



SUSTAINABLE CLAREMONT

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

SUSTAINABLE CLAREMONT ENGAGES PEOPLE IN EDUCATION AND ACTION TO CREATE A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY — ENVIRONMENTALLY, SOCIALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY — IN CLAREMONT AND BEYOND.

OUR TEAM



ANGELA OAKLEY

Resource Center & Community Engagement Manager



NICOLE LANG

Green Crew Program Manager



STUART WOOD, PhD

Executive Director

BOARD

Chair
RICHARD HASKELL

Vice Chair
DREW READY

Treasurer
JOHN HEITKEMPER

Secretary
SORREL STIELSTRA

FREEMAN ALLEN
CARSON BENNITT
CHRISTINA CIAMBRIELLO
HUGH COXE
DEVON HARTMAN
PEGGY KELLY
VINITA PUGAL

WHAT A YEAR IT’S BEEN!

At this time last year we set out to both deepen our impact in Claremont, and to extend our reach throughout the region. Despite all of the challenges brought on by the public health crisis — our committed staff, Board, and volunteers have made greater progress than we could have imagined.

In 2019–2020, we expanded our Green Crew to plant in Pomona and Rancho Cucamonga, hiring four Youth Arbor Apprentices to maintain and expand our urban forest. We participated in the Climate Strike and marched alongside our neighbors to affirm that Black Lives Matter. We continued our advocacy for a sustainable Village South, and against environmentally damaging water projects. We collaborated with college students on projects to encourage green business, research a sustainable Village South, and examine air pollution at our schools. We highlighted local food systems and leveraged volunteers to support community farms. We launched our first Earth Action Week after losing the ability to hold Earth Day, and we showed that a small group of concerned individuals can take actions that add up to a significant impact. And so much more.

This year highlighted just how interconnected social justice, climate and environmental justice, and public health are. They shine a light on what we know to be true: that we must take individual action and push for systems change; we must do what we can locally in order to have a global impact. With the demand for action greater than ever, we move into the next year with a renewed sense of mission.

Together, we have created a healthier, greener, more Sustainable Claremont — let’s keep the momentum going!

