

# LIVING THE GREEN



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIKE RILEY

## **THE POWER OF THE BEAR**

### **Welcoming Week Art Walk Reminds Us of the Value of Our Facility**

Last month, we hosted our annual Welcoming Week Multicultural Art Walk event that centered art by local People of Color and LGBTQIA+ community members. It was almost a perfect early fall day, with the light smoke hanging in the air from nearby wildfires reminding us of our new climate reality. Some leaves were just starting to change color and even fall to the ground. The sunflowers still towered overhead in the garden.

We had painters exhibiting their work. A singer-songwriter serenaded us with covers and originals, and two spoken word artists read their work with genuine pride. There were activities for kids, with little ones running around and having fun. And of course, there was food and drink too. A big thank you to Priscilla Calleros for bringing all of these people together for a great event, and Alebrije Oaxaca for the great food!

My favorite was a muralist who painted—live—a mural of a bear. It was amazing to watch that powerful animal emerge from this canvas before our eyes.

*cont'd inside*

## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT'D

That event reminded me of the importance of community, and its central role in our work at The Environmental Center. Bringing people together to learn, celebrate and take action is a big part of what we do. It is so satisfying to be together again in-person. To see the smiles on people's faces and have lively conversations. To meet new people. And to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

I was also reminded of the value of our facility, situated in the heart of downtown Bend. It is important for us to have a space where people can gather, indoors and out, and feel that they are part of a community making the world a better place. It reinforced why we are investing in the future of our facility through our Eco Central Campaign: to ensure we have a larger, modern, and accessible space where Central Oregonians can gather and grow the sustainability movement together.

Finally, that event reminded me of the intersections between diversity and inclusion and our mission of sustainability. We simply cannot move our mission forward without also embedding diversity and inclusion in all that we do. We are so much stronger and wiser when we engage all parts of our community.

Evan Namkung, muralist, said he chose to paint a bear because it is a powerful spirit animal to many indigenous people. According to Evan, bears evoke "strength, courage, healing and protectiveness. All of these qualities are elements that I wanted to communicate for Welcoming Week, especially during this time in our culture and society. It is more important than ever that we as a community protect those who might be made to feel unsafe, while also recognizing and promoting the inherent strength in coming together and building connection."

If you come visit us at 16 NW Kansas Ave, you can admire that bear in our alley. I hope The Environmental Center can live up to the qualities of the bear: to be healers and protectors who have the courage and strength to stand up for what is right. Coming together, in a space that reflects sustainability values, helps us do so.

- Mike Riley  
Executive  
Director



Muralist Evan Namkung paints The Bear. Photo by Joe Kline.

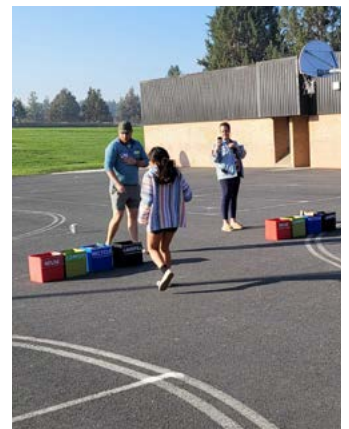
## YOUTH EDUCATION IS BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

Our new staff Becky and Wesley had a great time running camps for the first time this summer! Our Interns, Grace and Sophia, were extremely helpful to the brand new team, making the camps a great success. We are excited to continue offering Internships for those interested in environmental education in the future, both for our spring Outdoor School Days program and our next season of Summer Camp.

The student-led Green Leadership Coalition (GLC), composed of highschoolers from across the region, has two new co-leaders for the school year—Karen and Olive— who are also serving as Interns. Last month, GLC members worked to develop statements and arguments for why Worrell Park in Bend shouldn't be demolished. They attended the Deschutes County

Commissioner public meeting to make their case and sway commissioners' votes around the issue. We look forward to seeing what they plan next!

Finally, these the past few weeks marked the beginning of the EarthSmart series for the school year! Becky and Wesley have been scheduling with teachers for both in-class lessons and field trips to the Knott Landfill. This field trip has always been a big hit with teachers and students alike.



Wesley leading the Great Garbage Game, a student favorite.

LEARN ABOUT INCLUDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN AT [ENVIROCENTER.ORG](http://ENVIROCENTER.ORG).

