GREEN AMERICAN

LIVE BETTER.
SAVE MORE. INVEST WISELY.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
GREENAMERICA.ORG

SPRING 2026

GREEN ECONOMIES THRIVE ON JUST LABOR



LEATHER FROM CHILD LABOR ISN'T A LUXURY P. 8

CLEAN ELECTRONICS PRODUCTION NETWORK P. 10

BIG BEER IS USING PESTICIDES AND WE'RE PAYING P. 14

BUSINESS SUCCESS AND SOUND ETHICS P. 18

Join the Green Business Network: Grow Your Impact, Elevate Your Business.

Are you ready to take your business to the next level while making a positive impact on the planet? Join Green America's Green Business Network, the nation's leading membership organization for businesses committed to sustainability and social justice. As a member, you'll:

- **Enhance Credibility:** Gain access to the trusted Green Business Certification, showing customers your commitment to environmental and social responsibility.
- **Expand Your Reach:** Connect with a community of like-minded business leaders and access a growing consumer base that prioritizes green businesses.
- **Access Resources:** Leverage expert tools, exclusive webinars, and marketing resources to help your business thrive sustainably.
- **Influence Change:** Be part of a collective movement advocating for a just and sustainable economy.



Green Business NETWORK AT GREEN AMERICA

Join the Green Business Network today and lead the charge towards a more sustainable future.
Visit greenbusinessnetwork.org or call 800-58-GREEN.

Green America's Green Business Network | Building a Green Economy, One Business at a Time

{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®

Green America®

1612 K St. NW, #1000, Washington, DC 20006 • GreenAmerica.org

GREEN AMERICAN MAGAZINE #134 • COPYRIGHT 2026

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR *Michi Trota*
SENIOR MANAGING EDITOR *Mary Meade*
SENIOR WRITER *Anya Crittenton*
PUBLICATION DESIGN *This is Folly, Mary Meade*
PROOFREADERS *Rob Hanson, George Millican*
DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS *Shireen Karimi*
DIGITAL DESIGN & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST II *Alec Badalov*
DIGITAL PRODUCT MANAGER & DEVELOPER *Anika Harden*
SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST *Brooke Bennett*

EXECUTIVE TEAM
CEO/PRESIDENT *Alisa Gravitz*
EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTOR: CONSUMER & CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT *Todd Larsen*
EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTOR: CULTURE, PLANNING, & GREEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT *Dr. LaKeisha Thorpe*
EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE *Sarah Wood*

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMS
DIVISION DIRECTOR *Todd Larsen*
CLIMATE CAMPAIGNS DIRECTOR *Dan Howells*
FOOD CAMPAIGNS MANAGER *Emma Kriss*
RESPONSIBLE FINANCE CAMPAIGNS DIRECTOR *Cathy Cowan Becker*

GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK®
DIVISION DIRECTOR *Steve Fletcher*
SENIOR MANAGER, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS *Scott Kitson*
MEMBER SERVICES ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT *Joe Paulukonis*
CERTIFICATION MANAGER *Kenia Gomez*
SENIOR MARKETING SPECIALIST *Anya Crittenton*

GREEN AMERICA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS
CENTER DIRECTOR *Alisa Gravitz*
GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS DIRECTOR *Kristen Wesloh*
SENIOR DIRECTOR, SPECIAL CLIMATE & AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS *Sarah Andrysiak*

CLEAN ELECTRONICS PRODUCTION NETWORK
SENIOR DIRECTOR *Pamela Brody-Heine*
SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER *Mary Swanson*
PROGRAM MANAGER *Ginger Leib*
SENIOR FELLOW *Steve Brown*
SENIOR FELLOW *Michelle Turner*

SOIL & CLIMATE ALLIANCE
SENIOR DIRECTOR *Jessica Hulse Dillon*
PROGRAM MANAGER *Justine Ghai*

SOIL & CLIMATE INITIATIVE
MANAGING DIRECTOR *Adam Kotin*
VERIFICATION DIRECTOR *Kristen Efurd*
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM INTEGRATION & FINANCIAL SERVICES *Julie Davenson*
DIRECTOR OF IMPACT & INNOVATION *Jeffery Bos*
PROGRAM SPECIALIST *Taylor Herren*
SENIOR MANAGER, PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT *Megan Tymesko*

NUTRIENT DENSITY INITIATIVE
MANAGING DIRECTOR *Mary Purdy*
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE FELLOW *Raevyn Xavier*

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
DIRECTOR OF FUND DEVELOPMENT *Tyler Whitley*
DIRECTOR OF MAJOR GIFTS *Kelly Shinn*
SENIOR GRANTS MANAGER *JJ Richardson*
DONOR ENGAGEMENT MANAGER *Rob Kraemer*

MEMBERSHIP MARKETING
DIVISION DIRECTOR *Dana Christianson*
MANAGER *Rob Hanson*
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT *Joe Paulukonis*
DONOR SERVICES OPERATIONS & DATABASE DIRECTOR *Stephanie Demarest*

ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS
FINANCE DIRECTOR *Heather Mustonen*
ACCOUNTANT *Michael Young*
HR DIRECTOR *Dennis Greenia*
DATA ENTRY SPECIALIST & DEPOSIT CLERK *Deanna Tilden*
IT & FACILITIES DIRECTOR *Pat Keyes*
IT FELLOW *George Millican*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Salimata Bangoura (emeritus), Danielle Burns, Jessica Hulse Dillon, Paul Freundlich (emeritus), Alisa Gravitz, Gabriel Grant, Ph.D., Anika Harden, Kimberly Jones, Emma Kriss, Julie Lineberger, Brady Quirk-Garvan, Patti Reiter, Tye Tavaras, Tannis Williamson, Michelle Wilson

FOUNDER/PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Paul Freundlich

COVER IMAGE: Photo by we.bond.creations

CONTACT US AT: 800/58-GREEN • fax 202/331-8166 • GreenAmerica.org • info@GreenAmerica.org

Green American magazine (ISSN: 0885-9930) and Your Green Life: Powered by Green America are free with Green America Individual Membership (starting at $20/year) or Green Business Network® Membership (starting at $130/year). For address changes, individual membership information, or to order more issues of this publication, use the above contact information. For Green Business Network® information, email gbn@greenamerica.org, call 202/872-5357, or visit greenbusinessnetwork.org. For article reprint permission, email editors@greenamerica.org.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR ★★★★ Four Star Charity

Pinterest.com/greenamerica
Instagram.com/GreenAmerica_
Facebook.com/GreenAmerica
bsky.app/profile/greenamerica.org

Printed on 100% de-inked recycled fiber, elemental chlorine-free.

Green Economies Thrive on Justice

Alisa Gravitz, President/CEO



Dear Ones,

In these troubling times, we dedicate this issue to the people in Minneapolis and across this country who are fighting for justice in the wake of ICE's heartbreaking actions. These humble and heroic communities are making real change, and they offer profound lessons for all of us.

Everyday people are working directly to **stop unjust federal policies**—protecting people, schools and businesses, documenting wrongdoing, putting themselves on the line. They're **creating new systems** for care in their communities—providing food and transportation, raising funds for healthcare and legal battles. They're nurturing culture change through peaceful witness and **transitioning** to new leadership—across all generations—rooted in justice, community, and love.

Green America is part of this movement. I recognize the same strategies, whether we're responding to the ICE crisis or building the green economy. This work for justice—for people and communities, for workers, and for Mother Nature herself—is interconnected at every level.

