



Green Umbrella
REGIONAL CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

2025

Annual Report



Our Mission

Green Umbrella leads cross-sector collaboration to accelerate climate action across Greater Cincinnati.

Our Vision

We envision a thriving region where:

- Climate action is regional, equitable, and collaborative
- Community voice is centered and supported
- Our people, communities, and environments are interconnected and resilient

Our Values

- **Environmental Stewardship**, we believe caring for the land, water, and air will enhance and restore our region for generations to come.
- **Regional Collaboration**, we trust in the power of the collective and recognize the need for collaboration in climate efforts.
- **Community Wellbeing**, we prioritize and acknowledge the social, cultural, economic, and environmental conditions that impact quality of life for all in our region.
- **Equity & Justice**, we recognize the historic and continued environmental injustices imposed on marginalized groups, and are committed to addressing the conditions that perpetuate harm and to advocating for repair.

Our Region

Green Umbrella serves a 10-county region in Greater Cincinnati, consisting of dozens of urban and rural communities spanning Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and Southeast Indiana. This special segment of the Ohio River Valley has a population of over 2.2 million community members living across 188 individual jurisdictions, including cities, towns, townships, and villages.

These regional lands where current communities were built are located on the unceded and stolen territories of the Adena, Hopewell, Kaskaskia, Myaamia (Miami), Osage, Shawandasse Tula (Shawanwaki/Shawnee), and Tsalaguwetiyi (Cherokee) peoples.



Thank you

A Message from Green Umbrella's Board President

Greetings, Green Umbrella Community!

As I reflect on 2025 and all of the change and uncertainty that many of us experienced throughout the year, I am still amazed by the progress that Green Umbrella was able to achieve, and continues to make even into the new year. As a long-time supporter of the organization, it's been exciting to see the sustained growth, such as hosting the largest Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit in our history (so far!); growing the Green Schoolyards Action Network and Food Policy Council; and successfully launching new initiatives like the 25 Communities Project. Green Umbrella continues to build partnerships with local governments, businesses, and community leaders, with the true

understanding that no one can do this alone.

Despite navigating the challenges of several federal and regional funding losses throughout the year, Green Umbrella took on the intensive process of developing a new five-year strategic plan and a comprehensive communications plan in 2025. The creation of both these plans set Green Umbrella up on a strategic pathway for success in 2026 that will elevate the programmatic impacts and partnerships that make this regional collaborative so unique.

It is because of dedicated supporters like you that we have been able to maintain operations and continue the tremendous work of Green Umbrella, and why we need that ongoing support this year so that the

impact of the work will be even greater. It is truly an honor to serve on the Board of an organization with dedicated staff and volunteers who make a commitment to climate action, environmental justice, and sustainability work each day. Thank you for your support.

With Gratitude,

Jaime Love
Board President



Board of Directors

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How We Work

Green Umbrella brings our region together to work on environmental issues that no one could tackle alone. We collaborate with governments, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and residents so that, collectively, we can accelerate environmental progress for everyone in our region. We help our partners turn their ideas into action — working side by side to make our communities healthier, more resilient, and better prepared for what’s ahead.

Our work is rooted in the Collective Impact Model, which teaches that meaningful systems change is possible when partners come together to design and implement solutions that emerge from sharing their unique perspectives. Successful collective impact at the community level looks like having a common agenda, shared measurement of progress, mutually reinforcing activities across sectors, continuous communication, and a strong backbone team.

As the regional backbone team for climate action, our staff use this model and work alongside our members and partners on a daily basis to:



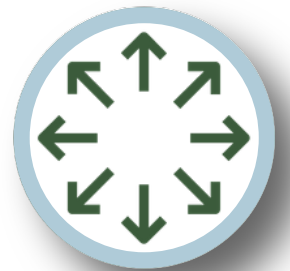
Connect

people and organizations from every sector and community



Educate

on regional environmental challenges, solutions, and action steps



Equip

local leaders with tools, data, and coordination needed to turn plans into results



Accelerate

progress on tangible projects and collaborations



Celebrate

the real progress happening across our region

Under Our Umbrella

We're Reducing Emissions



141 people coached through clean energy funding webinars

13.4% average energy reduction by 2030 District buildings from baseline levels

190,026 lbs CO₂e landfill methane avoided via food waste diversion

Supporting Our Members: Under our umbrella, we educated our members on how to reduce energy, water, and transportation related emissions. We hosted six workshops on navigating changing federal green energy guidelines to save money, drive climate-conscious energy choices, and build renewable energy projects. Three government members—Cincinnati, Fairfield, and Oxford—led the way in 2025 by each developing city-owned solar projects.



