This is the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Annual Report for 350 Bay Area, a 501c3 non-profit.
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Note from the Executive Director:
What is Possible?

This has been a complicated year for climate activists, also known as those sensible enough to know that we need real climate action right now to avoid even more catastrophic impacts. A major highlight was electing a new administration that has made climate action an essential goal, and the 350 Bay Area team was there – working to get out the vote across the nation.

At our region’s Air District, the movement achieved a major win: 19 out of 24 Air District Board members voted against the fossil fuel industry to require refineries to dramatically reduce dangerous emissions. Not only will our air be cleaner, this looks like a sea change for regional political courage. This was a hard-won, long-term battle and 350 Bay Area supporters showed up, pushing their elected officials on the board to adopt the most stringent approach to reducing emissions.

In California, there are signs of progress, and the 350 Bay Area team consistently calls on Governor Newsom to take immediate action on climate. In just the past few months, Newsom has called for the legislature to end issuing new fracking permits by 2024, directed the Air Resources Board to figure out a plan for carbon neutrality by 2035, and asked the Public Utilities Commission to adopt a faster pace for cleaning up our energy generation.

Bay Area cities are fast becoming a critical source of political momentum, resulting not just in local actions that reduce emissions, but in building the political foundation for state-level action. 350 Bay Area teams are there: working to get cities to formally recognize the climate emergency, and passing ordinances that require all-electric
new construction, and even banning new gas station permits (hats off to Petaluma for setting the pace.) Our 350 local groups in six Bay Area counties are digging in, building strong networks, and setting precedents.

Other highlights: 350 Bay Area’s new youth-led Mobilizing Team has added energy, excitement and creative people-power to getting the word out. The team’s 46 Days of Action campaign focused on educating supporters and taking action during Biden’s first 46 days. The team did an amazing job highlighting what we do best: providing the why, how and what of climate action specifics while providing the overall context that Fossil Fuels are Killing Us, an ongoing theme of our communications campaigns.

We continue the fight against powerful fossil fuel interests working to stymie progress at the state, regional and local levels. Activism is working, but not quickly enough. 350 Bay Area is now over 20,000 supporters strong, with a team of about 50 volunteer leaders working intensively to raise awareness and advocate specific and immediate solutions to reduce emissions at the state, regional and local level. Our small paid staff supports this impressive and dedicated team of volunteers as we continue to build the numbers and strength required to tip the balance against the fossil fuel industry.

We measure 350 Bay Area’s contribution to the movement not just in numbers and policies passed, but also in the richness of our community as we help add depth and breadth to the network of those seeking a just and vibrant future. Climate activism is difficult work, and we are committed to supporting — not just the work — but each other.

Though we deeply feel the pressure of not-enough and not-fast-enough, 350 Bay Area is happy to set that aside for a brief moment while we celebrate increasing signs of progress, and each other.

Thank you for being on the team! We can’t do this without each other,

Laura
We Are Accelerating The Fossil Fuel End Game to Achieve a Just Transition

The urgency of the climate crisis was brought home to everyone in the Bay Area this year as we suffered through weeks of dangerous air from the record breaking wildfires in Northern California and around the State. On September 9, 2020 the skies were darkened by an apocalyptic blood orange smog. Unfortunately, this is just a taste of what the future holds in store if we don’t stop using fossil fuels — 350 Bay Area’s main focus.

September 9, 2020  Photo credit: Ray Chavez/Bay Area News Group
Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force: Empowering Cities to Act

350 Bay Area has pushed elected officials in cities around the Bay Area to adopt climate emergency resolutions. Since Berkeley started the trend in 2018, 17 more cities and six counties have joined this effort, with over 90% of Bay Area residents now living in a city and/or a county that has declared a climate emergency.

Shortly after Berkeley’s lead, the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force (CEMTF) formed, led by Berkeley Councilwoman Cheryl Davila, to answer the question, “What next? How can cities take actions that will address the climate crisis?” In July 2020, 350 Bay Area volunteers and staff supported a series of five virtual summits on topics ranging from city planning to decommissioning refineries to stopping waste. Over 200 actions were identified and discussed in the series.