Years ago, Deborah Frieze and Meg Wheatley of the Berkana Institute distilled the meta-strategies of successful system transformation—how lasting change happens through many people working together. Here's how these meta-strategies show up in our work:

- **Stop the damage of the current system:** Our campaigns end child labor in global supply chains (p. 8), eliminate hazardous chemicals from electronics manufacturing (p. 11), remove toxic pesticides in our food (p. 14), and halt A.I. data center destruction (p. 21).
- **Create and scale the new systems:** Our Green Business Network® members prove businesses can thrive while protecting people and planet (p. 18). Climate Victory Gardens (p. 20), worker-owned cooperatives, and community solar projects demonstrate other ways that are practical and profitable.
- **Transition from the old to the new:** Our regenerative agriculture programs transform industrial farming into systems that heal soil and communities (p. 20). Our Clean Electronics Production Network helps factories eliminate harmful chemicals and adopt safer processes to protect workers (p. 10).

What's powerful to me is that these strategies work together, at the same time. For example, our Dirty Data campaign opposes destructive practices while showing how data centers could run on 100% renewable energy, building community wealth at no cost to taxpayers or ratepayers (p. 21).

Thank you for being part of this work—every action matters. Together, we're building a more just and sustainable world using the meta-strategies that have transformed systems throughout history.

For a thriving future,

Alisa

There is no green economy without protection for workers

Businesses can find success by caring for the wellbeing of their workers and the planet.

by Michi Trota

No economy can exist for long without a healthy workforce. However, too many corporations continue to chase ever-increasing profit margins at the expense of our planet and the people whose labor creates those profits in the first place. And it is corporations, not workers nor their communities, that are often protected by state and federal policies.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the number of states blocking labor protection laws has been rising since 2013. Currently, 44 out of 50 states have preemption laws that target worker rights, which means that even if cities, counties, and other local governments pass ordinances to benefit workers, state legislatures can still render them void. At the federal level, the administration has directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stop factoring in the cost to human lives when deciding whether to set new limits on the amount of ozone and fine particulate matter industries spew into our environment—the only cost that now matters is corporations' bottom lines.

Industries can keep insisting that contaminated soil and drinking water, an unstable climate, workers' exposure to toxic chemicals, and child labor are unavoidable prices to pay when doing business, but Green Americans know we can and should do better than that. No profits are worth the price of people's wellbeing and the health of our planet. It's why readers like you have supported our campaigns to end child labor in our global supply chains (p. 8) and demand Big Beer stop using toxic pesticides that harm beer enthusiasts and the bees that pollinate our crops alike (p. 14). It's how Green America's Center for Sustainability Solutions continues to build on its previous successes with our Clean Electronics Partner Network to protect the workers exposed to toxic solvents while they make the devices we depend on (p. 10).

And we're seeing more small businesses and green entrepreneurs prove that success doesn't require exploiting workers. In fact, they embrace doing business in ways that value worker safety, prioritize ethical partners in their supply chain, and view a healthy planet as essential to good business (p. 18).

But while we advocate for sustainable economic systems, the current administration's policies continue

{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®



An economy cannot run without its workforce—no profit is worth the price of people's and the planet's health and wellbeing. A green world can only exist if we stand up for each other. Photo credit: PintoArt via Shutterstock.

to put workers and the communities that depend on them at the front lines of injustice. Nowhere is this more apparent than the ongoing months-long siege of immigrant and BIPOC communities nationwide by federal immigration raids. According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as of January 2026, 73,000 people are being held by the federal government in immigration detention centers, a 75% increase over the past year; over two-thirds of those detained lack any criminal convictions and most have no violent offenses. According to the American Prospect, thirty-five people have died in ICE custody over the past year, making 2025 the deadliest year for the agency in two decades. As of February 17, over a dozen people have been shot by immigration officers since September, five of whom died: Isaias Sanchez Barboza, Silverio Villegas González, Renee Good, Keith Porter, and Alex Pretti.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that in 2023, foreign-born workers, including those who are undocumented, account for nearly 19% of the total U.S. labor force, from academia to the arts to engineering, as well as medical research, domestic assistance, and more. Over eight million undocumented workers alone are employed in physical labor-heavy and often high-risk industries, including agriculture, service, manufacturing, and construction. People who come from the same communities that already suffer disproportionate harmful impacts from pollution, worsening climate disasters, and workplace discrimination now also face being torn away from their loved ones and disappeared into a massive system of forceable displacement and deportation, or worse.

As Green Americans, we recognize how these horrific abuses are part of larger systems that also excuse the exploitation of workers and the environment to enrich corporations that care for nothing beyond their profit margins. We must continue to act in solidarity with and demand justice for those from at-risk communities, whether they're our loved ones, neighbors, coworkers, colleagues, or complete strangers. Not just because they contribute to our local and national economies, but also because it is the right and moral thing to do.

A green world can only exist if we stand up for each other.

Fair Labor Matters in a Green Economy

Is there such a thing as an economy that takes care of people and the environment? What do we need to prioritize to get there?

by Mary Meade



Kris Lawler, Nomadics' art director, painting a custom tipi. Nomadics is a certified Green Business Network member. Photo credit: Nomadics Tipi Makers.

A green economy doesn't treat workers' well-being and a healthy environment as acceptable losses in doing business. The bottom line isn't ever-increasing individual profit—it's the prosperity that comes from taking care of each other for a brighter, shared future. While traditional business outlooks may favor short-term profit at any expense, the fact is that the long-term success of any company requires safeguarding the welfare of workers, consumers, our environment, and our communities.

The top priorities of a green economy reflect how protecting both fair labor policies and environmentally sustainable practices are essential to creating a solid foundation that will serve any business well into its future:

Fair Pay and Pay Transparency are essential to a fair, green market. Economic data has long shown that a thriving middle class is the hallmark of a prosperous society. Therefore, paying workers fairly—whether it's a livable wage, fair pay, or universal basic income—are crucial to ensuring people have enough money for their needs and to put back into the economy for their wants. Pay transparency is a key part of fair pay as well, breaking down socio-economic barriers and clarifying the monetary value of jobs. It also helps to address issues of wage theft and failure to pay overtime. For too many workers worldwide, unfair wages fail to cover even basic costs of living, and the ability to access essential needs such as food, clean water, shelter, clothing, and education remains precarious.

{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®

Health and Safety in the Workplace is fundamental to a strong workforce. Sufficient medical care for people and their families means workers get the care they need when they're sick. It also means workplaces put worker well-being and safety first, ensuring that workers are: given safe and secure channels to report workplace violations; educated in safety and hazard prevention; and guaranteed just compensation for injuries and other harms. (Read more on this topic on p. 18.) It's especially critical to ensure workers are of legal age—many workplace accidents occur with underage workers. (Read more on this topic on p. 8.)

Anti-Discrimination and Equity Policies in workplaces ensure that every person has the opportunity and resources to achieve their career goals, regardless of sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, nationality, creed, disability, age, or political opinion. Right to Organize in the workplace ensures that workers can speak up collectively to call out harms at work and choose to join a union if they wish. Worker agency and safety to raise major issues is necessary to ensure fair pay and safe workplaces.

Life/Work Balance provides people with enough time to recharge from work. People need to rest, play, provide caregiving, and manage obligations outside of work. We work for a living, but we don't live for work. Time outside of work means we can spend our paychecks on goods, services, and experiences that keep the green economy running.

