



# Earth Team!

Inspires Students

• Supports Teachers •

Enriches Communities



Annual Report 2010-11

EarthTeam empowers teens to become lifelong environmental stewards through experiential education, skills development, and the building of community connections.

## A letter from EarthTeam's Executive Director and Board President

Dear EarthTeamers,

Thank you for all of the support that you have given EarthTeam this year! Whether a student or teacher, a partner, or supportive member of the community, we could not do the work we do without all of your efforts.

Supporting young environmental stewards continues to feel so important, as the globe struggles with ever more environmental challenges, requiring massive cooperation, and a societal commitment to conservation. As teenagers move through a transformational time in their own lives, EarthTeam offers opportunities for students to develop connections to the environment, fostering a lifelong commitment to the environment.

This year, as in years past, we have had the privilege of working with students and teachers whose passion for creating a better world are inspirational. Students such as Salvador Mateo and Julio Madrigal, who have started their own business with the goal of alleviating food deserts with backyard gardens and the students of FIERCE (FremontIans Enabling Real Change in the Environment) who have built their own inter-school network of environmental champions. The teachers we work with include Julie Edwards, Tracy Ostrom, Alan Fishman, Katie Noonan, and many others who share enormous energy, and a passion for making environmental issues an important part of the curriculum. These are just a few of the many inspirational people with whom we have the great pleasure to work.

The 2010-11 season has been packed full of exciting programs, passionate young people, and many firsts as well. In addition to our program work in restoration, climate

action, waste reduction, art, and student leadership, we have offered some special events, including the 10/10/10 Global Work Party, Earth Day, and the expansion of the Leadership and Environmental Action Forum to include both a fall and spring gathering of student leaders.

This year marked the first Annual Green on the Green Golf Tournament, held at the Tilden Golf Course. The event was a tremendous success, drawing nearly 70 golfers in support of EarthTeam's work. We look forward to inviting everybody back for next year's event.

This year, we also celebrate the work of Sheilah Fish, who cofounded this organization 10 years ago, and who was this year recognized by the Contra Costa Times with the Hometown Hero Award. Congratulations Sheilah, and thank you for all of your amazing work.

Read on to find out all about our work this year!



Sincerely,

Maggie Fleming, Executive Director

Katherine Barrett, Board President



## The TEAM in EarthTeam

**Maggie Fleming**  
*Executive Director*

**Kevin Sherrill,**  
*Restoration Program Director*

**Chiara Swartout,**  
*Aqua Team Watershed Educator*

**Lana Husser,**  
*Multimedia Coordinator*

**Liz Morán,**  
*Multimedia Coordinator*

**Doug Scott,**  
*Green Screen Production Assistant*

**Caroline Sandifer,**  
*Climate Action Campaign Director*

**Ben Bezark,**  
*Waste Action Assistant, Administrative Assistant*

**Fereshta Paghmani,**  
*Something's In the Air Program Director*

**Abel Buickerood,**  
*Webmaster*

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## Highlights and Special Events

# Leadership and Environmental Action Forum



The Leadership and Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) is a biannual event that brings together teenage environmental leaders from all over the Bay Area to share ideas and learn from experts about environmental issues and strategies for leadership. In partnership with StopWaste.Org, EarthTeam was able to offer two LEAF events this season, a one day event at Hayward High School in the Fall, and the much anticipated Spring LEAF weekend at Camp Arroyo in Livermore.

LEAF is a powerful program, bringing together passionate groups of students from many schools to learn from one another and make new friendships in the spirit of environmental action and appreciation.

The LEAF events are opportunities for students to cooperatively engage with their peers at other schools in other cities. Students understand that they are part of a larger community of young environmentally concerned citizens, a realization that brings students back year after year, and sparks relationships that reach beyond the events themselves.

In addition, students are given the opportunity to work with area experts in environmental issues and leadership. Presenters this year included: Bay Localize, Farm Fresh to You, Toast Masters, StopWaste.Org, The Ecology Center, East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, and the Youth Enrichment Program.