Now the CEMTF is following up on the actions identified last year with toolkits of best practices. These include programs and ordinances that cities have enacted to eliminate fossil fuels from buildings and transportation, to phase out refineries, to protect the Bay Area’s ecosystem, and to support a just transition and a green new deal for the Bay Area and beyond.

“This is the climate emergency that scientists have been warning us about for decades--it’s here now. . . . Let’s continue to make the Bay Area a model for the rest of the nation in addressing this emergency. . . .”

Congresswoman Barbara Lee speaking at the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force  November 20, 2020

“Congresswoman Barbara Lee speaking at the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force  November 20, 2020

“This is the climate emergency that scientists have been warning us about for decades--it’s here now. . . . Let’s continue to make the Bay Area a model for the rest of the nation in addressing this emergency. . . .”
It’s Time to Stop Building New Gas Stations

About a year ago, local climate activists in Santa Rosa noticed a few new permit applications for new gas stations. A coalition was formed (ConGas), and a movement was born. In many Bay Area counties, gasoline and diesel sales have been flat to declining for several years. The shift to EVs will accelerate that trend, even in the short run. It’s madness to create yet more brownfield sites requiring expensive remediation and threaten local water supplies with new gas stations that simply siphon sales from existing operators.

Petaluma stepped up and set the standard when they passed a permanent ban on new gas station permits this March. 350 Bay Area is working on providing the tools and support to help get similar bans passed throughout the region.

In Novato, Costco applied for a permit for a new 28-pump gas station in a large shopping complex. The mall sits on marsh land, with existing concerns about erosion from high water, as well as other hazards. 350 Marin and 350 Bay Area’s Mobilizing Team jumped into action to stop the permit, organizing a rally in February, contacting City Council members with arguments against approving the permit, and testifying at the City Council meeting to call out the hypocrisy of approving the permit not long after passing a Climate Emergency Resolution in November 2019.

Ultimately, the city council passed the proposal to approve the gas station permit. In response, a team of seven Novato residents have presented a lawsuit against the city and Costco for improper environmental impact
reporting and is now within the **litigation process.** Though unsuccessful so far at stopping the new mega-station, this local campaign garnered national press, including coverage from the New York Times, bringing attention to the need to stop building fossil fuel infrastructure.

This coalition is building a nationwide campaign to stop new gas stations. This campaign is called [NoNewGas.com](http://NoNewGas.com) and will include toolkits on how to stop a gas station in your town, easy ways to write letters to Costco’s CEO, and provide information about the latest in gas infrastructure news, including the Novato gas station. This team is also trying to elect new city council members in place of those who voted ‘yes’ for the gas station as 3 of them are up for reelection this coming year, 2022. One of our gr, Kevin Morrison, is running for Supervisor of Novato against one of the city council people who voted for this station, Eric Lucan. Please make sure to share and donate! We would love to see 350 Bay Area Action endorse him and create buzz about him!

Members are also looking to make a local Novato politics website so our community can learn more about what’s happening locally for politics.
Another Win for Clean & Just Transportation

On September 23, 2020, Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order calling for, among other climate actions, “100% of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks to be zero emission by 2035.” This was a positive step, but the urgency of the climate crisis is demanding that we move even faster to eliminate gasoline vehicles--all cars, buses, & trucks as soon as possible. The 350 Bay Area Transportation team continues to push for stronger state regulations and legislation as well as local actions to reduce car use and switch all remaining vehicles to electric. Also, see the no new gas stations campaign above.
We Are Building the Climate Movement and Civic Engagement for Climate Action

2020 Election — A Moment of Opportunity

The 2020 election was the most important election of our lifetimes. The very survival of our democratic system of government was at stake. Four more years of a raging climate denier and his anti-science, anti-democratic supporters could only mean disaster for life on earth.

The 350 Bay Area team of organizers knew a free, fair, and participatory Presidential election in 2020 would be essential for our activism; so in July partnered with Vote Forward to Get Out the Vote with a letter-writing campaign that was engaging, effective and easy.

