motivations for action, allowing him to maintain his own well-being and that of his students and school community. "Overall, teaching sustainability helps my students become responsible global citizens," said Calderón. "They are able to consider the long-term consequences and outcomes of their actions to make better decisions, becoming better knowledgeable individuals in their life stages."

This year, Calderón adapted the Home Investigations project-based learning assignment in our Sustainable Classrooms Curriculum for kindergarten and first-grade classes. He has found this assignment to be an excellent tool for engaging students and their families with sustainability. Teaching about sustainability in the classroom inspired his school to create an outdoor garden in partnership with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture UT/TSU Extension.

Education leads to action.

Households

The Households Division provides sustainability education, tools, and resources to Nashville residents through Sustainable in the City and the newly launched UGL Volunteers program.

Sustainable in the City is a monthly webinar presented with Zero Waste Nashville to educate residents on topics related to sustainability and waste. This year's guests discussed everything from pollinators to the city's curbside composting pilot.

Piloted this year, the UGL Volunteers program provides Nashvillians with the resources, tools, and training on sustainable practices to share with friends, family, and neighbors. The program equips volunteers with the knowledge and confidence to facilitate meaningful conversations on sustainability.

842

Registrants for Sustainable in the City, our monthly webinar 34

UGL Volunteers trained in the program's pilot year

15

Middle Tennessee zip codes represented amongst the UGL Volunteers

Key Successes

- Launched the UGL Volunteers pilot program, training 34 volunteers
- · Hosted 20 experts in sustainability on Sustainable in the City
- Received an average of 39 attendees per Sustainable in the City episode
- Created an online community of tools and resources for UGL Volunteers to continue learning and connecting
- · Hired and trained a sustainable households manager, Karissa Hampton







It makes me happy that there is such a community of inspired people with the goal of making Nashville more sustainable...

MARIA MORALES
UGL VOLUNTEER

Meet Maria Morales

Maria Morales thinks learning about sustainability with friends and family is essential because we're all on this Earth together, and having an action-oriented approach can make a significant impact. She became a UGL Volunteer because she was looking for a community of sustainability-minded people in Nashville, and she's found that through Urban Green Lab. "It makes me happy that there is such a community of inspired people with the goal of making Nashville more sustainable on an individual and community level," said Morales.

When she shared a video on food waste with some of her extended family, it created the opportunity for a meaningful conversation. They discussed how waste and sustainability are generally not something people talk about. They expressed appreciation for the space to discuss those topics because of the lessons supplied by the UGL Volunteers program.

Education leads to action.

Workplaces

Our Workplaces Division works with businesses, nonprofits, schools, and government offices to implement sustainability education for employees. We help workplaces organize green teams, teach them about sustainability, and connect them to community resources that make a difference for their business through B Tennessee, Urban Green Lab Certification, and the Nashville Sustainability Roundtable.

In 2023, our Workplaces division prioritized opportunities for education and community building. We hosted in-person events, like the Roundtables, for organizations looking to foster a culture of sustainability in their workplaces and spoke on multiple panels about sustainable business. We also piloted a New Hire Orientation learning module on sustainability to continue making sustainability education a part of workplace cultures, beginning at onboarding.

150

Nashville Sustainability Roundtable attendees **52**

Businesses engaged to increase sustainable behavior

100%

Of surveyed Roundtable attendees reported increased knowledge of sustainability

Key Successes

- Piloted a New Hire Orientation learning module on sustainability for seven organizations, including B Corps, nonprofits, and local government
- Co-presented the first in-person B Leadership Development (BLD) Southeast Conference in Raleigh, NC as the leader of B Tennessee
- Organized and led a panel at Bonnaroo with local ethical businesses to discuss sustainable consumption
- Hosted our first full calendar year of Nashville Sustainability Roundtable meetings
- Hired the first sustainable workplaces coordinator, Bethany Edwards





There's business as usual, and then there are those who come to the Sustainability Roundtable to see how it can be done factoring in true social responsibility.