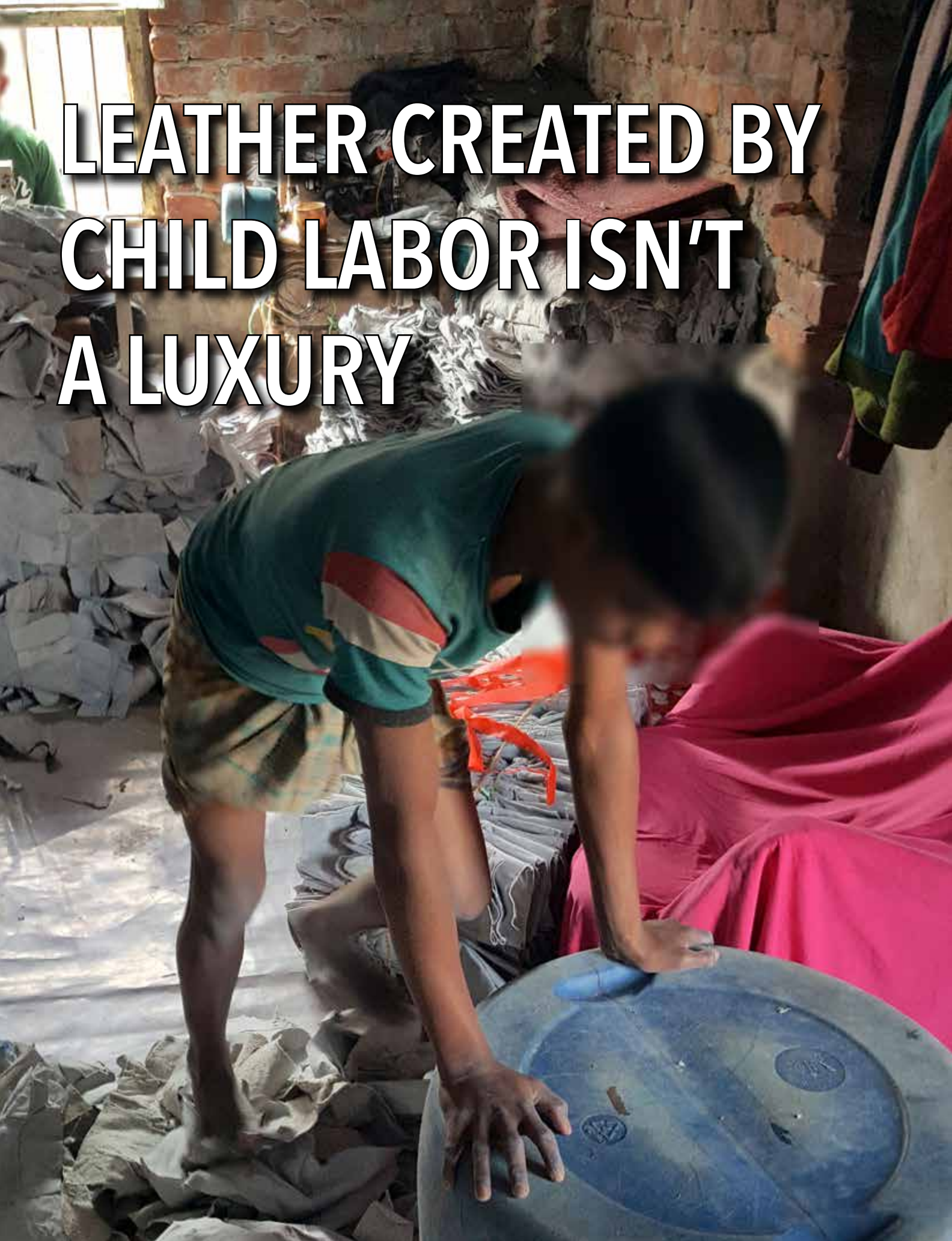
Environmental Sustainability creates an economic foundation that can take us into a prosperous and vibrant future. Instead of expanding industries such as chemical manufacturing or battery recycling that contaminate our water and poison the air, we must adopt policies and practices that seek to waste as little as possible and create little-to-no harm for our environment, our communities, and the workers we depend on. We can build innovative and profitable businesses that also ensure the resources we need are around for ourselves and future generations.

A green economy doesn't have to be aspirational—there are businesses thriving right now that follow these principles and contribute to the health and vibrancy of their communities (see p. 18). Despite the many corporations that insist we accept greed and injustice as the price of doing business, labor protections, sustainable supply chains, and healthy work/life balances aren't in opposition to profits and success; they're vital building blocks in creating a robust economic system that's accessible and equitable for everyone. And we can still insist—through how we spend our money, who we choose to do business with, and using our collective voices for change—on corporate policies and practices that allow a green economy to thrive for the good of us all and our planet.



The building blocks of a green economy. Graphic credit: Anya Crittenton.

The bottom line isn't ever-increasing individual profit—it's the prosperity that comes from taking care of each other for a brighter, shared future.


LEATHER CREATED BY
CHILD LABOR ISN'T
A LUXURY

Green America's new report highlights the human cost of leather production and the need to protect leather workers.

by Todd Larsen

Leather is associated with luxury and durability, and it's everywhere. It's in our sneakers and jackets, our handbags and belts, and our furniture and car seats. As I write this piece, I'm wearing two pieces of clothing made from leather. Many global actors rely on the complex supply chain of animal hides to create leather-based consumer goods and unfortunately, there are many opportunities for environmental and social harm along the way.

Green America recently worked with a researcher in Bangladesh, A.K.M. Maksud, who has long been an advocate for labor reforms, to examine the leather supply chain in that country. He found children as young as eight working in leather processing facilities, exposed to harsh chemicals, with no opportunity to attend school.

"Hidden Hands: Child Labor in Bangladesh's Leather Industry," is our forthcoming report based on his research, set to launch publicly this spring. It documents the experience of four young leather workers who've labored in tanneries since childhood. One of the young men interviewed, Tariq, shared experiences that illustrate the harsh conditions in leather tanneries.

> *Tariq was eight years old when he started working in a tannery in Hazaribagh, Bangladesh, one of the world's most notorious leather-processing hubs. He was forced to leave school a few days into first grade to help support his family.*
>
> *In the tannery, Tariq's small hands first trimmed scraps of raw hide, scraped off meat and fat, and nailed hides onto wooden boards to dry. As he grew older, he began carrying buckets of chemicals like lime, sulphate, chromium, and formic acid. He learned how to mix and handle these toxic substances without gloves, masks, or any protective gear. Spills burned his skin and acid splashes left blisters and scars. Fumes stung his eyes and made him cough, but there was no way to avoid them. When he was fifteen, a spinning drum handle smashed his hand so badly [that] the bone broke through the skin. He missed two months of work, then went back because he had no other way to survive.*
>
> *Today, at twenty, Tariq still works as a chemical mixer and dye man. The same chemicals he handled as a child still touch his bare skin every day. His hands and feet remain scarred and cracked from constant contact with acid and tanning waste. With no chance to return to school, he sees no path out of the tannery except for more years of the same dangerous work.*

Leather and footwear are the second largest export industry in Bangladesh, and more than one out of every ten Bangladeshis work in the leather sector. The U.S. imports $8.7 billion of leather goods from Bangladesh each year. It's essential that companies and consumers take action to ensure ethical leather production in Bangladesh and around the world.