Personalized letters work and are 3-4 times more effective than postcards. Vote Forward’s campaign also focused on voters in 12 swing states who are less than 50% likely to vote. Every week, for fourteen weeks, 350 Bay Area trained new letter writers and sent thousands of letters to voters by Election Day.
November 4th
Count Every Vote

Our civic engagement didn’t end after Election Day, though. On November 4th, 2020, 350 Bay Area organized nonviolent direct action contingents at both of the demonstrations in San Francisco and Oakland with one message: Count Every Vote.

The 350 Bay Area Mobilizing Team made sure that participants had what they needed to safely participate across a range of circumstances, but fortunately the election process proceeded in an orderly fashion, along with the demonstrations. The atmosphere at both the protests in Oakland and San Francisco was powerful, peaceful and hopeful, in contrast to the violence of the failed coup attempt on January 6.
We Keep Our Legislators Informed about Climate Issues & Solutions

Legislative education is key to our work. The power of collective action, particularly through civic action, is the driving tenet of that education. We give Bay Area folks tools to engage with their representatives and advocate for their communities. Demystifying the legislative process and giving people clear actions are essential to shaping a better California with a just recovery.

Graphic credit: 350 Bay Area Volunteer, Tess Dennison

Mobilizing Team and 350 Contra Costa meet with Congressman DeSaulnier’s Office
We Embarked on 46 Days of Action Starting with the 46th President

With the inauguration of a new president who acknowledges the threat of climate change, the youth-led Mobilizing Team felt hope that a new world is possible. A new world with an end to environmental and racial injustice, clean air, clean water, nourishing soils, resilient landscapes, vibrant and walkable communities.... But only if we continue to advocate for it.
With this enthusiasm, the Mobilizing Team planned 46 Days of Action starting on Biden’s first day in office with daily demands, demonstrations, and awareness campaigns. Our overarching message was: Fossil Fuels Are Killing Us. Each week, we dove into a subtopic and outlined actions catered to that specific theme. Over the course of 46 Days we took 46+ Actions and:

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- Provided 12 trainings and webinars that deepened our collective understanding of each weekly theme.
- Took 15 actions demanding climate action from all levels of government.
- Hosted and promoted four in-person protests and one digital protest.
- Worked with a team of 356 volunteers, mostly new!

“The 46 Days of Action campaign was a strong way for the Mobilizing Team to kick off the year. Being able to lead a sustained and public program like this broadened my experience in climate activism and it was rewarding to see the strong public engagement we received. Additionally, this campaign served as the Mobilizing Team’s catalyst to gaining wider influence in the Bay Area’s youth climate activism arena!”

— Ava, High School Organizer with 350 Bay Area
The Mobilizing Team Making Waves; 10 Youth Leaders and 40 Young Teammates

What started out as a safe space for young environmental activists to meet and mobilize online during the early stages of the current pandemic, quickly evolved into a cross organization intergenerational action squad. The Mobilizing Team in many ways reflects how activists organize nowadays — a hybrid model of digital campaigning, coalition building, and in-the-streets nonviolent direct action. Perhaps you attended a Power Hour — a model we adapted from our friends at Showing Up for Racial Justice — where we took real-time action after walking participants through the who/what/where and why of an issue, whether it was local rule making at the Air District or building national awareness around the Movement for Black Lives’ transformative platform.
The youth-led Mobilizing Team has had a core leadership of 10 members since it started last year. Our team has grown to about 40 activists and community organizers representing every region in the Bay Area. The team is broad in both experience and location allowing for us to be nimble in how we approach our organizing. One day we can be running a text bank urging the vast 350 Bay Area network to contact their local electeds and the next we can be mobilized in coalition with other community environmental groups taking on a specific issues in a particular town.
As the team has grown, so has our organizing model and approach to change. With the turn of the year and a chance to go bold, we pivoted toward an action-centered approach to organizing. Becoming action-centered lets Mobilizing Team members develop and flex all kinds of skills. A Mobilizing Team member could be leading chants in the streets one week then working on an email blast “behind the scenes” for an action the next. As we move into the next phase of our team, we’re looking at sustained campaigns that follow a few major throughlines mentioned in this report!
For Earth Week 2021 we hosted a virtual Celebration for the Planet! This event was a pleasant reminder of how powerful our community can be together — and how connected we’ve managed to stay throughout this unprecedented time. We honored three individual allies and one organization who have been working tirelessly with us to stop climate change alongside 350 Bay Area and 350 Bay Area Action over many years.