The Greater Cincinnati 2030 District provided energy benchmarking workshops for dozens of building owners, property owners, and local governments, helping them take first or next steps in creating effective energy management plans to lower costs, reduce waste, and make buildings healthier and more comfortable. More than 70 institutions were trained on how to monitor their energy use. The District also helped shape a state-wide policy effort in Ohio that has the potential to significantly reduce emissions from large buildings.



Green Umbrella, City of Cincinnati and Over The Rhine Community Housing, made major headway on a collaborative project to electrify and improve energy efficiency of 15 affordable housing buildings. These upgrades are underway with anticipated energy savings, cost savings, and improved comfort for dozens of households. The quantitative results and the residents' experiences will help researchers and policymakers outline efficient ways to facilitate future energy transitions for high-energy burden communities.



We worked with partners to develop the first Regional Sustainability Playbook, ThriveTogether, which is dedicated to reducing climate pollution. It identifies more than 100 data-informed strategies to reduce emissions contributing to climate change and improve air quality across a 16 county region. The Playbook will be expanded to be inclusive of resilience and equity strategies next year.



The Common Orchard Project worked with Queen City Commons to divert over 160,000 pounds of wasted food and scraps from landfill, preventing almost 200,000 pounds of CO₂e from being generated and released into the atmosphere. Farmers and gardeners across the region are using the nearly 55 tons of compost produced by the Common Orchard Project to build the health and yield of their soil and crops, which in turn further drives down emissions.



Under Our Umbrella

We're Building Resilient and Equitable Food Systems

22 organizations guided food systems development in the Regional Sustainability Playbook

107 students trained in green workforce skills

3,875 pounds of fresh fruit produced at Common Orchard Project orchards

Supporting Our Members: Under our umbrella, we celebrated a decade of the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council and the progress our members across the region have made in advancing the regional food system. To welcome the next chapter of the Council, we collaborated with members to design and launch a Policy, Education, and Advocacy Committee to more deeply engage regional communities.



The Common Orchard Project installed five new orchards in 2025, increasing food access, activated greenspace, and neighborhood connection. With these new installations Greater Cincinnati is now home to 40 public orchards in community greenspaces. We also hired our first Farm Manager for the Camp Washington Perennial Farm in order to scale plant availability across the region.



We released the “Guidebook for Resilient Regional Food Systems through Your Organization”, a resource designed to help businesses, schools, governments, and more use their food purchasing power to support strong food systems in their community. In addition to providing tangible next steps, the Guidebook also includes information about the impact intentional food purchasing can make with a case study on Cincinnati Public Schools’ adoption of Good Food Purchasing Policies.



Through the Green Schoolyards Action Network, we worked with Aiken High School to pilot a food safety standards program that trains students in green workforce skills and will allow student-grown food to be served in the cafeteria.



We co-hosted the region’s first Wasted Food Summit with Last Mile Food Rescue and Hamilton County R3Source, where 160 participants strengthened shared commitments to redirect surplus food to communities in need, and address the connection between wasted food and food insecurity and climate pollution.



Under Our Umbrella

We're Creating and Protecting Thriving Greenspace

Source: Kenton County

9 partner organizations highlighted through featured greenspace hikes

60 out of 66 Cincinnati Public School campuses now have green schoolyards

9,059 students connected with outdoor learning opportunities

Supporting Our Members: Under our umbrella, we connected members and regional partners through greenspace working groups to develop regional conservation management research topics, work directly with communities on local plans, and identify funding for collaborative landscape-scale projects.



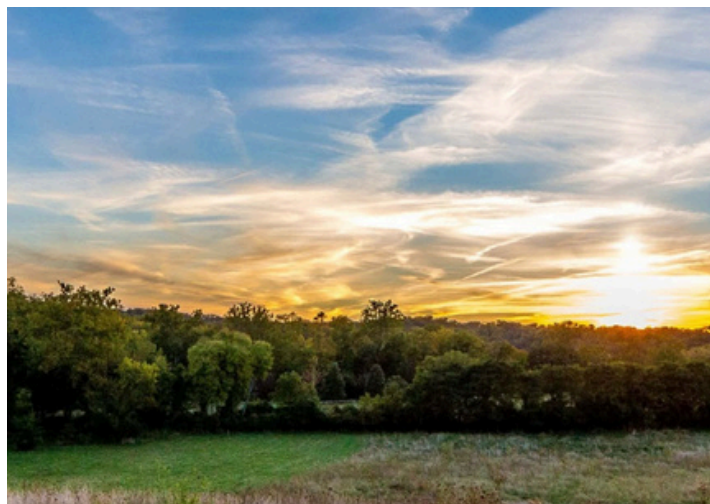
The Greenspace Alliance worked with four communities—Aurora IN, Cincinnati OH, Dearborn County IN, and Newport KY—to integrate greenspace protection into their long-term planning, and equipped planners and administrators across the region to prioritize greenspace protection and restoration as an investment in climate resilience and community wellbeing.