# OCTOBER DECLARED FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

In 2022, Governor Kate Brown officially declared October as Farm to School Month in Oregon. The declaration states "Oregon's local farmers, farm workers, and school nutrition professionals are key components of our state's vibrant food system; during this month we should show our support and appreciation for our local food and farming heroes and celebrate Farm to School Month in Oregon." We couldn't agree more!



**Farm to School empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.**

*-National Farm to School Network*



Here at our Kansas Avenue Learning Garden, students from Amity Creek Magnet School have been taking walking field trips over to the garden this month. The kindergarteners explored colors in the garden and looked for insects. Third graders came to save seeds that they may plant in the garden next spring when it's their turn for weekly garden visits. Fourth graders returned to harvest the successful crops they planted last spring as third graders. They harvested their potatoes, beans, and peppers and made a hearty soup together at the school, donating extra produce to The Family Kitchen next door (pictured left).

## GRACE IS BACK FOR A SECOND YEAR...AND WITH BIG PLANS!

If you have been involved in our energy work for the past year, chances are you've met our R.A.R.E. Service Member, Grace Andrews! We are thrilled to have Grace back for a second year of service with us, in partnership with Sustainable Northwest, continuing her important work to encourage Deschutes County to adopt an official energy plan. Her work has involved countless hours of research, stakeholder meetings, and community engagement, culminating in the creation of the report: *Best Practices for Community Energy Planning in Rural Oregon*. This report is available to download on our website or you can reach out via email to [Grace@envirocenter.org](mailto:Grace@envirocenter.org) and she will send you a copy!

Coming up, Grace will be hosting a **Local Energy Forum event on November 19th, at the Redmond OSU-Extension campus**, to engage more community members who are interested in community energy planning right here in Deschutes County.

For more information or to register for the Forum, visit our website or use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code, and click the link that pops up.



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## WE HAVE A NEW PARTNER GROUP



The Environmental Center plays an important role as a hub of sustainability in our community. In order to foster connections and collaboration, we help support organizations in Central Oregon that are also working toward a more sustainable future. We highlight their accomplishments and programs, host their meetings and events at our building, and more.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest partner group, Bend Bikes! Bend Bikes is a grassroots non-profit dedicated to improving the safety of people who bike in Bend, Oregon. Our vision is for people of all ages and abilities to feel safe and comfortable on a comprehensive network of bike-friendly routes in every part of town.



This year, Bend Bikes supported both our Green Tour in September and our School Garden Bike tour (pictured left) in early October. We are excited to collaborate with them more on future events and programs!

Learn more at [www.bendbikes.org](http://www.bendbikes.org).



### NOVEMBER GREEN DRINKS CELEBRATES NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. This month, also referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, is an opportune time to learn about and support our tribal communities in present-day Central Oregon.

**On Thursday, November 10th, from 12-2pm, we invite you to join us at Tananáwit for November Green Drinks. You will hear from three local artists; a weaver, a beader, and a painter about projects they are currently working on.**

Space is limited for this event. Please register in advance.



Students at Sisters Elementary School work in their garden, which received funding in 2021.

### TOGETHER, WE RAISED \$15,000 FOR LOCAL SCHOOL GARDENS!

We did it! Thanks to our incredible community of supporters, we hit our goal of \$15,000 raised to support school gardens across Central Oregon! Funds were matched by the Jack Johnson Ohana Foundation, El Sancho taco shop, Central Oregon Beekeeper's Association, and the Oregon Community Foundation.

*"From \$5 to \$2,500, people chipped in what they could to support our school garden grant fund! I'm so thankful to every supporter and am excited to work with schools across Central Oregon to support getting their kids connected to nature through food!"*

-Denise Rowcroft,  
Garden Program Manager

Funds will go directly to helping educators plan, build, upgrade, and/or maintain school gardens for students across the region.

**Do you know a teacher or school who would benefit from a school garden grant? Email [Denise@envirocenter.org](mailto:Denise@envirocenter.org) to ask about grant applications!**

## FROM PILOT TO PROJECT: PLASTIC FILM



### CHEERS TO A GREAT STAFF RETREAT

The Environmental Center wrapped up the summer with two days of facilitated team building, bonding, and a raft float down Big Eddy with Sun Country Tours! A huge thank you goes out to Moe Carrick for leading our first day together, encouraging us to peel back the layers of our work and communication styles and face future challenges as a united front - a Force of Nature.

### JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are seeking an organized and dynamic individual for the role of Business Manager. This is a full-time position with benefits.

Please share the news with your networks to help us find the perfect fit!

Questions? Email Mike@envirocenter.org with "Business Manager" in the subject line.



The initial walkthrough at Crater Lake Spirits revealed the amount of plastic film they deal with.

We got to work on a pilot project to identify a pathway for plastic film recycling and test collection and delivery processes. In the second half of 2022, beverage manufacturers— Deschutes Brewery, Crater Lake Spirits, Sunriver Brewing, Worthy Brewing, and Crux Fermentation Project— **worked together to divert 4,480 pounds of plastic film from Knott Landfill in just two test deliveries.** Baled plastic was loaded onto trucks already headed to Portland (huge shoutout to Deschutes Brewery for taking the lead on storing, bailing, and delivering!) Bales are delivered to Far West Recycling where film is aggregated and sent to be recycled as content for plastic bags.

**After a successful pilot phase in 2022, we're happy to announce that this project is being scaled up! Here's what the team is taking on in 2023:**

- 1) Diverting 30,000 lbs of plastic film, with 15% of beverage manufacturers in Central Oregon participating in film recycling.
- 2) Finalizing a Standard Operating Procedure for film collection, to share with new staff at existing sites and aid with recruiting additional sites to participate.
- 3) Experimenting with reusable alternatives to plastic film such as metal banding, upcycled bike tires, and ratchet straps.

Updates on this and other expanding Rethink Waste initiatives will be shared throughout the year. Stay tuned!

**In true Rethink Waste Project fashion, we are collaborating with community partners to "rethink" our relationship with stuff – this time with : plastic film.**

In late 2021, Crater Lake Spirits and The Environmental Center's Rethink Waste Project convened a Plastic Film Focus Group inviting local businesses looking to reduce and recycle plastic film in their businesses. Most of the participants were beverage manufacturers that pointed out that a significant amount of the plastic film they were disposing of came from products they received, and the quantity of plastic film they do utilize is used to secure products on pallets to ensure worker and product safety.



Plastic film gets baled and stored at Deschutes Brewery.

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[envirocenter.org](http://envirocenter.org)



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## EVENTS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

**October 26-28**

### **Sustainable Oregon 2022 Conference**

Hosted by the Association of Oregon Recyclers. This conference connects folks to statewide waste/recycling initiatives, and provides updates from Oregon DEQ on the Recycling Modernization Act.

**October 27-29**

### **Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit**

Bringing together Oregon's outdoor community to learn, build relationships, and find solutions to the challenges we face in developing and elevating outdoor recreation opportunities.

**November 3**

### **All About ADUs**

Join us for this class intended for real estate and building industry pros looking to increase their knowledge about ADU development in Bend.

**November 10**

### **November Green Drinks**

To celebrate Native American Heritage Month, we invite you to join us at Tananáwit to hear from three local artists; a weaver, a beader, and a painter.

**November 12**

### **CampFire Fall Festival**

A free community event targeting kids and families. CampFire will have games, raffles, various activity stations, food carts, and more! 12-4pm at Troy Field.

**November 14 & 17**

### **Delivering Community Clean Energy Fall Conference**

Don't miss this VIRTUAL Fall Conference, hosted by the NW Energy Coalition and featuring clean energy expert panelists.

**November 19**

### **Local Energy Forum**

Come learn about energy use in Deschutes County and how you can get involved with planning for our energy future!

VIEW MORE EVENTS AT [ENVIROCENTER.ORG](http://ENVIROCENTER.ORG).



**February 24 & 25**

### **Mountainfilm on Tour in Bend**

We're excited to welcome you back in person at The Tower Theatre for the first time since 2020 to our annual fundraiser: Mountainfilm on Tour!

This year, expect to see a selection of the best documentary films the outdoor film industry has to offer, and get the chance to win some awesome prizes from local businesses, all while supporting our mission.

Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and we hope to see you there!



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**eco CENTRAL**

A Capital Campaign for Central Oregon's Sustainable Future

We would like to express our gratitude to our generous Capital Campaign supporters. View this list of supporters at [envirocenter.org/eco-central](http://envirocenter.org/eco-central).