Our inspiring honorees were Wei-Tai Kwok, Isha Clarke, Eduardo Martinez and Communities for a Better Environment, represented by Andrés Soto — Thank you for your leadership and work to make our planet livable, sustainable and equitable for future generations.
Back in Action! Protests as We Reopen

Stop Line 3 Street Mural
San Francisco - April 9, 2021

Line 3 would cause as much climate damage as 50 coal plants, endanger 800 waterways, and violate treaty rights. It could not be built without the support of major banks; so we took our message direct to their doors. In San Francisco, 350 Bay Area joined with many other groups to paint the streets and shut down bank branches. In all, activists in nearly 100 cities have taken to the streets to protest Line 3.
Stop the Money Pipeline Protests Against Line 3
San Francisco - May 7, 2021

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8th Annual Global Anti-Chevron Action Day
Richmond Protest - May 21, 2021

Hundreds of Richmond and Bay Area residents rallied to protest Chevron’s global destruction from the recent spill here in the Bay to Pipeline Imperialism around the world. Community members shared their lived experiences about the environmental degradation and human rights violations of Chevron at this annual action planned in advance of Chevron’s annual shareholder’s meeting.
Big Win for Clean Air

This year’s biggest regional victory for health and environmental justice occurred just after the end of our fiscal year. It was the culmination of many years of work at our region’s Air District (officially the Bay Area Air Quality Management District). The Air District board voted 19-3 on July 21, 2021 in favor of requiring local refineries to install “wet scrubbers,” which are much more effective at removing dangerous particulate matter (PM) from refinery operations than cheaper alternatives. The Air District’s press release says that this “is now the most health-protective and stringent regulation of its kind in the country.”
We reported last year that our work with the Air District, led by Jed Holtzman, resulted in the official acknowledgment that there is no safe level of exposure to PM emissions. Therefore, it seems only reasonable that the most effective method of removing PM emissions should be required. It took another year of making calls, writing letters, giving comments, and getting press coverage, as well as suffering through many delays in the face of stiff opposition from the fossil fuel companies, before the decisive vote finally came.

As with any climate victory, success comes through coalition. In this case 350 Bay Area worked with Communities for a Better Environment, Sunflower Alliance, Sierra Club, Richmond Our Power Coalition and many more plus a host of key public health advocates such as Climate Health Now and the California Nurses Association. Hundreds of activists came together in June and July to push for the hard fought victory.
We are creating a fast transition to healthy, clean-energy buildings

Berkeley was the first city in California to ban the use of methane gas (aka “natural” gas) in new buildings, passing an ordinance on July 15, 2019. On June 2, 2021, Sacramento became the 46th city in California with regulations helping to transition to all-electric new buildings. (source: Matt Gough, Sierra Club). 350 Bay Area actively worked for these policies throughout the Bay Area, for example with ordinances passed in Santa Rosa (November, 2020), San Francisco (November, 2020) and Oakland (December, 2020).

Keeping methane gas out of new buildings is the “low hanging fruit” of building electrification since it is cheaper to build a new building without gas hookups. Our work at the local level has been instrumental at creating the foundation and impetus for state-level action. California’s Energy Commission is at the cusp of adopting a new building code that will aggressively push builders towards super efficient heat pump technology for water heating and space heating and cooling. 350 Bay Area was among the many groups pushing for an all-electric requirement with this code release, and we will keep the pressure up for that in the next one.