With support from the Green Schoolyards Action Network, Cincinnati Public Schools has built out green schoolyards across its campuses, made outdoor learning an integral part of district-wide curriculum, expanded green workforce career tech programming to new schools and grade levels, and adopted school wellness policies that prioritize local, healthy food, and time outside in nature.



We released “How to Connect with Your Representatives”, a resource to help regional residents advocate for greenspace preservation and conservation to their local elected officials.



We formally endorsed Issue 34, Great Parks’ levy renewal in support of conservation, outdoor recreation, and access to greenspace.

Under Our Umbrella

We're Supporting Local Communities' Environmental Priorities



17 local governments engaged in resilience work

25 climate projects completed through the Climate Action Fellowship

194 climate leaders trained on environmental challenges and climate action

Supporting Our Members: Under our umbrella, we equipped schools to develop green schoolyards and improve student wellness regionally AND nationally as a lead author on the first [Local School Wellness Policy Tool Kit](#) in partnership with Slow Food USA and Whole Kids.



We launched the 25 Communities Project, which is dedicated to training and connecting local governments to improve their community's sustainability, plan for the future, and become more resilient in the face of climate impacts. The Climate Action Fellowship placed 7 climate Fellows with the communities of Hamilton County, Oxford, Fairfield, and Milford in Ohio and Newport in Kentucky to expand local government capacity for public climate projects.



We co-hosted a groundbreaking set of climate migration programming including focus groups, data analysis, and scenario planning. These efforts have launched our region into planning to become a more welcoming and resilient region, and landed Greater Cincinnati as the national leader in this space. Partners included the City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Regional Chamber, HDR, ICLEI, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and Unbound.

2025-26 Climate Research Incubator Cohort



We completed the Climate Research Incubator program for 2024-25 and began the 2025-26 session, training 23 regional scholars and bringing them together with residents and local government leaders to drive practical, effective research that impacts frontline communities.



The Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership with Groundwork Ohio River Valley convened resident groups in West End and Winton Hills to design neighborhood-level resilience plans, which have already led to the planting of 170 trees in these neighborhoods and City funding to reduce food insecurity.

Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit

2025 marked the 12th year of Green Umbrella producing the Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit, the region's premier sustainability conference with national speakers, breakout sessions, an art show, live performances, academic poster exhibit, exhibitor booths, and more.

This year's Summit theme was "Sustainable Stories," shining a spotlight on the importance of connection through listening to and sharing climate stories, especially from communities with generations of knowledge. This was reflected in the presentation of Keynote Speaker Dr. Lyla June Johnston, an Indigenous musician, scholar, and community organizer. "I hope that [Summit attendees] take away that Indigenous nations possess a wealth of ecological sciences that could truly benefit the sustainability movement today," Johnston said. "It's important to honor Indigenous sciences, to learn from them, and hopefully to integrate them into our future solutions."

New to the Summit this year: we added an interactive grounding space where event attendees could center themselves in a calming environment filled with plants and art pieces. We also added an electric vehicle showcase in the morning for attendees to explore possibilities in alternatives to gas-powered cars.





46
exhibitors

95
speakers

600+
attendees



“Events like the summit are important because they help us garden the mind. Our thoughts shape our reality, and when we cultivate our thinking – rooting it in generosity, humility, compassion and the intelligence to care for the Earth, we can go out into the world and create change.”

–Dr. Lyla June Johnston

220 Members Supporting the Mission

Green Umbrella is a member-based organization for governments, businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits in Greater Cincinnati. When organizations sign up for our impact-forward membership, they commit to playing a key role in a collaborative community of changemakers working together to create a brighter future. Members gain access to a wide variety of resources that help build capacity for climate action across our region. Benefits include resources related to training, networking, marketing, technical assistance, and funding.