GREG CROFTON
NASHVILLE SUSTAINABILITY
ROUNDTABLE MEMBER



Meet Greg Crofton

Greg Crofton is excited when he gets to learn how a workplace is conducting business sustainably. He believes sustainable practices increase the value of businesses - like the one he works for - exponentially. Greg is the General Manager at Bongo Java Roasting Co. and a proud member of the Nashville Sustainability Roundtable. "The Roundtable opened our eyes and helped us come to know other like-minded businesses in Nashville that care about how business gets done," said Crofton. "There's business as usual, and then there are those who come to the Sustainability Roundtable to see how it can be done factoring in true social responsibility."

Urban Green Lab first engaged with Greg and Bongo Java in 2021. Since then, we have accomplished a lot together, including creating a permanent solution for composting their coffee grounds at the roasting co. They sought creative, costeffective solutions by partnering with another local business they share an alley with to split the cost of compostable and recyclable waste pickup services.

Education leads to action.

Nashville Environmental Justice Initiative

A partnership with Tennessee State University

The Nashville Environmental Justice Initiative (NEJI) is a partnership with Tennessee State University (TSU) that educates community stakeholders on environmental justice and collaborative problem-solving that protects and empowers Nashville's most marginalized communities from environmental hazards.

This year, the NEJI began creating an oral history archive to document the lived experiences of Nashvillians experiencing the effects of climate change first, worst, and longest. The archive was born out of a desire to create opportunities for active community listening. It is intended to document and increase awareness of the challenges the Nashville community is experiencing due to a shifting climate.

33

NEJI steering committee members representing 25 organizations across Nashville Ļ

TSU students creating informative climate briefs for the oral history archive

3

Oral histories recorded, in 2023, documenting the lived experiences of Nashvillians

Key Successes

- Convened an advisory team for the oral history archive consisting of TSU faculty and Geographic Information Sciences students, academics, journalists, and oral historians
- Began recording the lived experiences of Nashvillians through the oral history archive project
- Organized and led a panel at Bonnaroo with local environmental justice leaders to discuss how everyone plays a part in justice in Tennessee
- Threaded education on environmental justice throughout programs in the Classrooms, Households, and Workplaces Divisions
- Hired an assistant director of special initiatives, Stephanie Roach, to lead the NEJI for Urban Green Lab





I hope [the archive] will uplift those being left and help newcomers become aware of history that is worth protecting.

ARIA MCELROY
ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE
CONTRIBUTOR



Meet Aria McElroy

Aria McElroy believes bringing about environmental justice begins with listening to the needs of the people. A native of Detroit, Michigan, and a Tennessee State University (TSU) student, McElroy knew she wanted to get involved in TSU's work in environmental justice after experiencing injustices in Michigan and learning about how environmental injustices have shaped Nashville communities.

McElroy's student perspective brings a fresh lens to the oral history project that Urban Green Lab conducts in partnership with TSU. Applying what she has learned from living and studying in Nashville, she works to compose background briefs that deepen the interviewer's knowledge base of climate science. She also identifies local empowerment resources of groups addressing environmental and social injustices in Nashville for participants. "I hope the archive will help establish a picture of how Nashville has changed over time," said McElroy. "It will showcase how some people who have created lives and businesses here are being left by the wayside. I hope it will uplift those being left and help newcomers become aware of history that is worth protecting."

Education leads to action.

Nashville Food Waste Initiative

A partnership with the Environmental Law Institute

The Nashville Food Waste Initiative (NFWI), in partnership with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), drives citywide policies and strategies that reduce food waste through prevention, rescuing surplus food for those in need, and composting food scraps to build healthy soil.

In 2023, Urban Green Lab and ELI compiled and published a series of five resource guides with vetted, science-based resources and three videos showcasing our approach to food waste education to support others looking to educate communities on food waste. We also worked with Patagonia Nashville to install the second mural in our "Waste Less" murals project, sharing what food is and encouraging Nashville to waste less through the power of art.