Our report documents steps companies should take to ensure suppliers are protecting workers and prohibiting child labor, and how to give workers a central role in monitoring and enforcing labor rights agreements. Companies should also advocate for systemic reforms of the industry and develop responsible alternatives to leather. Green America is sharing these recommendations with major leather importing companies and asking them to work with us to implement these solutions.

As consumers, we can promote more responsible practices as well. We can refurbish current leather goods and buy used or recycled leather when possible. We can also support responsible alternatives to animal leather, such as recycled rubber and plant-based leather. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has a guide to plant-based leather companies on its website: "From Apples to Kombucha Tea: See the Ingenious Way Designers Are Making Vegan Leather."

When buying new leather, look for vegetable-tanned leather that avoids the use of toxic chemicals like chromium. For example, Green Business Network® Member OOLOOP{GBN} offers products made from upcycled leather scraps, free-range grass-fed animals, and/or vegetable-tanned leathers.

Together, consumers and businesses can support the call of workers and communities for greater responsibility in leather production in Bangladesh. Stay tuned for more ways to take action from Green America in the coming year.

Facing page: Children taking part in leather dyeing in the Hazaribagh area of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo credit: A. K. M. Maksud.



Meet Green America's

Clean Electronics Production Network

Protecting the workers who make our electronics from chemical exposure is a vital step in creating a sustainable supply chain.

by Mary Meade

The following quotes are feedback from the 2025 Chemical Safety Training beta test. They have been translated from Vietnamese. Read more about the Chemical Safety Training program on p. 13.

The training lesson was very useful and gave me more understanding about chemicals.



Electronic devices are so deeply embedded in our everyday lives that it is nearly impossible to go without them. They make our commutes more enjoyable, our jobs more efficient, and our communication practically instantaneous.

Every electronic device has an "ingredient list" of materials it is made from—aluminum, glass, copper wires, rubber buttons—that are generally considered safe for consumers.

But while device users may never encounter them, the solvents, cleaners, and degreasers used to manufacture our electronics can be hazardous to human health—and the people who make your electronics may be exposed to them every day at work.

Countries have made great strides in establishing legislation that protects buyers from toxins in electronics—but for the people making electronics, chemical protection standards are still lagging. Electronic manufacturing occurs all over the world, with approximately 78% of workers in Asia and the Pacific. According to a report from the International Labour Organization, there were over 17 million people employed worldwide in the manufacture and assembly of electronics hardware in 2023.

Protecting these workers from toxic chemicals is what Green America's Clean Electronics Production Network seeks to address.

Meet the Clean Electronics Production Network

The Clean Electronics Production Network (CEPN) launched in 2016 as part of Green America's work to holistically protect people and the planet, all the way up through the supply chain. CEPN unites diverse stakeholders and focuses specifically on reducing toxic chemicals in electronics manufacturing. CEPN comprises more than 20 member organizations including electronics brands and suppliers, environmental organizations, labor and worker representatives, ecolabels, academics, and public servants. Its core mission is to move toward zero exposure of workers to the toxic chemicals present in the assembly, production, and manufacturing of the many electronic devices we use today.

Several decades ago, metals that were extremely harmful to human health were present in electronics. Lead and mercury are two examples, both of which cause harm to the nervous system. However, these metals are largely absent from the devices we use today thanks to strict regulations from governments around the world. These wins were made possible by people and organizations around the world.

But there are toxic substances used in the manufacturing process itself, such as solvents, degreasers, and cleaners, which are often not included in the "ingredient list" of a device because they are absent by the time the device makes it into the hands of users. For example, chlorinated solvents



are suspected carcinogens; methanol can be easily absorbed through skin and may cause blindness and kidney failure; and 2-ethoxyetheyl acetate can cause reproductive harm. Some of the workers who build electronics every day may be exposed to these substances on a regular basis.

Pamela Brody-Heine has been the Senior Director of CEPN for six years, helping to move the needle towards improved worker chemical safety in electronics manufacturing. She works with Senior Program Manager Mary Swanson, Ginger Leib, Program Manager, and Senior Fellows Steve Brown and Michelle Turner. Together, they collaborate with major players in the electronics industry and other stakeholders towards zero exposure for workers.

"Well-known brands have come to the table to work with the network—Apple, Dell, HP, and Fairphone—that's a win," says Swanson. Getting these large corporations to sign onto Towards Zero Exposure, CEPN's flagship program, has set a bold standard in shaping the culture around worker chemical safety. That is because of the influence the Signatories have on the industry.

"If you look at most of the big brands, they have supplier companies that do most of the manufacturing," says Swanson. The Towards Zero Exposure program requires each Signatory to work with at least 15 production facilities, and some work with many more, to eliminate specific toxic chemicals from the manufacturing process. Altogether, "more than 200 supplier companies involved have been positively impacted by the Signatories so far," says Swanson.

A Decade of Industry Change and A Future of Growth

CEPN's newest project takes on chemical safety training. For the last two years, CEPN and partners have been drafting comprehensive training modules for workers and managers so that they are more informed on chemical safety to protect their own health and the health of their teams.

"This gives access to training resources to suppliers that are [part of earlier stages] in the supply chain that might not have resources on chemical safety training available," says Leib.

The Chemical Safety Training Program is currently offered in three formats: in-person, live webinar, and interactive digital training formats. It includes topics such as workers' right to know about chemical hazards and risks, hazard communication, control approaches, emergency response, and methods to promote worker engagement. The trainings are currently offered in six languages (English, Vietnamese, Malay, Thai, Tagalog, and simplified Chinese) with the intent to expand the range of available translations.

Leib says that beta test feedback of the Chemical Safety Training program, which took place from



Ginger Leib, Program Manager.



Pamela Brody-Heine, Senior Director.



Mary Swanson, Senior Program Manager.

{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®

November 2024 - January 2025, was extremely positive. A year later, CEPN is excited to grow a network of qualified trainers that can continue to deliver the Chemical Safety Training modules.

To further incentivize facilities to go through the Chemical Safety Training modules with their workers, CEPN has included a Supplier Recognition component. After a certain percentage of workers and managers have completed the training, the facility can be recognized on CEPN's official list. So far, facilities in Vietnam and Malaysia that took part in the beta test and wish to be recognized are visible on the CEPN website.