The bigger challenge is to get methane gas out of existing buildings. This will require state and federal subsidies, and a whole host of incentives and requirements. 350 Bay Area is working with a broad set of other groups to develop a set of policies that will support building decarbonization. It’s an exciting opportunity for broad collaboration: in addition to reducing emissions, building decarbonization will provide great job opportunities in the building trades. California just can’t meet its climate goals as long as we are piping dangerous methane gas into our buildings via a leaky supply chain.
Did You Notice Our Priorities?

Our Leadership Team of about 50 volunteer leaders met for two sessions where we dug deep to consider “Where We Are and Where We’re Going.” Out of these discussions came a clarified Framework for Action and High-Level Goals — which you may notice are the headers of this report!

**FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

We are here for justice. The climate crisis is the justice issue of our times, magnifying the accumulation of past injustices: racial, economic and environmental.

We welcome and mobilize growing numbers of people to act for climate & climate justice. We build deep civic engagement & advocacy essential to solve the climate crisis.

We organize, lobby and educate to push policy makers to meet the urgency of the climate emergency.

**HIGH-LEVEL GOALS**

Ensure resilient, safe, affordable clean energy — and clean energy jobs

Speed the shift to carbon-free, affordable, safe and accessible mobility for everyone

End toxic air pollution, prioritizing the heavily impacted front-line communities

Create a fast transition to healthy, clean-energy buildings.

Accelerate the fossil fuel end game and achieve a just transition

It is with this renewed focus and amazing leadership team that we close out our Fiscal Year of 2020-21.
Financial Report

The ongoing Covid pandemic brought enormous challenges to the world, as well as to 350 Bay Area. Fortunately, our many generous donors maintained their strong commitment to meet the climate challenge--our income of $296,000 exceeded our budget of $260,000. We were assisted by the federal Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program which contributed $26,000, thereby helping us meet our operating expenses of $298,000.

Next year we are looking to expand our budget to $330,000 as the climate crisis is continuing to deepen and the work of climate activists is more urgent than ever. 350 Bay Area is counting on your support to build a climate movement in the Bay Area and beyond to achieve a clean energy future with racial, economic, and environmental justice!
Team Report

350 Bay Area's team is made up of a few staff, who support hundreds of volunteers, who are all supported by hundreds of generous donors.

Meet Our New Staff!

Nik Evasco - 350 Bay Area Youth Climate Organizer and Program Manager

Cora Stryker - 350 Bay Area Growth and Communications Strategist

Nik (they/them) is passionate about building sustainable grassroots movements. They joined the 350 Bay Area family in October 2020 with a goal to provide a safe space for young climate activists, and they came on full time in Summer 2021 with an additional goal to start stitching together our vast climate community around inclusive projects. First up: getting deadly fossil fuels out of our homes and decarbonizing buildings. Nik's focus is on holding the big baddies accountable and empowering individuals to utilize their strengths in the big long fight for environmental justice. They received a Master’s in Migration Studies from the University of San Francisco (2019). During their time at USF they presented conference papers on the compounding traps of international immigration regimes and a worsening climate crisis in Mexico City and Singapore. They are active in the environmental and immigrant justice struggles and believe that community organizing and direct action are crucial tools to combating systemic oppression.

Cora (she/her) is an Honors graduate of Brown University, an award-winning writer, the founder of GirlBlazer.org, a former tropical field biologist, and the mother of two small children. As Executive Director of GirlBlazer, she drove the organizational and communications strategy, exceeding her crowdfunding targets, getting featured on the radio and by influencers free-of-charge. Throughout her career, she has been driven by the mission of empowering people to become the change they want to see in the world and she is thrilled to be the new Growth and Communications Strategist for 350 Bay Area, driving growth and deepening impact in her beloved adopted home of the Bay Area. As Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson says, we can meet the existential challenge of climate justice but we can only do it if we all do everything we can all at once. Cora can't wait to begin the work of building a climate movement with 350 Bay Area, empowering others and herself to do everything we can all at once.
65,520 IMPRESSIVE VOLUNTEER HOURS!

729 GENEROUS DONORS!
350 BAY AREA THANKS YOU!

Graphic credit: 350 Bay Area Volunteer, Tess Dennison