



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
EFFECTIVE CITIZEN ACTION SINCE 1969



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## OUR VISION

We envision a future when the people of Missouri, regardless of race, income, or geography, live in and demand a clean, safe, and protected environment, now and for generations to come.

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## POISED FOR LONG TERM SUCCESS



It is in times of turmoil, that we face what may seem like insurmountable challenges and how we respond to those challenges can lead to failure or triumph. In 2021 and the beginning of 2022, Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) has taken the extreme trials of a global pandemic and attacks on our natural resources, and set the stage for triumph.

The year started with adding an experienced and innovative Executive Director, Jared Opsal. The Board of Directors and staff welcome his energy and vision in leading MCE into its next 50 years. After an almost yearlong effort, the organization has expanded the Board of Directors with a focus on diversity and unrepresented skill sets. With these propitious additions, MCE embarked on the adoption of a comprehensive strategic plan with a focus on our values of equity and inclusion, integrity, sustainability, collaboration and tenacity.

In the short term, we will be working on a number of strategic priorities. First, we will be building on our advocacy infrastructure with coalitions of partners across the state to address the climate crisis, environmental justice and other critical issues facing the environment. This has begun with the reorganization of our staff to more closely align with our advocacy goals, our creation of an Advisory Board of subject matter experts and expanding our reach to the Kansas City area.

We also know that our need to protect the environment comes from the undeniable fact that people and the environment are inextricably connected. It is our people that will allow us to succeed in our mission. As a result, we are committed to attracting a talented and diverse staff, adopting processes to provide an inclusive and fulfilling experience

## OUR MISSION: TO EDUCATE, ORGANIZE, AND ADVOCATE IN DEFENSE OF MISSOURI'S PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

for our board members, and expanding our membership and our membership's engagement. In addition, we will continue to implement plans to protect and advocate for our communities that are impacted by environmental harms and engage our legislature to adopt laws that provide these protections. In the past year, we have begun "chats for change", farmer field days, eco tours and other events that remind our membership of what we are trying to protect.

Last, none of this is possible without a focus on building capacity and financial stability. A significant goal of our strategic plan is to strengthen our financial sustainability through aggressive grant proposals, expanding donor engagement, diversity in revenue streams and placing a greater emphasis on unrestricted funds. These actions will assure MCE's triumph in our mission to educate, organize and advocate in defense of Missouri's people and their environment.

We look forward to seeing you more "in person" in the coming year and exploring all the wonderful aspects the environment of Missouri has to offer.

**Dawn T Christoffersen**  
Board President - she/her/hers



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Dawn T. Christoffersen</b><br>President | <b>Debbie Njai</b><br>Vice President |
| <b>Deidre Griffith</b><br>Secretary        | <b>Nygel Williams</b><br>Treasurer   |
| Steve Brewer                               | Bryan Meyers                         |
| Antonia Burgess                            | Angela A. Moore                      |
| Rev. Rodrick Burton                        | Joe Pitts                            |
| David Garin                                | Arlene Sandler                       |
| David Lobbig                               | Gwendolyn Verhoff                    |
| Steve Mahfood                              | Eric Wilkinson                       |

# ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Education

- Hosted a PFAS chemicals panel discussion
- Began Eco Tours events with first one at Such and Such Farm to better connect members with our mission
- Provided 12+ CAFO Action Network (CAN) Trainings
- Provided the 60+ farmers in the Known and Grown program with biweekly newsletters featuring selling opportunities, events, resources, policy actions and more
- Launched farmer mentorship program where Farm Specialist Chris Wimmer mentored three beginning, woman farmers to help them reach their growing season goals and overcome barriers.
- Trained Missourians on how to have effective meetings with their state legislators on environmental and health policy priorities



## Organize

- Organized and hosted our state environmental legislative summit in Columbia with 16 organizations from across Missouri to strategize on legislative priorities around water, energy, air, food access, agriculture, waste, public lands, and democracy.
- Held virtual lobby meetings for members with state legislators
- Began new volunteer effort to remove invasive honeysuckle at historic black cemetery, Greenwood Cemetery
- Recruited volunteers and started trainings for the volunteers involved in our rural drinking water testing project near CAFOs and secured partners for monitoring air quality near CAFOs.
- Saved Known and Grown farmers at least 10% on purchases of farming supplies through our new group buy effort to help decrease the operational costs of their eco-friendly farms
- Hired a new staff member based in Kansas City to organize community members and organizations and link them to state-wide efforts
- Formed the STL Toxic Waste Alliance alongside Just Moms STL to better organize the communities in St. Louis who are impacted by hazardous waste
- Conducted a tour of Northern Missouri to visit with partners on the ground that are directly impacted by CAFOs and the industrial animal agriculture industry, including Chillicothe, Trenton, Unionville, and Kirksville.