Stuart Wood, PhD
Executive Director

SUSTAINABLE CLAREMONT YEAR IN REVIEW

2019-2020

347 VOLUNTEERS

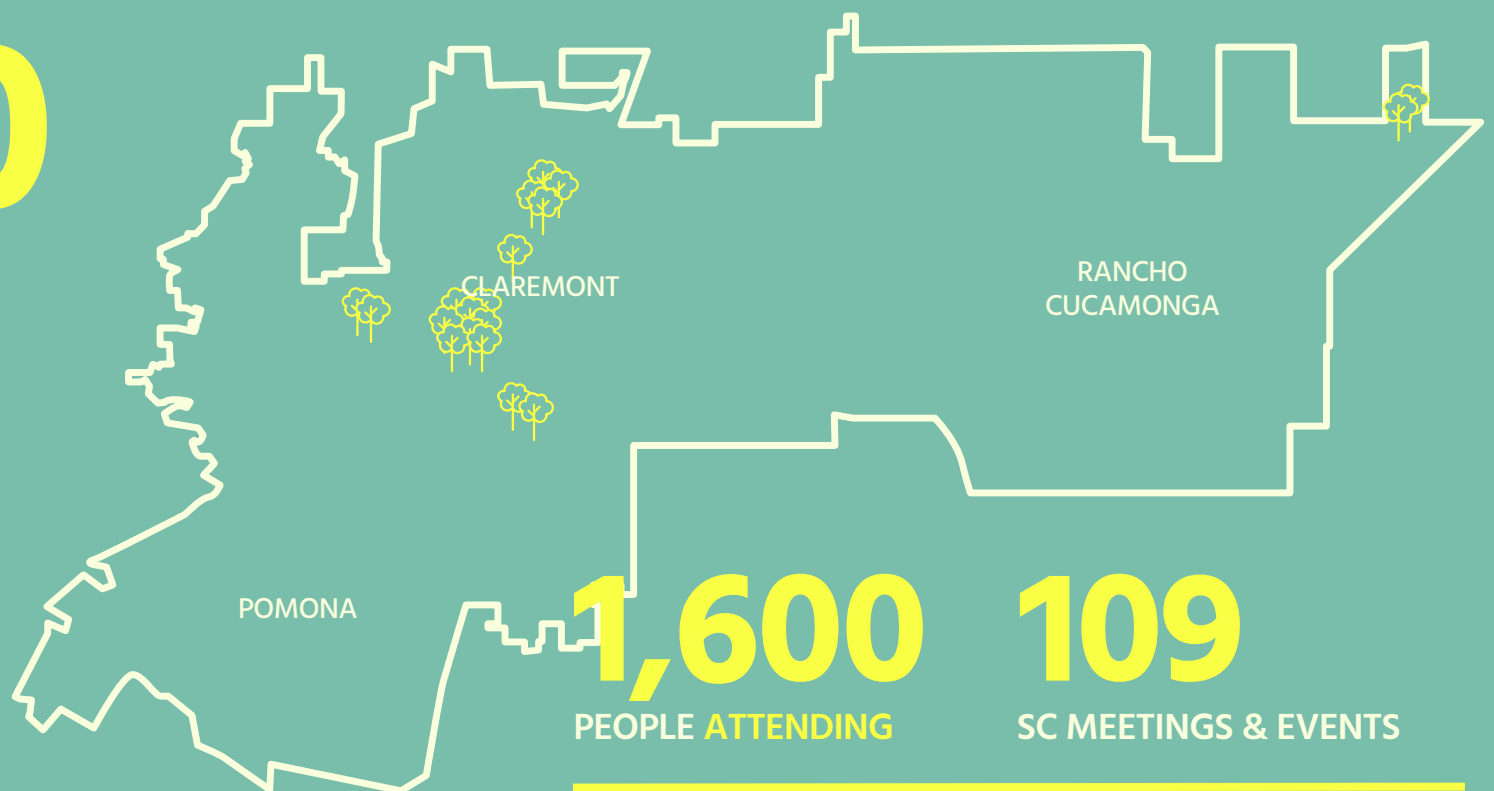
1,535 HOURS
VOLUNTEERED

200

TREES PLANTED
ACROSS

3

CITIES



1,600
PEOPLE ATTENDING

109
SC MEETINGS & EVENTS

8

SUSTAINABLE
DIALOGS

7

GARDEN CLUB
MEETINGS

4

GARDEN CLUB
WORKSHOPS

1

FILM
SCREENING

123

INQUIRIES TO THE
SUSTAINABILITY
RESOURCE CENTER,
RESULTING IN...

151

INFORMATIONAL
MATERIALS
CREATED OR
UPDATED FOR
THE PUBLIC

20-30

FAMILIES INVOLVED
IN OUR COMMUNITY
COMPOSTING
PROGRAM:

DIVERTING WASTE
FROM LANDFILLS

REDUCING GHG
EMISSIONS

AND GENERATING
VALUABLE COMPOST
FOR LOCAL GARDENS!

10,131

POUNDS OF FOOD
WASTE COMPOSTED

7,937

POUNDS OF CO2
ELIMINATED/
PREVENTED/
SEQUESTERED
(EQUIVALENT TO
9,500 VEHICLE
MILES TRAVELED)

5

DEMYSTIFYING
SUSTAINABILITY
ARTICLES

7

BOARD
RESOLUTIONS

3 APPRECIATING KEY SUPPORTERS

2 ADVOCATING A SUSTAINABLE
VILLAGE SOUTH

1 SUPPORTING MEASURE CR

1 AGAINST THE UNSUSTAINABLE
CADIZ WATER PROJECT





Sustainable Claremont’s Green Crew spread its wings this year. For the first time, in addition to planting trees in Claremont, we expanded and planted in Pomona and Rancho Cucamonga. The Green Crew program is a shining example of how nonprofits, municipalities, and volunteers can work together to have a positive impact in their community. City officials identify the areas where trees are needed, and then Green Crew organizes and trains local volunteers to plant trees to build a more robust urban forest.