2nd

Mural in the Waste Less mural series completed at Patagonia Nashville 24

Convenings of the NFWI steering committee with national and local thought leaders 100%

Attendance for a Climate Week lunch at 1 Kitchen, featuring a local, lowwaste meal

Key Successes

- Compiled and distributed five resource guides with vetted, science-based materials for those looking to educate communities on food waste, with the partnership of ELI
- Developed three videos showcasing our approach to educating on food waste in classrooms, households, and workplaces
- Installed a mural about food waste at Patagonia Nashville in the Gulch
- Threaded education on food waste throughout programs in the Classrooms,
 Households, and Workplaces Divisions
- Hired an assistant director of special initiatives, Stephanie Roach, to lead the NFWI for Urban Green Lab







Our goal with this mural is to catch the attention of folks passing by and inspire them to think about what they can do right now to reduce food waste.

MATT HEINLY
PATAGONIA NASHVILLE

Meet Matt Heinly

Matt Heinly believes that "the food waste crisis in Nashville won't just be solved by bureaucracy and policy. It will be solved by individual contributors analyzing their operation and thinking 'what can we do better?'" said Heinly. Heinly's team at Patagonia Nashville continually sees edible food in dumpsters instead of feeding underserved and unfed neighbors, so they decided to do something about it. Patagonia urges stores to use the business to save our home planet, including everything living on it. As a result, the Nashville team adopted waste reduction as a core community cause to focus on.

Out of this activist spirit carried by their team came a mural urging passers-by to waste less food. "Our goal with this mural is to catch the attention of folks passing by and inspire them to think about what they can do right now to reduce food waste," shared Heinly. "You can't pass one of artist Nathan Brown's installations without stopping to take it in." As a consumer, Heinly believes behavior change has to begin at the point of sale. "The more we demand better from our food sources, the more the industry will be forced to adapt."

Collaboration makes us stronger.

Our Donors

GOLD



W.L. Lyons Brown Foundation

SILVER





BRONZE

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The Grateful Daniel Fund of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

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Nashville Predators Foundation

