

student achievement
service-learning
change-makers

Our Guiding Beliefs

“Never before have both the environmental challenge and opportunity been greater for Greening Forward to support this movement.”

—Gianna Chrestman,
President, Greening
Forward Youth
Council

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 intentional curriculum connection, and achieves a demonstration and celebration component -- all with youth at the helm and adults as facilitators in the process.

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.

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.

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.

leaders of today
diversity & inclusion
youthful energy