## Advocate State

- Tripled the number of times we provided testimony to the Missouri Legislature compared to the last five years – 92 times.
- Successfully fought to stop:
  - threats to the initiative petition process (HJR 79) the sale of Eleven Point State Park (HB 1972)
  - the stripping of Missouri Department of Conservation authority to revoke hunting and fishing licenses when necessary to protect wildlife and natural habitats (HJR 82)
- Successfully passed language with bipartisan support to include funding to support eco-friendly specialty crop producers in Missouri.
- Petitioned Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish state water quality standards for two cyanotoxins to protect the recreational uses of Missouri lakes and reservoirs

## Federal

- Launched our campaign for the 2023 Farm Bill
- Submitted comments on EPA's Waters of the United States and rallied public sign-on support around protection for Missouri's unique and diverse waters: headwater streams, wetlands, impoundments, altered water bodies, and waters that flow through karst
- Submitted comments on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Roads and Trails Plan to protect this unique and treasured natural resource

## Local

- Provided a statement to St. Louis County Council Committee of the Whole regarding the replacement of Bridge 164 over Coldwater Creek requesting improved oversight for worker and resident safety from hazardous waste in the watershed, including radioactive waste.
- Submitted a formal request to the City of St. Louis Mayor's Office to consider using federal stimulus funds to pay for the replacement of air quality monitors that are no longer functioning in the city.
- Provided support to organizations working to stop a silica mine near Hawn State Park in Ste. Genevieve County.
- Provided assistance to a community group working to stop a limestone mine near the Eleven Point River in Howell County.

## Litigation

- Provided Notice of Intent to Sue the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to its regulation of hazardous waste incinerators and the Clean Air Act
- Provided Notice of Intent to Sue the EPA regarding the agency's unreasonable delay in completing reconsideration of the 2012 Secondary Lead Smelting NESHAP lead air emission rule and its overdue review and rulemaking of the Secondary Lead NESHAP.

