establish.
Greening Forward establishes, engages, and empowers a diverse global green movement powered by young people.
This is more than about young people expressing themselves; it’s about creating a global climate and culture that gets adults and organizations begging to find substantive roles that engage young people as the leaders of today.

This has been a critically game-changing year for us at Greening Forward.

Our growth has allowed us to substantially increase our impact on empowering today’s generation of environmental problem solvers. In the age of endless access, young people are discovering our world is full of problems. Our planet is in peril: our oceans are under siege, our wild habitats are being degraded, and wars are being fought over our most basic of natural resources. Young people know the issues, but how do we actually do something with this knowledge?

*Enters Greening Forward.*

We build parallels between “How can I keep my waterways clean?” to “How do I write a grant and fundraise?” When it comes to solving today’s environmental issues, the conversation shouldn’t just end at awareness. Let’s do something about it and let’s engage everyone. Youth bring a mindset on how to solve these issues and that very mindset can really transform how we think about the world. But first, young people need the inspiration, support, and catalyzing energy and all of this comes best from other young people, like those at Greening Forward.

Greening Forward cannot be the only outlet for young people to create change around community issues in a way that makes sense to them. Traditional adult-led environmental agencies have to make room for young people at the table as well.

Greening Forward serves the niche in the environmental movement of getting all environmental agencies on the same page about what authentic youth voice and youth leadership can look like.

This is more than about young people expressing themselves; it’s about creating a global climate and culture that gets adults and organizations begging to find substantive roles that engage young people as the leaders of today. It’s radical for some adults to think that they could hand over a program’s management to a high school student or even dare to be evaluated by a young person. It could be radical to think that young people could report the news, balance budgets, and engage in boardroom discussion. It happens. It’s happening. And Greening Forward is paving the way for young people to take this kind of direct leadership in the environmental movement.

But this annual report is only a tease of all that we really do to create a more collaborative, inclusive, and impactful environmental movement. Take a look at our contact information for our team on our website, www.greeningforward.org, and ask them what brings them to this organization. We have our own unique stories, but together our collective voice is what powers this movement.

In service,
Charles Orgbon III
CEO
Greening Forward
Greening Forward has allowed me to explore a different kind of environmentalism. Greening Forward has expanded on the ways I can learn and learn from others.

- Ann Marie Alcántara, 21, Greening Forward Vice President of Programs

Not only do Greening Forward members work for common goals, but we grow as a family.

- Daryl Burton, 17, Greening Forward Youth Council Member

Greening Forward has taught me the value of serving the community and showed me the profound impact that young people working together can have in the world.

- Kayo Shonibare, 19, Greening Forward Board Member

I believe that a young person could change the world. I believe I can change the world. Thank you for the opportunities you have provided me and my friends.

- Kevin Garcia, 10, Earth Savers Club youth
DEAR FRIENDS,

Here at Greening Forward we offer something quite unique. We strive to not only give youth a voice but also provide them with the tools to succeed in a world where the odds are stacked against them. The legacy that my generation and subsequent ones face is terrifying. We did not choose to grow old in a world of rising temperatures, chaotic storms, crippling droughts, and heart crushing species loss. Rather, this is the world bestowed on us, and it is now our burden to start solving these problems. Our incredible staff works tirelessly, pursuing new opportunities to reach youth for a global, collective impact. I am proud to be the Chairman of the Board.

Establish, engage, and empower is more than a motto for us – we understand these words as not only an oath but also a commitment. Greening Forward gives young environmental leaders the platform to pursue a better future together. This past year, we held our first International Young Environmentalist Youth Summit and hosted trainings, workshops, and skill exchanges for leaders across the world. Our Earth Savers Club Program allows us to channel financial resources and our technical expertise to +1,500 young people so that they can create positive change in their communities. Additionally, our Global Youth Service days have encouraged over 600 young leaders to better their local environments and communities.