2025 Members

Leading



Supporting

Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District
Adventure Crew
Anderson Township
Banklick Watershed Council
Baraza Impact Design Studio
Butler County Recycling Solid Waste District
Cardinal Land Conservancy
Cincinnati Art Museum
Cincinnati Museum Center
Cincinnati Nature Center
Cincinnati Observatory Center
Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance
Cincinnati Permaculture Institute
Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub
Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society
Cincinnati World Cinema
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Citizens Climate Lobby Cincinnati Chapter
Civic Cincinnati
Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati
Clermont County Park District
Close the Loop
Communities United for Action (CUFA)
Community Earth Alliance
Co-op Cincy
CORV Local Food Guide
Creekwood Energy
Duke Energy
EcoPal.ai
emersion DESIGN
Energility
Faith Communities Go Green
Flywheel Social Enterprise Hub
Food and Growers Association
Fort Thomas Forest Conservancy

Friends of Big Bone
Friends of Boone County Arboretum
Gorman Heritage Farm
GoZERO Services, Food Waste Compost Courier
Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition
Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Green Building Consulting
Groundwork Ohio River Valley
Hyde Park Farmers Market
Imago
Indian Hill Exempted Village School District
Izaak Walton League of America Mt. Healthy Chapter
Izaak Walton League, Cincinnati Chapter
Just Earth - Cincinnati
Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
La Soupe
La Terza Coffee
Last Mile Food Rescue
Leadership Council for Nonprofits
Lloyd Library & Museum
Loveland Learning Garden
Marvin's Organic Gardens
Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati
Miami University
Ocotillo Herbals
Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA)
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio River Foundation
Ohio River Way
ORSANCO
Our Land Organics LLC
Oxbow Inc.
Parts & Labor BBQ
Power a Clean Future Ohio
Procter & Gamble

Produce Perks Midwest
Queen City Commons
RAPTOR Inc.
RefugeeConnect
Rich Life Farm and Fungi
Rojas Design and Sustainability
Sidestreams Foundation Inc.
Sierra Club, Miami Group
Sol Design + Consulting
Spring in Our Steps
SugarCreek Packing Co.
Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC)
Sustainergy CoOp
The Boone Conservancy
The Center for Great Neighborhoods
The Data Bloom
The Honey Hive at Pivot Realty
The Nature Conservancy
The Village Green Foundation
Thomas More University
Three Corners Capital
Three Valley Conservation Trust
Tikkun Farm
Trayak
Triple A Pro Services
Tri-State Trails
University of Cincinnati
Urban Native Collective
Vega Americas
Warren County Park District
Western Wildlife Corridor
Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati
Working in Neighborhoods
Z3 Data Company

Participating

17 Ways
AIA Cincinnati
American Sign Museum
BHDP Architecture
Boone County Parks
Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum
Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District
CAIN Ministry
Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation
Campbell Conservancy Inc.
Campbell County Conservation District
Campbell County Fiscal Court
Carbon Harvest
Childrens Meeting House Montessori
Church of the Advent Walnut Hills
Cincinnati Community ToolBank
Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority
City of Wyoming
Clermont County Soil and Water Conservation District
Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati
Deeper Roots Coffee
Design LAB: Learn + Build
Donovan Energy
Drive Electric Cincinnati
Earth Stewardship Action Network, Presbytery of the Western Reserve
EarthConnection
Electric Vehicle Association of Ohio
Evanston Academy
Evergreen Presbyterian Church
Five Rivers Metro Parks
Food for Thought Cincinnati
Gateway Community and Technical College
GBBN

Go Sustainable Energy
OKI Regional Council of Governments
Pachamama Alliance Cincinnati Area
Pepper Construction Company
Project Love Coalition
Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park
GoSun
Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Green City Resources
Green Energy Ohio
GumshoeKI, Inc.
Human Nature Inc.
Incubator Kitchen Collective
Indiana Department of Health
JEE Foods
Jolly Park Community Development Council
Kao USA Inc.
Kenton County Conservation District
Kenton County Public Library
Kroger
KZF Design
League of Women Voters - Cincinnati Area
LIFE Food Pantry
Meals on Wheels Southwest OH and Northern KY
Melink Solar
MetroParks of Butler County
Midway Elementary School
Mill Creek Alliance
Mogalix.com, LLC
NKY Health
Northern Kentucky University (NKU)
Northside Farmers Market
Northside Greenspace, Inc.
Noumea Strategic Solutions