“I just wanted to let you know how encouraging and motivating this has been for me--Earthteam and the LEAF camps have really given me a great deal of experience and strength to carry on environmental work. This will be a great memory of my senior year!” - Julien Malard, grade 12, Washington HS, Fremont

## Aqua Team Summer Program

July 5th - 19th, 2010, Point Reyes National Seashore

EarthTeam partnered with the Point Reyes National Seashore Association and the National Park Service (NPS) to deliver a two-week intensive program in environmental monitoring at Point Reyes National Seashore. Students from Richmond High School and Pinole Valley High School participated in the summer science program, learning the skills required to monitor the health of the recently restored Giacomini wetlands as well as intertidal zones of the Marine Protected Areas at Duxbury Reef. EarthTeam staff and NPS biologists led students in hands-on field projects including: fish seining and monitoring, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, water quality testing, stream profile surveying, habitat restoration, bird monitoring, and rocky intertidal monitoring using established transects and protocols from the LiMPETS program. Students walked away with a confidence in their field-based skills in science, a sense of teamwork, and an appreciation for our National Parks.

## Coastal Cleanup Day

September 25th, 2010, Pinole Creek, Pinole

EarthTeam hosted it's first Coastal Cleanup Event at Pinole Creek in Pinole. Over 50 volunteers gathered at the Pinole Library facility to remove 125 pounds of trash and debris from the creek that would otherwise make its way out to the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean and negatively impact wildlife.

## Martin Luther King Day of Service

January 17, 2011, Richmond Greenway, Richmond

In partnership with The Watershed Project and Groundwork Richmond, EarthTeam students headed up various activities including sheet mulching, weeding, and trash collection. They helped volunteers plant in the bioswale, and taught event attendees how to make seed balls and prepare seeds to propagate. The Aqua team also gave demonstrations on how a watershed works at The Watershed Project's education table. They were part of a legion of folks who showed up for the Day of Service, nearly 400 along the length of the entire Richmond Greenway in total!

## Earth Day

April 16, 2011, Dimond Park, Oakland

EarthTeam students participated in an Earth Day restoration event in Oakland's Dimond Park, in partnership with the Friends of Sausal Creek. The event was a celebration of Earth Day, as well as the culmination of the Eco Stewards programs at Skyline and Oakland High Schools. Oakland's Mayor, Jean Quan, came out to support all those who volunteered their time to make Oakland beautiful.

## EarthTeam Restoration Initiative

# Eco-Stewards

Eco-Stewards is a curriculum-connected program designed to educate middle and high school classes in local environmental restoration projects. The program consists of three class visits and two field days, and is often used to fulfill Service Learning Project requirements and to give classes opportunities to interact with their local parks and

“Throughout this year I learned a lot about taking leadership, getting organized, and hands-on labor. I also became more comfortable with speaking in public and became more confident with myself.” - Stephanie Leyva, grade 12, Pinole Valley HS

creeks. Restoration ecology education topics range from water quality assessment, erosion control, invasive species control methods, and plant propagation, to wetlands functions/ hydrology and redwood reforestation. Students engage in thought-provoking discussions that encourage further environmental stewardship. Restoration field work takes place at a variety of sites in partnership with several organizations (see Community Collaborators). Ongoing project sites include: Sausal Creek, Dow Wetlands, Wildcat Creek, Point Pinole, San Pablo Creek, Rheem Creek, Antioch Dunes, among others.



### Eco-Stewards by the numbers.

758 students.  
10 schools.  
44 classroom workshops.  
37 field investigations and service trips.  
8 East Bay watershed restoration sites.  
2594.5 hours of community service.

# Aqua Team

Aqua Team is a stewardship and leadership program for urban teens featuring watershed education and restoration. Participating teens meet weekly after school to learn about their local watershed and work out in the field once a month. Students assist in regional efforts to restore native ecosystems; improve water quality; and assess watershed health.

This year's Aqua Team took on a service learning project of their own design, after learning about the devastating effect of street litter on Richmond's watershed and the San Francisco Bay. Students developed an education campaign for the community, conducting presentations at schools, producing a video, and conducting surveys to assess the level of knowledge of their community regarding watershed issues.

In the Spring of 2011, students took their environmental action to the source, investigating the use of individual plastic water bottles at Richmond HS. Students researched alternatives to individual packaging, and calculated the potential savings if the school were to use money spent on water bottles to improve drinking fountains on campus.