The challenges we face are immense. I will admit, many times the challenge feels insurmountable. I joined this organization because I know by cultivating the youth of today we can secure a lifetime commitment to leadership. This passion amongst the youth I have met in my short time with Greening Forward is contagious – it fills your whole being with purpose. Finally, you understand that we are not meant to struggle the immense challenges of the 21st century alone. Modern society has divided our communities and alienated us from our neighbors. As individual stakeholders and global citizens, we all can change this cycle of apathy and cynicism.

When we join together in service to better our world, the fear of being alone is replaced by enthusiasm, courage, and hope. This is what Greening Forward means to me as a young environmental professional. I am honored to serve and support an inspirational group of young people and look forward to the amazing accomplishments of 2013 and beyond.

Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding our work our ways to get involved!

Please consider donating to Greening Forward to support the young people we engage and empower!

In Solidarity,

Jeremy Cherson
Chairman of the Board
Greening Forward
Our Guiding Beliefs

Promoting meaningful service-learning that builds intentional connections between the classroom, life-skills, and 21st century environmental changemaking prepares youth for the workforce and strengthens student achievement. We believe that meaningful service-learning takes inventory of community needs, develops solutions that solve root problems, engages participants over a long-term project, builds an intention curriculum connection, achieves a demonstration and celebration component - all with youth at the helm and adults as facilitators in the process.

We don’t wait until youth are “grown-up” to teach them how to read and write; we also should not wait until they are “grown-up” to equip them with the tools that they need to make a positive environmental difference in their communities. When youth engagement and youth voice are substantively added to strategy, transformative things happen within our communities and schools. Youth do not need adults’ permission to take the driver’s seat in creating change in their communities, however youth-adult partnerships leverage both young and old people’s experiences to improve communities and schools.

Engaging diverse communities in the environmental movement strengthens our work and our ability to solve community problems holistically. When all community stakeholders are actively engaged, everyone benefits. Our organization’s people reflect the communities that we serve, and we are outwardly trying to understand the unique needs and situations of the communities we serve.

With over half of the world’s population is under the age of 25, the need of for youth leadership is more pressing than ever before. There are more young people on the planet now than there ever was in history. We catalyze the unbounded energy that young people already have towards a shared collective goal and collective impact. We are actively seeing what each partner brings to the table to create win-win situations that result in better schools, communities, and youth leaders.
Our Programs

“the impacts of environmental disasters is going to require a populace of people ready to take meaningful action and create substantive change in their communities why wait until youth are “old” to give them the opportunity to lead?.”

—Daniel Kay, Greening Forward Board of Directors
The Earth Savers Club
In 2012, Greening Forward gave over $35,000 away in financial assistance to youth-imagined environmental causes this fiscal year to our 50 Earth Saves Club partners. Earth Savers Club partners come from all over the world and find our +110 curriculum resources, grants, skill-building, and mentorship opportunities helpful in their youth-driven campaigns to effect environmental change at the local and global level. The Earth Savers Club serves more than 1,500 young people directly and has impacted 10,000 other community members.

IMPACT Academy
Based out of Berkeley, California, the IMPACT Academy is a local Greening Forward youth-leadership that serves Bay Area students receiving free and reduced lunch. Greening Forward staff in Berkeley, California work with local schools and about 150 youth to provide mentorship opportunities and help connect young people to environmental service projects in their community.

International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit
Over 100 young changemakers culminate at the International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit, a zero-waste capacity-building conference, for the opportunity to gain the skills they need to take their environmental campaigns to the next level. Young people (and the adults who support them) working on issues across the environmental spectrum – from sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, plastics free, transportation, water quality, and so much more – are welcomed to attend.

Global Youth Service Days
As a Youth Service America Lead Agency, Greening Forward brings dozens of partners in our local communities together to provide a week and weekend of service opportunities for young people. Our Global Youth Service Days engage more than 600 young people in projects that help protect wildlife, remove invasive species and keep our parks and waterways clean.

9/11 Day of Service
Greening Forward galvanizes the spirit of 9/11 that many people hold into a day of service. As a member of the 9/11 Day of Service movement. Greening Forward helps communities give tribute to community heroes through small acts of green. Since 2010, we have planted four trees and involved over 180 youth and community members.
Greening Forward engaged 1,500 youth in water quality service-learning projects.