In 2019–2020 we launched an innovative new **Youth Arborist Apprenticeship Program**. These paid YAAs received hands-on training with local arborists, went door-to-door to do public outreach that helped expand our urban forest, helped run and oversee each planting event, and monitored tree health throughout the city. Green Crew also started a social media initiative, Sustainable Tidbit Tuesdays, where they provide tangible, sustainable actions people can take in their daily lives. The STTs have garnered lots of support and positive feedback from Sustainable Claremont followers.

Sustainable Claremont’s Green Crew program has successfully secured over **\$190,000** to date in grant funds to help build and maintain Claremont’s urban forest. We are now officially partnered with Rancho Cucamonga, have had our first planting in Pomona, and look to expand to even more communities in the future!

Despite only having half a planting season in 2020, Green Crew:

Planted Approx.
200
Trees

Attracted
237
Volunteers

Held Workshops on Proper Tree Watering, Healthy Soil & Proper Planting, Pests & Diseases, and Proper Pruning

Organized a Tree Talk on Proper Watering & Mulching



EARTH ACTION WEEK 2020

From April 20th–26th, Sustainable Claremont hosted its first-ever **Earth Action Week** online. Over the course of the week, we invited our community members to make a ‘Pledge-for-the-Planet’ in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Our goal was to encourage individuals to become active agents in climate solutions by making commitments to tangible, everyday actions that reduce carbon dioxide emissions or water consumption.

At a time when the climate crisis looms heavy over our future, we hope you are inspired by these results which show how small actions, sustained over time, can add up to very significant impacts!

631

Pledges

Over the course a week, 50 individuals from 14 cities pledged to take action for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

29

Trees Planted

These trees will sequester carbon dioxide, reduce pollution, provide habitat for wildlife and shade for humans

295K

Pounds CO2 Saved

The amount of carbon dioxide saved by those pledging action is the equivalent of driving the circumference of Earth nearly 12x!

800K

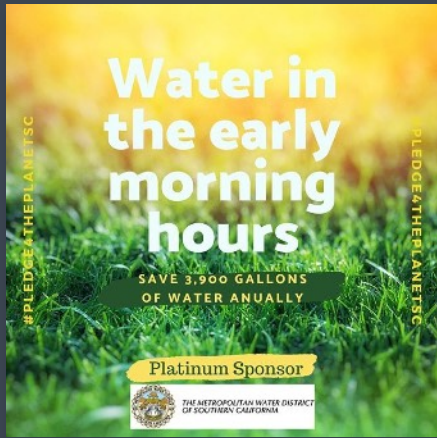
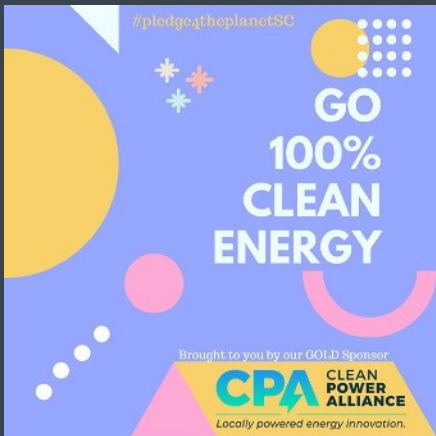
Gal. of H2O Conserved

The number of gallons of water our network pledged to conserve is well over what it would take to fill an Olympic size pool

23

Consumers of 100% Green Electricity

Those making the switch to 100% renewable energy are leading the way to a more sustainable, carbon-free future.