### Aqua Team by the numbers.

22 students from Richmond HS.  
24 students from Pinole Valley HS.  
49 weekly meetings.  
10 field days.  
563 hours of community service.



## EarthTeam Air Quality Programs

# Something's In The Air

EarthTeam's Something's in the Air (SITA) is a health science unit designed to educate high school students about the quality of air in their schools and communities and its relationship to the incidence of asthma. The goal of SITA is to increase the knowledge and skills of high school students, their families, teachers, and members of the

“I joined Youth for Clean Air this year and since day one, I felt involved and could see that I was going to make a difference. At one of our first meetings we studied the air quality of our area, which showed us how surrounded we are by diesel truck routes. This made the group realize that it's no wonder we have high levels of air pollution, we are enclosed by these routes, forcing us to breathe in diesel toxins.” - Kami Baker, Richmond HS

community about local air quality, its correlation to asthma, and actions citizens can take to reduce the problems. The program involves students in environmental education investigations that explore pollution, air quality, asthma, and policy. They also interact with guest speakers who are experts in the fields of air quality and asthma. Students develop action plans for improving asthma awareness and air quality. SITA incorporates a youth development model to improve student's knowledge and investigative skills while building leadership and communication skills for educating family members and community representatives.

## Youth for Clean Air

Ten students from Richmond High School and Mandela High School participated in the year-long after school component of the SITA program. These students, known as Youth for Clean Air (YCA) gained leadership, research, and communication skills, allowing them to speak out for cleaner air in their community.

YCA students at Richmond HS created and distributed 120 student surveys and thirty teacher surveys to determine which areas of the school had the worst air quality, and to determine if the poor indoor air quality affected student behavior, mood, and energy. Students then presented their findings to the Contra Costa Health Services Department.

YCA students at Mandela HS presented to the Oakland City Commission about diesel pollution, sharing their own respiratory health problems.

YCA students participated in the Green Family Fair at Glenview Elementary School, where they taught the younger students about asthma. YCA ran a popular booth with an interactive wheel that allowed students to spin and answer questions about asthma triggers.

YCA students also attended the Goldman Environmental Prize Awards in San Francisco.



### SITA by the numbers.

7 classes completed the SITA curriculum  
12 SITA students attended the December California Air Resources Board meeting where CARB made decisions on two diesel rules that would impact air quality and public health.



## Climate Action and Waste Action

# Waste Action Project

“[the Waste Action Project] totally spawned efforts to bring a garden and green waste recycling to the school. The students are getting ready to present to the school board about their efforts - they're determined to have green waste recycling before the year is out.” - Julie Edwards, Teacher, Emery Secondary School

**Why are East Bay teenagers rummaging around in the trash?!** Students involved in EarthTeam's Waste Action Project (WAP) have the opportunity to investigate their school's waste stream, to understand what their community throws away, and figure out how they can reduce their waste stream. WAP is an integral part of the Service Learning Waste Reduction Program (SLWRP), a program of StopWaste.Org which seeks to reduce waste in Alameda County.

Students at Montera Middle School, in Oakland discovered that a majority of their garbage was made up of food waste. Armed with this information, students, teachers, parents, and administration worked together to implement a school wide food scrap recycling program at their school, which diverts as much as 840 lbs of waste out of the landfill every month!



## Waste Action Project by the numbers...

- 1358 students
- 23 schools
- 40 classroom presentations
- 39 waste audits of schools campuses

# Climate Action Campaign

How do Bay Area students respond to the threat of global climate change in their communities? EarthTeam's Climate Action Campaign supports student groups in the East Bay by building bridges between environmental clubs at different schools. Green Summits bring regional schools together to share their environmental work and take their place as part of a larger community of young activists. The Leadership and Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) is the pinnacle of this collaboration, bringing together students from all over the East Bay to share and get inspired.

This year, students from three Oakland High Schools came together to restore a campus green house, after participating in workshops about climate justice and collective action. The effort, part of 350.Org's Global Work Party, culminated in a locavore picnic in Oakland's Dimond Park for all student participants and their families.