## **VISIONARIES - \$10,000+**

Adam M Albright 1996 Charitable Lead Trust-25  
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Anonymous Donor  
Dave Howe and Barb Smiley  
EarthStrong Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation  
The ECF Living Trust  
The Hollis Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
Zero Energy Project  
NewSun Energy  
Samantha Richardson Family Donor Fund  
TallTreeTrust  
Visit Central Oregon

## **CHAMPIONS - \$5,000 - \$9,999**

Allen Engle and Traci Clautice-Engle  
Casey Family Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
David Hall and Nancy Hall  
EN Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
Energy Trust Of Oregon  
The George Backer Family Foundation  
Jill Current Household  
Lucky Fund of the Santa Barbara Foundation  
Pepper Family Fund at Seattle Foundation  
Strictly Organic Coffee Company

## **LEADERS - \$1,000 - \$4,999**

Barb Pettersen and Sam Handelman  
Bend Craftsmen Company  
Bo Bonotto and Jerome Colonna  
The Bulletin  
The Caliban Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation  
Candy and Curt Baungard  
Capozzi Family Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
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Cascade Financial Strategies  
Central Oregon Association of Realtors  
Central Oregon Radiology Associates  
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Cort and Tonya Vaughan  
Crow's Feet: A Mountain Collective  
Dennis and Wendy Oliphant  
Deschutes Brewery  
Dorothy Wylie  
Dream Home Building and Design  
El Sancho  
Eleanor Robison  
Elizabeth D Warriner  
First Interstate Bank  
Fran McCabe for Charity  
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Fresh Off The Grid  
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The Rosso Family Foundation  
Saginaw Sunset  
Sally Foster  
Sally Russell  
Samantha Weald  
Skjersaa Group at Duke Warner Realty

Somewhere That's Green Plant Shoppe  
The Source Weekly  
Suzanne and Gregory Johannsen  
The Tee Family  
Thayer Studio  
Thomas and Phillis Temple  
Tod Wooldridge and Leslie Blok  
Tom Elliott  
Tozer Design, LLC  
Washington Trust Bank  
Whole Foods Market, Bend

## **ADVOCATES - \$250 - \$999**

10 Barrel Brewing  
Adrian Bennett  
Alden Atkins  
Alicia Hall  
Amanda Pelle  
Annis and James Henson  
Aquaglide  
Bend Montessori School  
Bend Urban Gardens  
Bendistillery and Crater Lake Spirits  
Brad and Martha Hinman  
Bryn Hazell  
Byron Pittam, Marni Spitz and Sadie Spittam  
Cameron Fischer  
Car Stickers  
Carol Woodard-Kozimor and Jeffrey Kozimor  
Cascade Disposal  
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation  
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Central Oregon Beekeeping Association  
Central Oregon Latino Partnership Program  
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Cindy and Larry Murphy  
Connie Peterson and Dave Calvert  
David Newbold  
David Sailors  
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Dennis Staines Construction  
Diana Fischetti and Andy Polanchek  
Diana Lemus and Jason Bagby  
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LEARN ABOUT INCLUDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN.

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Parrilla Grill  
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Grube  
Republic Services  
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Agricultural Connections  
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Alexis Atkins  
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Ann Delach  
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aos skincare  
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Audrey Tehan  
Backporch Coffee Roasters  
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Basim and Kari Kadhim  
Bear Creek Storage  
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Bigfoot Beverages

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Bill and Eileen Haas  
The Bite  
Bob and Elizabeth Naidis  
Bob Harrington  
Boneyard Beer  
Bradley and Katherine Lemmon  
Brandon Ladd  
Brian Durbin  
Cabooost Kombucha LLC  
Callie Pfister  
Carol and Dennis O'Shea  
Carol and Ted Schoenborn  
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Catherine and Martin Morrow  
Catherine Smith  
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Celebrate the Season  
Central Oregon Pediatric Associates  
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Charlotte Wall  
Chelsea and Dakota Gale  
Cheryl and Michael Morgen  
Cheryl Thomas Yoga  
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Chockstone Climbing Guides  
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HIIT Logic

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Lindsey Hardy  
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Lisa Shaddox  
Lisa Smith  
Lisa Stano  
Lisa Stark  
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