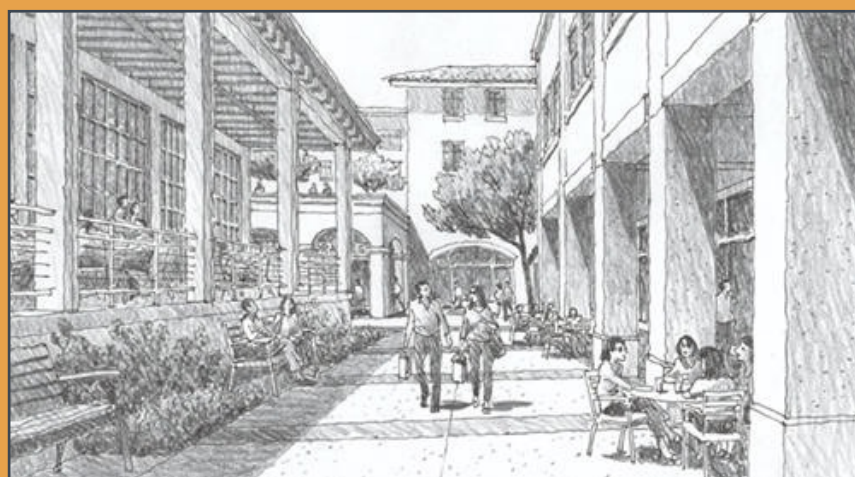
HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE LOCAL AIR POLLUTION STUDY

A team of **Harvey Mudd student researchers** wrapped up a year-long project working in collaboration with Sustainable Claremont and the Claremont Unified School District to study whether air pollutants are present in higher concentrations near Claremont High School during peak car traffic and idling periods of the day. The goals of the collaboration are to support the school community in understanding how commuting behaviors can impact air quality and to explore ways to create a healthier environment for students. The project's focus is to increase awareness among CHS students, parents, teachers, and administrators about the issue of air pollution and everyday activities that contribute to it. While the COVID-19 campus closures in mid-March forced the project to be suspended, the collaborators have laid a solid foundation for the work to continue as soon as it is safe to do so. [\(Video\)](#)



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Land Use and Development Committee doubled down on advocacy efforts for a sustainable Village South this year. A team of three Harvey Mudd College students extensively researched the feasibility of a net-zero development, and delivered a public presentation of their findings to a packed auditorium of community members at our 96th Dialog. [\(Video\)](#)



Members of the Committee and student team visited several successful sustainable developments throughout the region to gain a more robust understanding of how those features could be applied in Claremont. Those observations, coupled with a comprehensive review of the latest research on effective transit oriented development, led the advocacy effort.

After passing two Board Resolutions, circulating a public petition that garnered more than 900 signatories, and submitting countless comments at City Council meetings — the committee's work has produced tangible results. Already, Claremont City Council has directed staff to revisit the Planning Goals and Guiding Principles that impose overly restrictive constraints on height and density that would have severely hamstrung the feasibility of a truly sustainable development.

Looking forward, the Committee will continue to push for developments in the Claremont community that are inclusive, equitable, and sustainable!

WATER ACTION GROUP

Sustainable Claremont's Water Action Group joined a coalition of organizations, led by the National Parks Conservation Association, to oppose the Cadiz Water Project.

After hosting the parties involved to discuss the project at a Board meeting, and doing a deep dive into the scientific literature, the SC Board passed a resolution opposing further study of the Cadiz project, concluding that existing, robust scientific studies already established that the proposed water project would harm the desert aquifer and connected springs, and would adversely affect natural or cultural resources. We continue to track the status of the Cadiz Water Project.



OTHER PROGRAMMING

DIALOG PROGRAM

This year we surpassed our 100th Sustainability Dialog! As our oldest program, Dialogs are a public forum to learn about relevant, local and global sustainability issues.