## Climate Action Campaign by the numbers.

- 3 Classes participated in Climate Action Workshops
- 20 Students participated in 350.Org Global Work Party



## Multimedia Programs

# The Green Screen

**How do you engage teens in environmental work while also providing technical training in cutting edge media technologies?**

EarthTeam's Green Screen program does just that, drawing on teenagers' interest and expertise in emerging media technologies to get the word out about local environmental issues. Cameras have become integrated into nearly every cell phone and online video and social media have become key to the success of any media campaign. The environment needs the kind of 'viral' attention that Internet video can provide, and teens are poised to master these technologies to become indispensable in the rapidly changing media world. The Green Screen is a weekly afterschool program that provides teenagers with media skills training to cover environmental stories in their communities. This year's students covered events like Coastal Cleanup Day and the Envisioning of Unity Park in Richmond; created PSA's about urban pesticide use and litter prevention; and explored environmental work that other teenagers in the Bay Area have been doing throughout the year.

Green Screen clips and episodes are online at [www.thegreenscreentv.net/](http://www.thegreenscreentv.net/)



*Green Screen promo video (top),  
and interview from "Envisioning Unity Park"*

“I have been working with The Green Screen ever since the eighth grade when the show was in its first season. Over the years I have gained a new sense of environmental appreciation that I believe I may not have gotten if I had never joined the program five years ago. I have learned to use Final Cut Pro and have become one of the show's student editors. The show means so much to me and my life has been significantly changed by the experiences it has given me” - Alex Ortiz, grade 12, Pinole Valley HS

# The Green News

**What is the connection between teens, art, and the environment?** EarthTeam's Green News brings together creative teens to share art, photography, poetry, prose, and videos that express a connection to their environment. Student submissions are collected throughout the year and published online on The Green News website, as well as a monthly e-magazine sent to over 4000 individuals. The Student Editorial Board, composed of Bay Area teenagers, updates the site and provides feedback to contributors. The Green News website is a place where students can showcase their work and engage in discussions and commentary with other young artists. The site hosts a vibrant community of young people dedicated to sharing their unique perspective of the world with others.

Each year all submissions to the Green News are judged by local experts in poetry, photography, art, and journalism for the annual Visuals & Voices Contest. Prizes, and certificates signed by State Senator Mark De Saulnier, are awarded to more than 50 teens for their inspirational work.

Student art work, as well as the winner's of the Visuals and Voices Contest, can be found online at [www.thegreennews.net/](http://www.thegreennews.net/)



## Green News by the numbers...

310 Submissions of art, photography, poetry,  
and prose from  
38 schools around the country  
4000+ E-mail subscribers

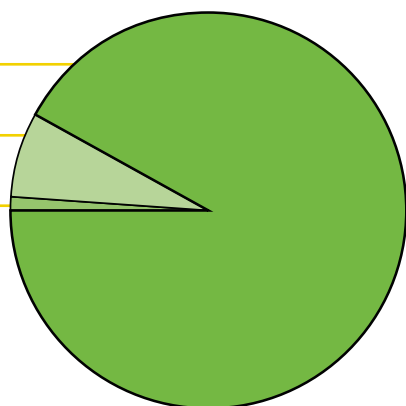
# Statement of Activities July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

**Revenue**

Grants 86%

Individual Gifts 7%

Other 7%

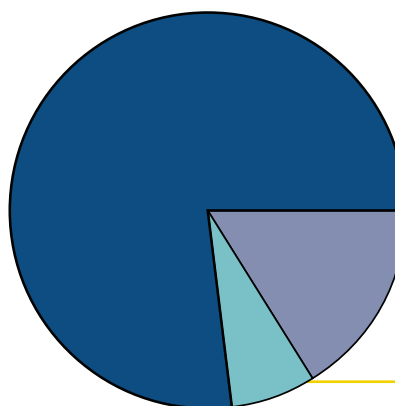


**Expenses**

77% Programs

16% Administration

7% Fund-raising



## Fiscal Summary 2009-2010

Income: \$373,035  
 Expenses: \$382,215  
 Net income: (\$9,180)  
 Total equity: \$147,118

## Fiscal Summary 2010-2011

Income: \$379,795  
 Expenses: \$344,840  
 Net income: \$34,955  
 Total equity: \$182,672

## Thanks to our 2010-2011 Sponsors!

### Primary Sponsors (\$10,000+)

Alameda County Waste Management Authority/Stopwaste  
 Association of Bay Area Governments  
 Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
 City of Hercules/RecycleMore  
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