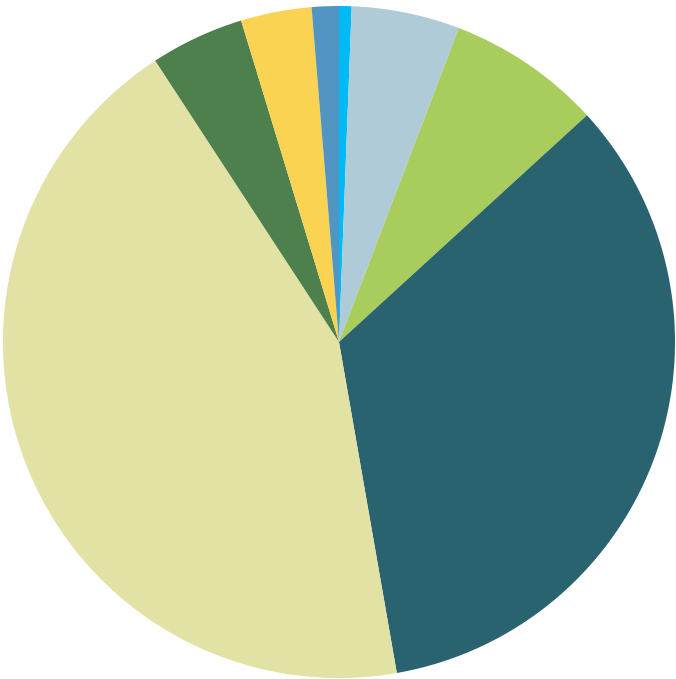
Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund
Ohio Farmers Market Network
Recovery International
Rotary Club of Cincinnati
Rumpke Waste and Recycling
Scrap2Home
SEAREN LLC
Shomrei Olam
Society of St. Andrew
Solar Energy Solutions
Solar United Neighbors
Successful Healthy Children
Swift Movement Studio
The Grail in the US
Trane Technologies
Turtle Up
Valley View Nature Preserve
Village of New Richmond
We Shall Overcome Foundation
Wee Hive LLC Sleepy Bee Cafe
West Chester Township
Wild Ones Miami Valley
Winds Green Accelerator Inc
World 5.0
World Affairs Council of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
Xavier University
Your Store of the Queen City and Meiser's Fresh Grocery and Deli

Financials

Revenue

- Sponsorships \$17,500
- Events \$152,698
- Contributions \$218,537
- Private & Corporate Grants \$997,503
- Government Grants \$1,276,774
- Membership \$132,727
- Earned Income \$99,355
- Other Income \$39,423

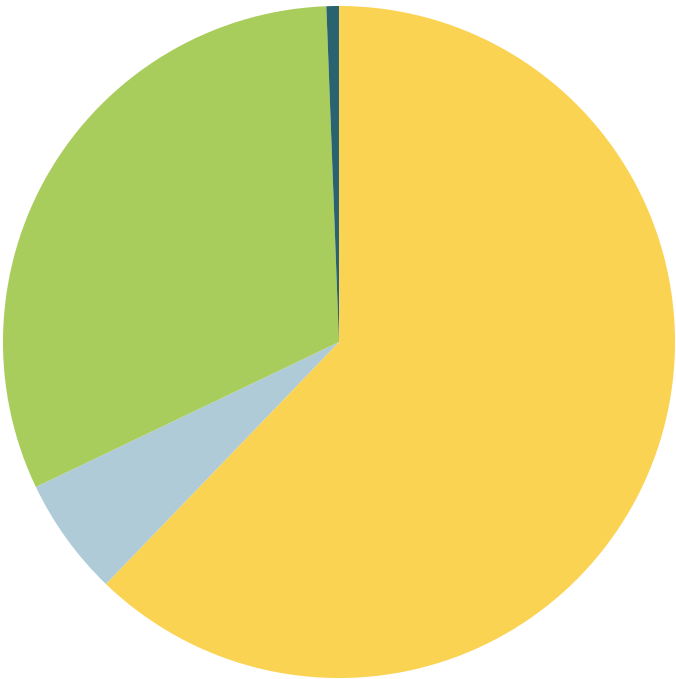
Total: \$2,934,517



Expenses

- Personnel \$1,174,401
- Professional Fees \$108,354
- Operating Expenses \$594,458
- Occupancy \$11,372

Total: \$1,888,585



Federal funding cuts across multiple agencies have created funding emergencies in every sector. Green Umbrella faced immense funding challenges in the past two years, including the cancellation of three large federal grants with a loss totaling over \$2 million. But - thanks to the generous support and contributions of our community - our critical work continues to grow and thrive! And through re-granting and collaboration, we were able to route critical operating expenses to communities also experiencing funding terminations. We couldn't do this without you!

Thank you to our generous program sponsors!

Visionary Sponsors

The Nature
Conservancy



MICHELMAN

Champion Sponsors



DUKE
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Leader & Steward Sponsors

Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society

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Stoermer Anderson

Sustainergy

Pepper Construction



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**Thank
you!**