TOPICS WE COVERED:

- A Sustainable Future for South Village ([Video](#))
- The Green New Deal ([Video](#))
- How to Deal with Plastics ([Video](#))
- Home Ground: The San Gabriels in the Anthropocene ([Video](#))
- Can Claremont’s Village South development achieve net-zero-energy? ([Video](#))
- Update on the Clean Power Alliance ([Video](#))
- Safe Clean Water Program ([Video](#))
- Parking, American Style ([Video](#))

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

Sustainable Claremont's community composting program was established in 2018 at the Claremont Friends Meeting. This program locally composts the food waste of 20–30 families, diverting the waste from landfills, reducing GHG emissions, and generating valuable compost for local gardens!

7,937

Pounds of CO2
Eliminated/prevented/
sequestered — equivalent to
9,500 vehicle miles traveled!

10,131

Pounds of Food Waste
Composted



GARDEN CLUB

Formed in 2012 as a working group of Sustainable Claremont, the Claremont Garden Club exists to share information, promote sustainable practices, and provide a way to meet other garden enthusiasts. We aim to help local gardeners make the most of their landscapes while having fun in the process! The Club also co-sponsors an annual free [Flower Show](#) with the Woman’s Club of Claremont in March, and also organizes an annual garden tour, [Claremont Eclectic: A tour of six local gardens](#), which takes place in April each year.

SUSTAINABLE TIDBIT TUESDAYS

On Tuesdays, we share tips on how to work towards living a greener lifestyle.

STT: Lower the plastic pollution created from your festivities — make natural confetti from (fallen) leaves! It’s safer for animals, doesn’t require outdoor cleanup and is a great activity for kiddos! Plus, it’s FREE!! Try this out for birthdays, weddings, and all kinds of parties.



DEMYSTIFYING SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable Claremont publishes articles on various aspects of sustainability in the [Claremont Courier](#), in 2019–2020, the articles included the following:

- Silent Spring — How to Avoid a Reprise
- Telling the Trees From the Forest
- Our Clean Water Future
- After the Holidays: The Other Kind of Tree Trimming
- Sustainable Claremont Urges a Yes Vote on Measure CR

SCHOOL ACTION GROUP

School Action Group continues to foster partnerships that help our schools obtain the resources and expertise to teach and model sustainable practices — like planting five trees at **Chaparral Elementary School!**

IN THE COMMUNITY

National Clean Up Day
at Wheeler Park



Invasive Species Removal
at the Bernard Field Station



Film Showing



As part of their program, Business students at University of La Verne created a company to sell products, with all proceeds given to a partner charity. Thus began their business, **HelioCharge**, which sells solar phone chargers.

LOOKING AHEAD

ADOPT A TREE

Sustainable Claremont wants to plant a tree for YOU!

This year we are launching our new Adopt-a-Tree/ Tribute Tree program. Made possible through a generous donation from the estate of Ray and Barbara Fowler, this program will help continue to grow our community’s urban forest. With your direct donation, we will plant a tree that for generations will sequester carbon to fight climate change, provide habitat for native wildlife, decrease the urban heat island effect, and provide shade and beauty for the neighborhood! You will receive a certificate recognizing your donation, and we will also provide you with information on the tree species and the tree’s location.



GREEN HOME TOUR

Sustainable Claremont is excited to announce our inaugural Green Home Tour. Delayed by a year due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, we are cautiously optimistic about our ability to launch the program in Spring 2021.

Tour participants will have access to five homes in Claremont that have made significant sustainability upgrades, including energy-efficient systems, solar power, waterwise landscapes, greywater systems, and more! They will also have the opportunity to speak with the homeowners (or volunteers stationed at each home) directly about which contractors were used for each upgrade and whether they would recommend them, what the homeowner would do differently or would avoid, and to just get a general sense of the possibilities.

The aim of the Green Home Tour is simple: to provide more resources about local, sustainable home upgrade providers, a greater understanding of what can be upgraded and how to do it, and first-hand testimonials to provide insight into the process.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating our community’s most sustainable homes!



SUSTAINABLECLAREMONT

PO BOX 1502
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

(909) 625 8767 x238

SUSTAINABLECLAREMONT.ORG