Vanderbilt University Medical Center Office of Health Equity

SUSTAINER

Brian Bender Heather Langford

Nakayah Box Todd Lawrence

Melissa Cornejo-Nell Bradley Pinson

Emily Davis Lindsey Rueger

Mike Drongowski John Sherman

Barbara Futter Neely Tabor

Stephanie Gates Jennifer Westerholm

John Harkey Jenna Wolf

SUPPORTER

Kristine Alpi Parry Healy Laurae Pearson

Alvéole Brandon Hill McKenzie Poston

Lena Anthony Darby Hoover Sabrina Powell

Weronika Armstrong Lisa Howley George Rattin

Deborah Aron Kenneth Hutchins Linda Reimann

Renee Barker Bearded Iris Brewing Angie Renfro

Isaiah Beard Trust Elizabeth Jarrard Elizabeth Rose

Kristen Bettin Jack Johnson All at Once Allison Scheflow

Kristin Brassel Shira Kaplan Kevin Schiff

Jackalope Brewing Company Elise and Patrick Karpinski Jennifer Schlener-Thomas

Barbara Brown Timothy Kemball Allison Serra

Emerald Built Environments Teresa Knott Ana Serra

Joseph Calabrese Tom and Carolyn Lawrence PD Sharif

Ed Callaway Winnie Lau Mary Sinclair

Teresa Catignani Keith Loiseau Brian Smith

Jay Clayton John Luk Nathan Stuck

TrueNorth Companies Joseph Martinez Fifth Third Bank

Deborah Conway Daniel McDonell Jennifer Tribble

Carla Davis McKesson Danielle Turnipseed

Lauren Decker Ross McKinney Rockridge Venture Law

Mark DeVries Julian Ernesto Gonzalez Medina Alexa Voytek

Nashville Earth Day Grant Bonnie Miller Christa Wagner

Karl Ebert Jocelyn Mitchell-Williams Amy Weber

Elizabeth Ellinas Meredith Montgomery Julia Weber

Nora Few Jennifer Nall Larry Weber

Roshny George Jennifer Neenan Karen Wieckert

Raquel Givens Kari Nelson National Wildlife Federation

Sandra Gold Patrick Newton Tennessee Wildlife Resources

Agency John Noel

Kate Wingate Alliance for Green Hills Jennifer Novo

Randy Woods

Joel Griffith Michelle Oakes

Talbott Grimm Amanda Osta

Paul Gross Orion Pahl

Bria Grangard

Jenn Harbin Geoffrey Parker

Natalie and Louis Harrison Devang Patel

Ellen Zimmermann

Collaboration makes us stronger.

Donor Spotlight



Emily Davis

SUSTAINING DONOR SINCE 2020

Emily Davis believes Urban Green Lab delivers vital information to address one of the most important issues of our time: sustainability. "As a former board member, I know every dollar I donate is working harder and smarter to educate in classrooms, households, and workplaces across Nashville," said Davis. She has witnessed how UGL programs bring excitement and hope, leading to more informed personal choices and leaders and better social and environmental outcomes.

"Time and time again, I have seen the need for information and resources met through UGL programs, like the Nashville Sustainability Roundtable," shared Davis. "I encourage everyone reading to get involved with UGL too donate, volunteer, and most importantly, educate."



Nissan North America

FOUNDING SPONSOR

Nissan North America has supported Urban Green Lab's mission of teaching communities how to live sustainably since the beginning with our first education program, the Mobile Lab, a classroom on wheels driven to schools by a donated Nissan Titan XD truck.

Since then, Nissan has supported us in training teachers, coaching workplaces, and ensuring that sustainability becomes more accessible to all Nashvillians. Together, we have extended sustainability learning to some 30,000 Middle Tennesseans.

In 2023, Nissan donated a fullyelectric LEAF as the latest mobile demonstration of the positive impact we can have for our environment and our city. Partnerships like these exemplify the power of companies and nonprofits working together on big problems and coming up with creative, community-driven solutions.

Partner Spotlight

Collaboration makes us stronger. Creating a more just and sustainable Nashville is not something we can do on our own. That's why we strategically partner with organizations working for a more just and sustainable

society. This year, we're highlighting our partners for the Nashville Environmental Justice Initiative and the Nashville Food Waste Initiative.



Co-leader of the Nashville Environmental Justice Initiative

Tennessee State University (TSU) and Urban Green Lab work together through the Nashville Environmental Justice Initiative to educate community stakeholders on the tenets of environmental justice and collaborative problem-solving that protects and empowers Nashville's most marginalized communities from environmental hazards.

TSU and its Geographic Information Sciences Laboratory (GIS) have historically been champions for climate and environmental justice. Since its founding, GIS has provided technical assistance to environmental justice and community-based organization stakeholders in support of several community-based participatory research activities.



Partner for the Nashville Food Waste Initiative

Through the Nashville Food Waste Initiative, Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and Urban Green Lab drive citywide policies and strategies that reduce food waste by preventing wasted food, rescuing surplus food for those in need, and composting and recycling food scraps to build healthy soil.

ELI makes law work for people, places, and the planet. Since 1969, ELI has played a pivotal role in shaping the fields of environmental law, policy, and management, domestically and abroad. They are an internationally recognized non-partisan research, publishing, and education center working to strengthen environmental protection by improving law and governance worldwide.

Collaboration makes us stronger.

Board of Directors



Parry Healy Louisiana Pacific Corporation President



Alexa Voytek Tennessee Department Of Environment And Conservation

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Melissa Cornejo-Nell Metro Nashville Public Schools



Mike Drongowski Nissan North America



Brandon Hill Nashville Soccer Club



Ashford Hughes, Sr. Metro Nashville Public Schools



Elise Karpinski TrueNorth Companies



Jennifer Novo Futuro, Inc.