We engaged youth from over 15 communities around the United States, Canada, Cameroon, and Indonesia.

Greening Forward youth were recognized as ambassadors in both Connecticut and California by the Festival of Children’s National Child Awareness Month.

Our CEO, Charles, and Program Director, Hasib, gave TEDx speeches about youth environmental leaderships that reached over 1,000 individuals.

Garden to teach students about water usage

A rain garden will be unveiled at Bluffton Middle School today to serve as a model for water conservation.

“It’s not a big pond, but its lessons should send ripples throughout Beaufort County.

“Kids are learning how we have to differentiate water usage,” said science teacher Lois Lewis.

The rain garden — and the

Greening Forward gave over $35,000 to support student-led eco projects.

Our youth planted 200 trees, 500 plants, monitored the health of 12 streams and saved 155,000 gallons of water.

Please see GARDEN on 4A
Youth recycled 60 tons of waste, bringing our cumulative total to 120 tons of waste since our inception in 2008

International Young Environmentalists Youth Summit Reflections

“I didn’t really expect to learn much on this trip. I, much like most people, thought I knew everything about being green and environmentally conscious. I mean it’s not rocket science to figure out that recycling and reusing most of your plastics is good for the environment, but on this trip my eyes were opened wider than I anticipated. Being environmentally conscious goes beyond just what you do in your home, it extends to educating yourself, your family, friends, neighbors, and community. - Mirium

“Thanks for an amazing week, Greening Forward. You truly provided me with an awakening experience that I have been sharing nonstop since I’ve returned. To anyone reading this, get involved! You won’t regret the lessons you’ll learn and the fun you’ll have, not to mention the truly wonderful people you’ll meet. Go out there and make a difference! - Erin

“The importance of caring about our environment is becoming increasingly important in today’s world, as we are starting to feel the effects of using excessive amounts of plastic and basically dumping our trash into the oceans. Meeting other youth who are taking a stand on these environmental issues was very inspiring to me, and my mindset has been changed about these issues after working with Greening Forward. - Caleb
Case Study: Halu Ku Mana

Located in the Makiki Valley, Halau Ku Mana Charter School is one of few traditional Hawaiian schools left in Hawaii. Makiki Valley was populated in 400 AD and is thought to be one of the first areas of Oahu settled. Halau Ku Mana's property is where Makiki Stream splits into three tributaries: Kanealole, Moleka, and Maunalaha. These streams feed the aquifers for the city of Honolulu. Greening Forward student leaders at Halu Ku Mana have begun leading projects to slow the development of commercial industries in the Makiki Valley. They are fighting to protect a culturally rich area to the Hawaiian people. Elders (Kupuna) from Makiki Valley often tell stories of eating oopu (native freshwater gobies), opae (native shrimp) and other animals from the stream in the early 20th century, but these cultural activities are threatened when development comes to Makiki Valley. Students have used stream water monitoring as a tool to measure any changes of the Makiki Stream's health for the past five years. This scientific research has been presented to local agencies and is one of few scientific efforts in the region that can be used to show local impacts of development on Makiki Stream. Halau Ku Mana students are also reducing their school's impact on their neighboring streams by building compost bins and rain barrels for the school. Student leader, Makana, says, "In my opinion anyone can change the world, all it takes is effort. I think that young people can and do change the world. I think that young people can change the world because we are just as important as adults."

We built the first earthbench, made of cob and plastic bottles, in the South!

Greening Forward launches two mobile applications: Saving Seafood and Plastics Police
Financial Data Snapshots of the Year

$32.5 per Greening Forward youth
$6.5 per community member reached
Monthly average income: $11,900
Monthly average expense: $10,030
Average grant contribution: $13,000
Average expenses per day: $180

We are grateful to hold our 501(c)3 tax exemption status under the fiscal sponsorship of Earth Force. Donations to Greening Forward can be made payable to Earth Force, with Greening Forward in the memo line, and sent to our fiscal administrator, Dr. Lisa Bardwell, 2555 West 34th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211.
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