A Green Economy for All People

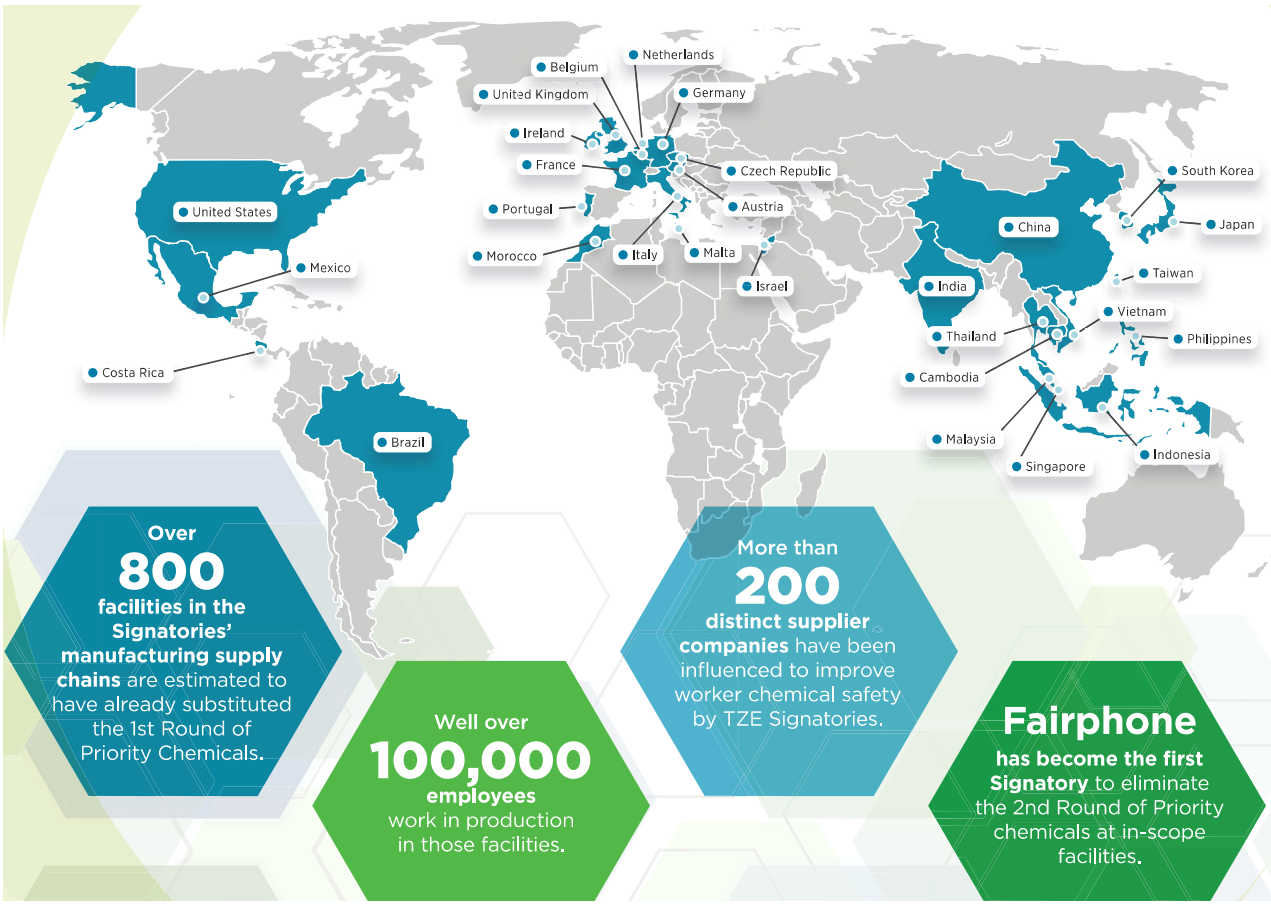
Born from Green America's mission to protect all people and the planet, CEPN has made great progress in electronics manufacturing safety for workers. As of February 2026, CEPN's Towards Zero Exposure and other programs have improved worker chemical safety and extended to facilities in at least 30 countries and 800 facilities around the world. When hazardous chemicals are eliminated across the supply chain, it protects workers, their communities, and the environment from those chemicals.

Additionally, the positive beta test feedback demonstrates that CEPN's chemical safety training addresses a workplace gap regarding education for electronics manufacturing workers. Leib states that CEPN will make more translations available as the program expands to make training even more accessible.

The Towards Zero Exposure program will continue to work with Signatories to eliminate priority chemicals (see the full list at CleanElectronicsProduction.org/tools-resources/priority-chemicals) from the manufacturing process. This work is as important as ever in a global economy that is increasingly dependent on electronics, especially when political administrations are slow to enact federal protections for workers. With its multi-stakeholder format—engaging workers, multi-national companies, and the global supply chain—CEPN can improve the lives of workers even in the absence of governments passing worker health and safety legislation.

In a globalized world, CEPN's work is crucial to making workplaces safer and healthier for all people and the planet.

The Clean Electronics Production Network is part of Green America's Center for Sustainability Solutions. The Center brings together diverse groups of stakeholders to solve sustainability problems that no individual business, organization, or leader can solve alone. Learn more about the Center at CenterForSustainabilitySolutions.org.



Graphic from the Toward Zero Exposure annual report, 2026.

We Shouldn't Pay the Price for Big Beer's Use of Pesticides

Despite the risks to consumers, workers, and our food systems, beer corporations exploit lax regulations to treat grains with toxic chemicals.

by Anya Crittenton

Of all the alcoholic drinks in the United States, beer reigns supreme. The Pew Research Center notes that beer made up 42.3% of all consumed alcohol in 2021, compared to wine at 17.4% and spirits at 40.3%. According to the Beer Institute's 2025 Beer Serves America study, the beer industry contributes more than $471 billion to the national economy.

In 2024, the U.S. produced 160 million barrels of beer—that's 20 gallons per adult in the country. While craft brewers often work with organic produced grains, big beer corporations often use wheat and hops treated with pesticides toxic to human health, pollinators, and the safety of our water and food supplies.

"People are often passionate about the type of beer they drink and have major sway with beer producers," comments Emma Kriss, Food Campaigns Manager at Green America. "If the beer industry can get pesticides out of its products and implement organic farming practices in its supply chain, then they would be an example to other food companies that they can do the same."

The Way We Make Beer Is Bad

It starts with how we grow crops like barley and hops. Instead of practicing safe and healthy agricultural practices like regenerative or organic, most beer companies in the U.S. prioritize profit and efficiency over a healthy planet and people.

Spraying pesticides on crops to control pests may increase food production, but their use comes at a cost. Pesticides are known to cause acute health problems like blurred vision, difficulty breathing, seizures, and more, as well as chronic risks such as cancer, reproductive harm, and disruptions to the endocrine system. The resulting harm spreads throughout the supply chain, from the farm workers who grow and harvest the grains to the people who drink commercial brews.

"Barley, for example, can be exposed to up to seven pesticides, including the neurotoxin dichlorvos," explains Kriss. Dichlorvos is classified as "possibly" and "probably" carcinogenic to humans, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer and EPA.

The known carcinogenic herbicide glyphosate was found in nearly every major U.S. beer brand in a 2019 report from the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) finding several major brands contained glyphosate levels above 25 ppb.

The Beer Institute, which represents the $431 billion beer industry, tried to dismiss these findings as trivial noting these levels are below the EPA's "tolerance" levels for glyphosate—in other words, below the maximum legally permissible amount of pesticide residue allowed. However, as PIRG notes, studies have shown as little as 0.1ppb of glyphosate, or .0001ppm, has the potential to destroy beneficial gut bacteria and increase breast cancer cells. And the landmark study that supposedly demonstrated the safety of glyphosate, "Safety Evaluation and Risk Assessment of the Herbicide Roundup and Its Active Ingredient, Glyphosate, for Humans," released in 2000, was formally retracted in December 2025 by the journal *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology*, because of improprieties, including the influence of Monsanto, maker of glyphosate containing RoundUp, on the results. Green America is currently working with partners to update this testing and will share the results later this year.

{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®

"Farmers and farm workers are [exposed] to these harmful pesticides, increasing their risk of the known health concerns," Kriss warns. She also notes that when pesticides seep into the soil, they can put future nutritious crops at risk.

Can I Still Drink Beer?

Despite the prevalence of pesticides in beer production, there are ways beer-lovers can keep enjoying their hoppy ales and stouts and all the rest.

