



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021



A Message from Our President

I am honored to be writing to you for the first time as the newly elected President of GreenTown Los Altos. I fill very large shoes as Gary Hedden, one of our longtime members, steps down as President but remains active and in an advisory role on the Board as the immediate past President.

Our mission of helping to cultivate sustainable practices in our local communities includes advocacy, education, and engagement. We aim to be that bridge between top-down policies and individuals asking how they can make a difference. With a hands-on approach, we strive to be an inclusive organization.

Like many organizations, we had to alter how we engage due to COVID. Our library talks moved online with programs like our Lunch with GreenTown education series. The annual Farm to Table Dinner auction fundraiser went virtual with lively participation from dedicated fellow environmentalists. One of our most rewarding and impactful endeavors is teaming with our youth. We continued work with youth groups such as the Los Altos High School Green Team and our summer student intern program. We look forward to resuming popular in-person activities as they become safe and expanding our reach to other schools, both public and private.



**Get Updated On All We've Done
Thanks To You!**

Read our annual report, [click here](#) to see what's new.

**Trees! Trees! Trees!
Have We Got a Deal for You!**

We've planted over 200 trees and we want to plant some more, especially now that we've had some rain. The focus this year will be on big, long-lived trees that provide a lot of shade.

We call these keystone trees which include a lot of oaks. Our favorites? Valley Oak, Engelmann Oak and Island Oak. We also like Deodar Cedar, Canary Island Pine and several other big trees. If you've got space for a big keystone tree, let us know right away.

The first 27 will be for free!

We have smaller trees on our list too. [Go to our website](#) for the complete list.

Sign up from the website and we'll schedule a visit to help you pick a tree and the best spot for it. We provide trees and plant them for \$110 each, the same price as last year. We think that's a pretty good deal.

**A Personal Plea
For YOU To Speak Out On Climate Change**

Not to be too dramatic, but you can help save the planet. Yes, you! [Read how here.](#)

- Gary Hedden



YOU Can Be The Solution To Plastic Pollution **Here Are 6 Ideas To Get You Started**

According to a new report by Beyond Plastics, [The New Coal: Plastics and Climate Change](#), the plastics industry is set to surpass coal as a major contributor to climate change by 2033. Yes. It is true. But your actions can make a difference.

On October 14, 2021 GreenTown partnered with Compassion Week Los Altos to present a webinar **Be Part of the Plastic Pollution Solution!** to heighten participants' compassion for the Earth and spur action ([view recording here](#)).

We compiled a list of resources for participants based on the presentation which we'll be sharing with you in two parts:

1/ This month, we'll share our recommended next steps and action items. Click [HERE](#) for 6 important steps you can take right now to make a difference!

2/ Next month, we'll share resources for further learning and networking. Stay tuned!

Got Sustainability Hot Buttons? **Issues You Care About? Let Us Know.**

Our five key areas of focus are •transportation (more EVs and charging stations), •building electrification (induction vs gas for cooking), •planting trees and water conservation (curbing the impact of climate change), •minimizing waste including use of less plastic, •sustainable foods. If you're interested in getting involved in ANY of these areas, please [email us here](#). We would love your input and help in making

progress on these issues. Thank you!

Buying Sustainable And Local Food Is Rewarding and Fun!

We had a lot of fun putting together our Sips and Snacks goody bags for our fundraising event in September. As you think of sipping, snacking, feasting, and giving thanks with loved ones in November, we thought we would pass along a few tips for selecting earth friendly products. [Read about it here.](#)

Our Fall Fundraiser... Exceeded Expectations!

The 2021 GreenTown Fall Fundraiser was a huge success thanks to people like you! We exceeded our fundraising goal for the event, **raising more than our \$10,000 goal in donations and sponsorships.** And what a fun evening! We heard from wonderful speakers, including students from LAHS and MVHS (always inspiring!), listened to the beautiful music of Tami Mulcahy, and honored the amazing Gary Hedden!

The funds raised will help GreenTown build an even stronger and more sustainable future by supporting our programs in: transportation, clean air, eating green, zero waste and **conservation.** It's because of you that we are able to do the work we do!

Huge thanks to our wonderful community!



Good-bye Gas Leaf Blowers And Other Polluting Gas Powered Equipment

Good-bye gas leaf blowers...and other polluting gas-powered equipment using small off-

road engines. On Sat., Oct. 9, Gov. Newsom signed into law Marc Berman's bill that will ban the sale of these pollutants in CA. According to the Daily Post, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has already started working on a rule to do this "lengthy process scheduled to conclude next year." The new law requires CARB to apply the new rule by Jan. 1, 2024 or as soon as "feasible." The new law also includes \$30 million to help landscape businesses transition from gas to electric.

Meanwhile, in Los Altos, our work continues. The Los Altos Police Dept. urges us to call 650-947-2770 when a violation is observed. GreenTown can provide you with informational handouts to give homeowners and landscape providers to educate them on the subject. Join our team of "Clean Air Advocates" by [emailing Linda Ziff](#) who's spearheading this effort. .



Events And Volunteer Opportunities

Tues. Nov. 2 | 6:30-8PM

Join one in a series of plant based events from Mtn. View Sustainability, with host Monica Chen, Executive Director of the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition. [Register for the event here.](#)

Sun. Nov. 7 | 4PM Holiday reFresh 2021

Seasonal and Sustainable Dishes made by your local chefs. Join Bay Area Chefs as they demonstrate how to prepare their favorite plant-based holiday dishes (bonus, they're using induction cooktops). Brought to you by Acterra, [register here.](#)

Thurs. Nov. 11 | 4-5PM on Zoom

Progress Toward the Future of Energy Generation.

To meet California's ambitious carbon emissions reduction goals fundamental changes must be made. Silicon Valley Clean Energy knows the state of the grid and what needs to be done moving forward and will discuss solutions. Ways to connect:

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82244164967> (Meeting ID: 822 4416 4967 Passcode: 027292)

One tap mobile +16699009128,,82244164967#

Thurs. Nov. 18 | 6-7PM

Solar Rooftops: Steps to Electrify Your Home. Featuring Mike Balma from SunWork. Register [here.](#)

Volunteer Opportunities:

Project Lead For WoW Program:

GreenTown is looking for a new [WoW \(Walk or Wheel\) Project Lead!](#) The role provides support to school leads in promoting alternative forms of transportation to school, including biking, walking and carpooling. These modes reduce greenhouse gases and toxic air emissions and help reduce traffic congestion around our schools. Plus, it's a

healthy and fun way for kids to bookend their school day! Check out our webpage for more info on the [Schools WoW project](#).

Help Us Plant Trees! [Contact Gary](#) to sign up.

Burning question? Great idea? Want to help?

Contact us at info@greentownlosaltos.org.

Or use social media to tell us what you think matters most.



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