Rae Oleshansky Nurses For Newborns (YLC Intern 2023)



Ana Paula Serra Nissan Americas



Erica Weeks Hastings Architecture



Anna Weinroth Ward McKesson

Our Staff

Urban Green Lab's staff is a community of people who are passionate about creating a culture of sustainable behavior in Nashville. This year, we added five new members to our staff, hiring our first-ever assistant director

of special initiatives, plus two coordinators for the Classrooms and Workplaces Divisions. We also added the Director of Education role to lead the direction of our educational programming to realize our collective goals.



Erin Bloom
Sustainable Classrooms
Coordinator



Bethany EdwardsSustainable Workplaces
Coordinator



Jacqueline GoodwinAssistant Director of
Workplaces



Karissa HamptonSustainable Households
Manager



Christina Langone, MA

Director of Education



Stephanie RoachAssistant Director of Special Initiatives



Todd Lawrence, MA

Executive

Director



Katie Miller
Communications
Manager



Geoffrey Parker

Assistant Director of
Development



Noah Spiegel, MFA, CNC Senior Director of Operations

We are good stewards of our organization.

2025 Strategic Plan

In 2020, Urban Green Lab created its first five-year strategic plan looking at six broad goals for strengthening how we deliver our mission of sustainability education in Nashville. As described in the pages above about our programming in 2023, we're on the way to accomplishing these goals as a team.

- 1 Awareness
 - Increase visibility in the community
- Better respond to the needs of diverse communities
- Messaging

 More clearly communicate our mission and impact
- Understand the field in order to catalyze change
- 5 Technology & Innovation
 Utilize technology to be innovative and efficient
- 6 Stability & Expansion
 Strengthen our business model to drive growth







We are good stewards of our organization.

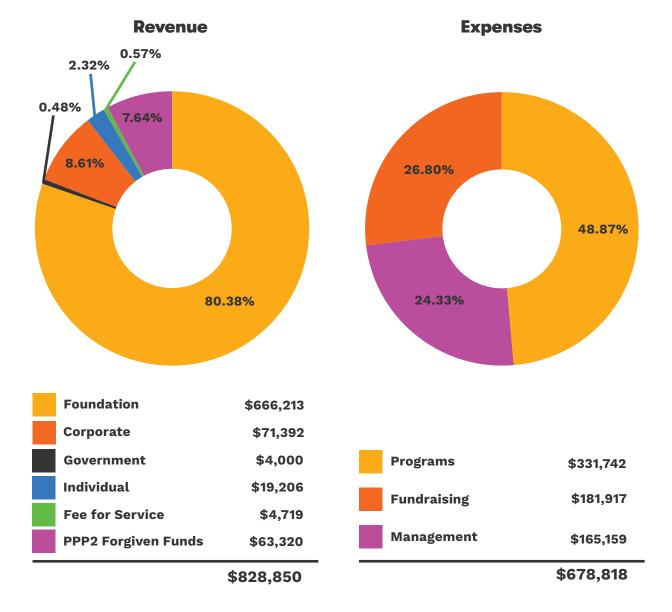
2022 Financials

This page reflects data from our most recently audited financials from the calendar year 2022. Urban Green Lab's fiscal cycle follows the calendar year. At the date of this report's publication, February 29, 2024, our

2023 financials have not been audited yet. For additional information, all financial reports are available on our website. Our audited 2023 financial report will be available on our website after May 15, 2024.

Revenue & Expenses

Our programs are led by a team of highly credentialed educators. Therefore, a majority of our expenses are investments in human resources to further our educational mission.



Support our Work

Share



Spread the word about sustainability and our mission.

Participate 2



Volunteer with us. join our board or staff or enroll in a program.

Donate



Invest in sustainability education for Nashville.