Kriss suggests opting for organic beers at retail stores or restaurants but warns that even organic foods can carry trace amounts of pesticides through drift. Even organic-labeled compost and fertilizers can still turn out to be contaminated by pesticides because the source material may contains industrial run-off. If a local brewery you love doesn't have organic beers, tell them how important that is, and it will keep dollars local.

Enjoy the tailgates and parties, the pubs and camping trips, and some good beer, by drinking organic and advocating for organic and safe agricultural practices from your local farmers and businesses.



Save Beer!

Join your fellow Green Americans and demand the top six U.S. beer companies, including Heineken and Molson Coors, eliminate pesticide usage and commit to an ethical supply chain by:

- Working with suppliers to implement integrated pest management and organic farming practices
- Ensuring complete supply chain transparency by publicly disclosing pesticide policies and progress
- Supporting farmers and farmworkers in transitioning to regenerative, organic agriculture practices
- Collaborating with environmental organizations and prioritize science-based approaches
- Funding substantial assistance for suppliers adopting pesticide-free farming methods
- Using third party-verified measurement and verification to demonstrate a commitment to health and quality

Sign the petition now!



Ask a Green Expert

All your questions answered by Green America staff

Have a "green" question that's been on your mind? Ask our experts! Here are a few we've received.

Who do we contact locally to address the sustainability, renewable energy, and efficiency concerns I have with a data center that is being built in my area? I'm obviously not going to talk to Amazon or Microsoft directly about this. Who makes local policy decisions about things like this?

It could be the local county board, the city council, or the mayor's office. We're seeing more local officials rolling over to appease data center developers while claiming communities will benefit from tax dollars, more jobs, etc., most of which don't actually materialize. Hearing from constituents like you about the harms of data centers can counter industry misinformation. I would also encourage you to talk to your state officials as well even though they may play less of a role in what gets built in your community—they still need to know that as one of their constituents, you don't want this.

I also recommend that you do, in fact, reach out to companies like Microsoft and Amazon. They need to hear from their would-be neighbors, as it were—who often are also consumers they depend on for their profits.

Finally, talk to your neighbors and community leaders. Advocating with officials, developers, and corporations is best when done with many voices presented in unison. If your local officials, or even the companies themselves, realize there is organized pushback, they may be more likely to engage with your community and consider making concessions. (And this has worked for neighborhoods in Phoenix, Arizona.)

Data centers that cause less environmental harm is better for the bottom line of corporations, as well. And if you let your elected officials know that they may lose your support if they don't stand up for the communities that elected them against greedy corporations, it could encourage them to get involved in the fight, too.

— Dan Howells, Climate Campaigns Director & Anya Crittenton, Senior Writer

How can I grow an edible garden in my yard when I have several close neighbors who use poisonous lawn care chemicals in their yards?

While there is no full-proof way to protect your own garden from a neighbor's pesticide/synthetic fertilizer use, there are two main things that can help: namely, physical barriers and communication.

{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®

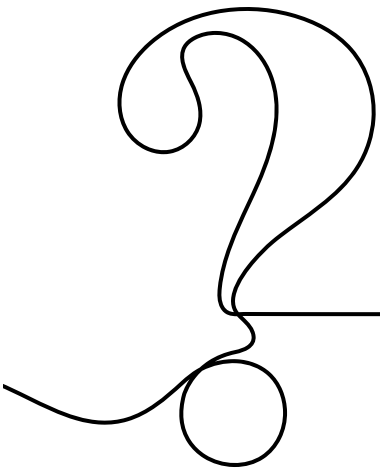
Physical barriers and garden planning:

- Create buffer zones with hardy, less sensitive plants along shared borders.
- Taller fences, hedges, and shrubs can be used as natural windbreakers and barriers.
- Position your most vulnerable crops (like herbs, leafy greens, or organic vegetables) furthest from the neighboring property.
- Use raised beds or containers that you can move or cover when needed.
- Tarps can be used during active spraying periods.
- If groundwater contamination is a concern, consider soil testing regularly.

Timing and Communication:

- Have a friendly conversation with your neighbor about their application schedule so you can protect sensitive plants or harvest crops beforehand.
- If you're comfortable, you could try convincing them to use natural remedies and use Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Suggest they avoid spraying on windy days to minimize drift.
- Ask if they'd be willing to notify you before spraying, allowing you to cover plants or bring potted plants indoors temporarily.

— Emma Kriss, Food Campaigns Manager



GREEN AMERICAN QUIZ: DIRTY DATA

Think you know about A.I. energy usage? Test your mettle on these questions! Answers on p. 23.

Data centers are concentrated geographically where there is existing infrastructure and energy availability, among other things. This can cause significant strain on power grids that were not designed to handle the power load of A.I. data centers. Which of these states experienced the highest consumption of electricity from data centers? (Hint: this state is a hub for the tech industry.)

a) Oregon
b) North Dakota
c) Virginia

A legal battle between Google and the city of Dalles, Oregon resulted in the company disclosing its local data center water usage. How much water was the company consuming from the city's water supply?

a) less than 2%
b) a tenth
c) a quarter

Which four companies have commitments to achieve 100% renewable energy, but are looking towards fossil fuels to power their A.I. data centers?

a) Google, Meta, Amazon, and Microsoft
b) H&M, Carter's, Shein, Zara
c) Bank of America, Well's Fargo, JP Morgan, Citi Bank

We can do something about A.I.'s energy appetite. Take action with us to stop Big A.I. front polluting our climate and communities.



BUSINESS SUCCESS AND SOUND ETHICS AREN'T MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE

Find other Green Business Network® {GBN} certified companies at GreenPages.org

These Green Business Network® members know how to put their principles to work for their employees and their bottom line.



Artisan Nilapati Chaudhary begins a Roll-On® Bracelet at the Aid Through Trade artisan center in Ratanpur Village, in remote southwest Nepal. Nilapati loves to share her good sense of humor with 30 other "sister" artisans daily. As a girl, Nilapati was denied schooling and given away in an arranged marriage; she cherishes her work, which allows her to provide for herself, her father-in-law, and her granddaughter. Photo credit: Damian Jones.

by Anya Crittenton

It's expensive to run a business. But when companies like Walmart or Amazon cut corners on wages and benefits, they hurt the most important people: their own employees. In 1965, the average CEO-to-employee compensation ratio was 21:1. Last year, that ratio skyrocketed to 281:1.

The small businesses of the Green Business Network®, however, actively work against this trend. Though small businesses face steeper hurdles than corporations or chains to keep the lights on, GBN members understand there is no compromising just labor practices. While some businesses like Target quickly buckled under pressure on DEI, or actively union-bust like Starbucks, a truly ethical business does not give up its morals just to stay open.

Profit Doesn't Require Exploitation

The Ukranian- and family-owned woodcrafting business AltaadiR{GBN} doesn't mince words. "As craftspeople, we do not separate profitability from ethical responsibility. Our pricing is based on the real cost of materials, time, and skilled manual labor—not on mass-production standards or the pressure to compete with low-cost imports," says co-owners Tetiana and Oleksii Riabchenko.

Kim Isley, founder of the tree gifting business Trees for a Change{GBN} agrees that "employee pay is not one of the places to get creative."

The national numbers underscore Isley's claim. To live in West Virginia, ranked in a 2025 SmartAsset study as the state with the lowest necessary income, a person would have to make a minimum of $38.86/hour to attain a livable wage—over five times as much as the federal minimum wage of $7.25/hour, which was last raised 17 years ago, in 2009.

"If you can't find a way to make a bit of profit without exploiting the labor of others, you're doing something wrong," Isley declares.

Listening to Your Employees

Employee wellbeing doesn't just depend on wages but in the U.S., work benefits are treated as an optional luxury. Among 41 countries studied by the Pew Research Center in 2019, the U.S. is alone in

{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®

offering zero hours of mandatory parental leave. Similarly, healthcare is often tied to employment in the U.S., rather than seen as a basic right.

Julie Lineberger of the accessible modular housing manufacturer WheelPad{GBN} and Co-Board Chair of Green America says the company starts from "the assumption that good wages and benefits are essential."

"We ask how to build a business that can support these commitments from the beginning," she explains.

What this looks like in practice can vary across organizations. At Nomadics Tipi Makers{GBN}, the company's commitment to supporting workers includes encouraging employees to advocate for themselves and "a healthy work-life balance" and responding respectfully.

"If an employee needs time off, flexibility due to personal issues, or needs extra work to make ends meet, we always listen," says owner Nicole Loffler of Nomadics.

Humanity Must Come First

"Just labor practices start with recognizing that humans are living beings with dynamic needs," says Stefan Schachter, co-founder of ECOTEAS{GBN}. "We structure work in such a way to try to avoid injury and burnout."

For Damian Jones at Aid Through Trade{GBN}, the success of a business and the artisans it works with are one and the same. As a fair-trade business, like many Green Business Network® members, Aid Through Trade also must adhere to rigorous standards.

"When you know personally the hands that make your jewelry, just labor practices aren't an abstract concept but a visible reality that calls us to operate at a higher level," Jones says.

Integrity, Not Compromise

Some business owners recognize that committing to their morals sometimes means having to say no or "de-prioritizing something else," as Robert Behnke of the clothing company Fair Indigo{GBN} puts it.

"In our case, it's partially the overhead that comes with locating your office in a very desirable zip code with very desirable office space," Behnke says.

Eliza Loring, owner of sustainable fashion brand OOLOOP{GBN}, had to turn down working with some designers for the sake of her ethics. And despite economic pressures like inflation and tariffs that have caused some brands to axe their sustainable fibers, Loring stayed strong.

"By refusing to work with certain designers because their materials were not good enough, we found they came back and added more organics and recycled fibers to their collections," she says.

If these small businesses can afford just labor practices, there are no excuses for the biggest corporations. Vote with your dollar by supporting the small businesses of the Green Business Network® and holding corporate bigshots accountable.



Chris, Kim & Michelle at a Trees for a Change team retreat in Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve. Photo credit: Emily Rey.

"If you can't find a way to make a bit of profit without exploiting the labor of others, you're doing something wrong."

— Kim Isley, Trees for a Change



Soil & Climate Alliance Summer Member Meeting in Atlanta & Bluffton, Georgia. Blake (left) and Stephanie Alexandre (right) of Alexandre Family Farm joined to learn from the Network and speak on their own successes and challenges. Photo credit: Green America, 2024.

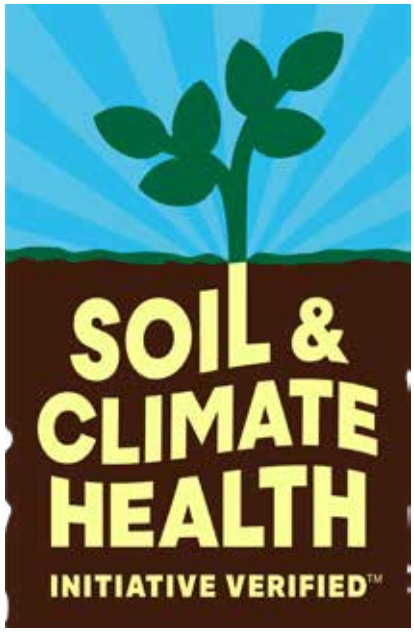
As our national government works to undermine climate progress, worker justice, consumer protections, and corporate responsibility, our work with consumers, businesses, and investors to create a truly green economy that is accessible for all is more important than ever. Across our programs, we are building solutions to today's greatest challenges.

Accelerating Regenerative Agriculture

Our regenerative farm-to-shelf regenerative agriculture program achieved a major milestone: **Whole Foods Market officially approved our Soil & Climate Initiative verification label for display in their stores!** Shoppers at Whole Foods will be able to shop for products with the label, starting with products from SCI companies like PACHA and Roots Chips, and support farmers and brands nationwide working to benefit consumers, wildlife, water, and climate through regenerative agriculture.

If you want to advance regenerative agriculture at home or in your community, join the growing **Climate Victory Gardens** community. Over the last year, more than 7,000 **new Climate Victory Gardens** were registered across the United States and internationally, for a total of 35,000+ gardens covering more than 2,000 acres of land and sequestering an estimated 5,300 tons of carbon in the soil.

Whether you create a Climate Victory Garden at home or in shared community spaces, you are supporting



{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®

increased food security, benefiting the climate through sequestered carbon, and improving individual mental and physical health. And community gardens are a great way to build connections and relationships where you live.

Our Dirty Data Campaign is Making Waves

Our new campaign calling on Big Tech to power A.I. with renewable energy is changing the narrative on how A.I. will be powered—with media coverage nationwide and thousands of consumers calling on tech companies to protect communities and the planet.

To get A.I. titans to commit to renewable energy for every data center, we're working with local communities, consumers, and shareholders to map out a road to 100% renewable energy that can benefit residential electricity consumers with lower bills and cleaner air. And we're bringing our message to major tech companies—that they can save money and build community support by using wind, solar, and battery backup to power A.I.

We're Protecting Workers in the U.S. and Abroad

As part of our Clean Electronics Production Network (CEPN) efforts to get toxic chemicals out of the factories that manufacture electronics, CEPN is rolling out a safety training program for workers. The safety trainings, offered in three formats—in-person, live webinar, and interactive digital training—are provided in six languages and designed to protect and empower workers (read more about CEPN's work on p. 10).

At a time when federal labor laws enforcement in the U.S. is collapsing, Green America and its allies are putting direct pressure on giant meatpacking companies—including Perdue Farms, Tyson Foods, JBS USA, and Cargill—to take action to end child labor in slaughterhouses. **Over 550,000 messages were sent to the leader of these companies urging them to act.** And we're working with allies to support bipartisan legislation at the federal and state level to increase penalties against companies that use child labor.

If you aren't receiving updates about our latest actions, visit the QR code (see lower right corner of this page) to join our e-list to get the latest news and alerts.



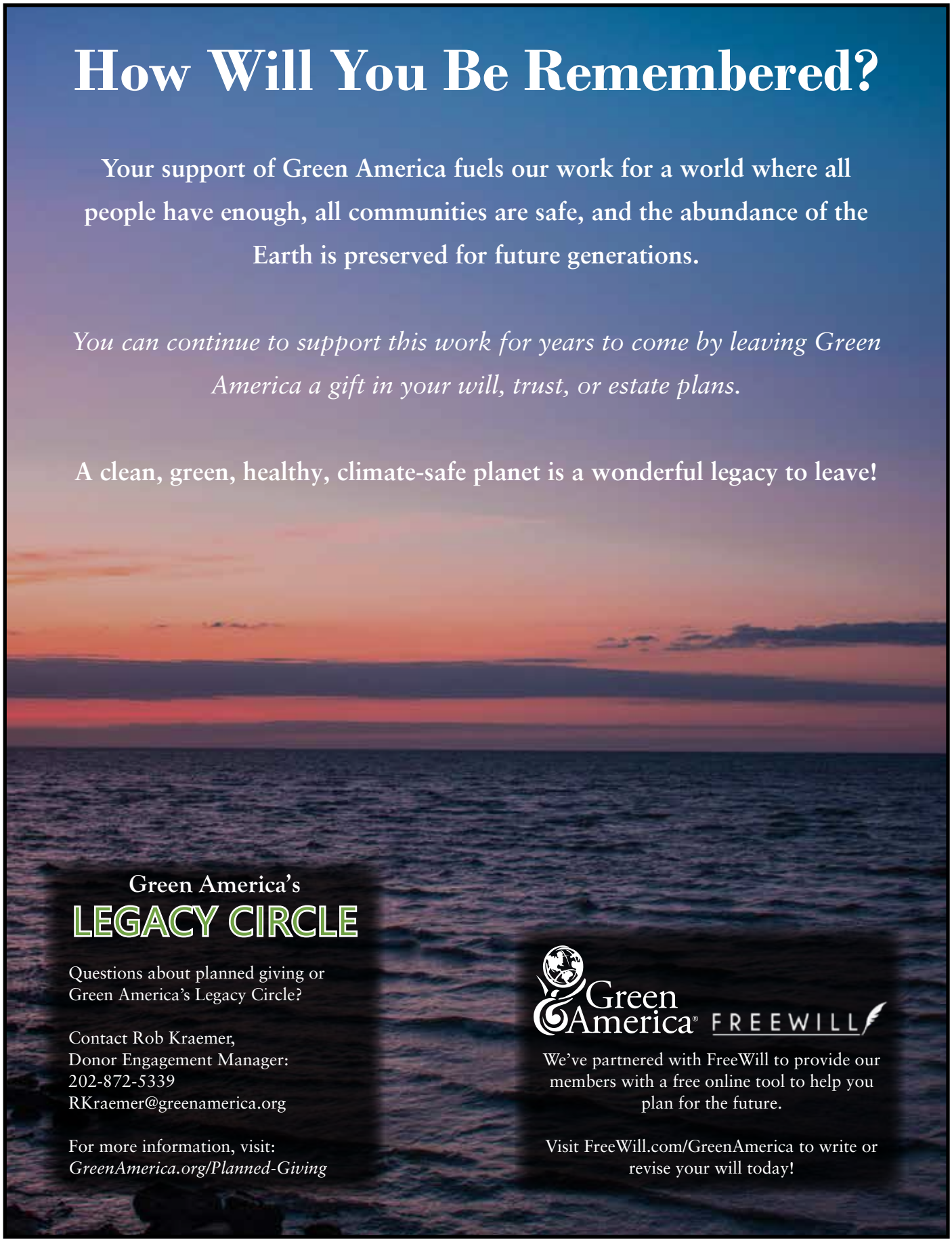
The CyrusOne campus houses seven massive data centers at the Continuum Business Park on the Price Road corridor in Chandler, Arizona. In December 2025, residents successfully opposed an A.I. data center project with a unanimous vote of 7-0. Photo credit: Around the World Photos via Shutterstock. December 10, 2024.

Have You Moved Your Money?

Shifting your banking, credit card, insurance, and investing dollars to responsible companies is one of the most powerful actions you can take to reduce your climate impact and benefit communities nationwide.

Green America offers extensive FREE tips on green-oriented banking, credit cards, insurance, and investing on our website, including our newly updated **Plan for a Better Future Guide** for employers and employees on adding socially responsible funds to a workplace retirement plan, and our **Sustainable Investing Guide**, co-authored with Green Century, on how to divest from fossil fuels.

Join us at upcoming Green America events. Last year, over 5,000 people took part in our educational webinars. This year, we'll have even more opportunities to learn the latest tips and strategies to green your life, your finances, and your garden!



{GBN} Designates a certified member of Green America's Green Business Network®

TRANSFORMATIVE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC
Sustainable, Impact Investing
& Financial Life Planning

Invest with Your Values
Low-Cost
Custom SRI/ESG Portfolios
Retirement
Inheritances
Endowments
SRI Employer Retirement Plans
True Wealth Life Planning*
Free Consultations
Over 30 Years of
Sustainable Investing
(510) 524-5500

www.investingwithheart.com
invest@transformativewealthmgt.com
Independent Fee-Only RIA
CA-IARD #283660

Transformative Wealth Management, LLC is a registered investment adviser. Advisory services are only offered to clients or prospective clients where Transformative Wealth Management, LLC and its representatives are properly licensed or exempt from licensure. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. Investing involves risk and possible loss of principal capital. No advice may be rendered by Transformative Wealth Management, LLC unless a client service agreement is in place.

HANSEN'S
ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.
Investing in companies that give a hoot

Integrity
Mastery
Partnership
Authenticity
Commitment
Trust

Contact us to see how your investments can make an IMPACT that matches your VALUES.

(315) 637-5153 Office
(315) 687-8601 Text
www.HansensAdvisory.com
7067 E Genesee St, Fayetteville, NY 13066

Hansen's Advisory Services, Inc. is not a registered broker-dealer nor a registered investment advisor. Hansen's Advisory Services, Inc. and Vanderbilt Financial Group are separate and unaffiliated entities. Vanderbilt Financial Group is the marketing name for Vanderbilt Securities, LLC and its affiliates. Securities offered through Vanderbilt Securities, LLC. Member FINRA, SIPC. Registered with MSRB. Advisory Services offered through Vanderbilt Advisory Services. For additional information on services, disclosures, fees, and conflicts of interest, please visit www.vanderbiltfg.com/disclosures

YOUR MONEY YOUR VALUES

BIG GAP IN BETWEEN?
YOU CAN BRIDGE THE GAP

with
- Individualized Portfolios
- Customized Social Criteria
- High Positive Social Impact
- Competitive Financial Returns
- Personalized Service
- Fee Based

David Kim, President, *a founder of Working Assets, in SRI since 1983.*

1.800.366.8700
www.visioncapitalinvestment.com

VISION CAPITAL
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
Socially Responsible Investing

Give a gift of stock

Making a gift of stock or securities is easy, can provide you with tax benefits, and will support today's Green America programs that are creating a just and sustainable economy for future generations.



Green America®

For stock transfer information and/or questions, contact:

Kelly Shinn,
Director of Major Gifts

202-872-5303
KShinn
@GreenAmerica.org

Answers to Quiz on p. 17:

Virginia. Data centers consumed 26% of the total electricity supply in 2023. In Oregon, it was 11%, and North Dakota was 15%.

A quarter of the entire city. In Newton County, Georgia, proposals for A.I. data cetners sought more water per day than all county residents combined.

Google, Meta, Amazon, and Microsoft. Both companies under options b) and c) are targets of our Toxic Textiles campaign and our Divest from Fossil Fuels campaign, respectively.

Green America®
1612 K Street NW,
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
www.greenamerica.org

202/872-5307

info@greenamerica.org

Pinterest.com/greenamerica

Instagram.com/GreenAmerica_

Facebook.com/GreenAmerica

bsky.app/profile/greenamerica.org

Non-profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Ripon, WI
Permit # 100