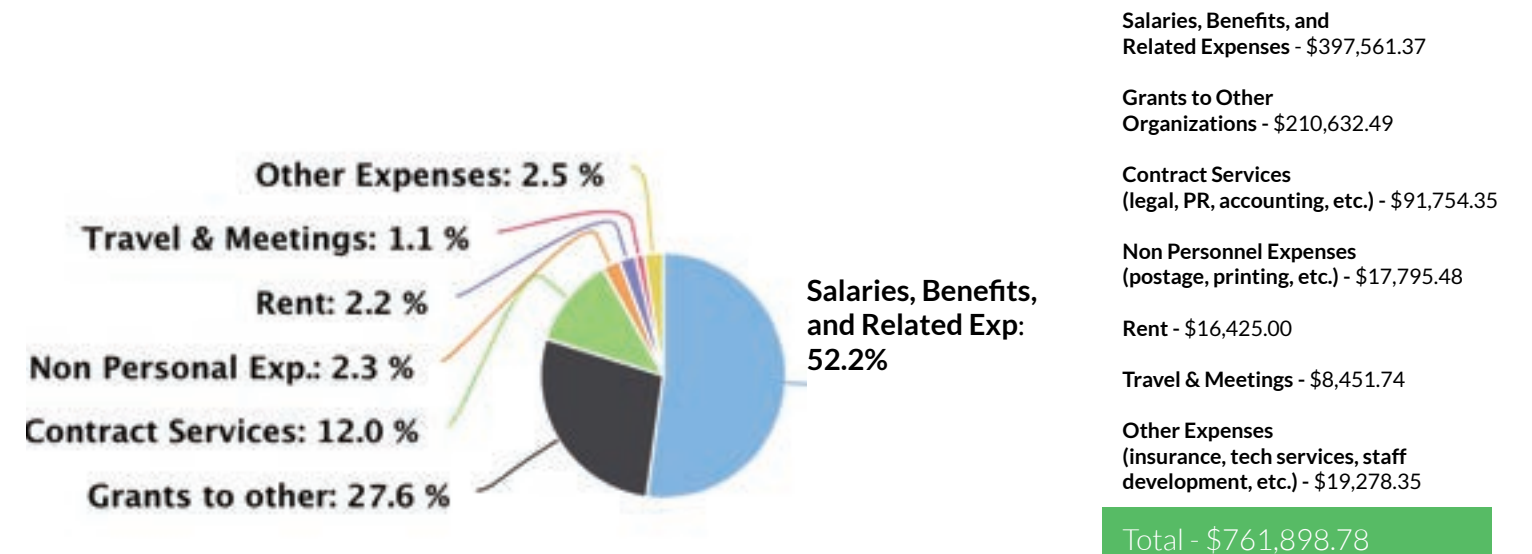




# BY THE NUMBERS

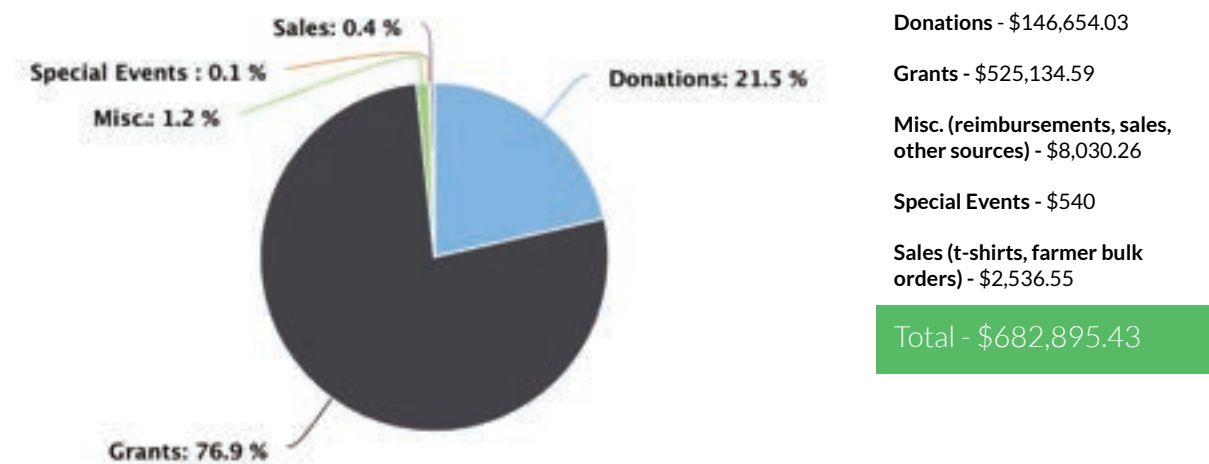
We are pleased to share Missouri Coalition for the Environment's financial activity statements from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 .

## Expenditures



- Salaries, Benefits, and Related Expenses - \$397,561.37
- Grants to Other Organizations - \$210,632.49
- Contract Services (legal, PR, accounting, etc.) - \$91,754.35
- Non Personnel Expenses (postage, printing, etc.) - \$17,795.48
- Rent - \$16,425.00
- Travel & Meetings - \$8,451.74
- Other Expenses (insurance, tech services, staff development, etc.) - \$19,278.35

## Revenue



- Donations - \$146,654.03
- Grants - \$525,134.59
- Misc. (reimbursements, sales, other sources) - \$8,030.26
- Special Events - \$540
- Sales (t-shirts, farmer bulk orders) - \$2,536.55



## MOVING FORWARD



As our 50+ year old organization reflects on the successes of 2021, we continue to view having an informed and organized community that is concerned about their environment as a necessary part of future progress.

We will continue working to improve our state’s agricultural practices to become eco-friendly and sustainable, we will be knocking on doors and hosting public meetings about environmental hazards, we will continue working to protect our public lands from being put up for sale to the highest bidder, we will be ensuring polluters are held accountable to the people and environment they impact, and we will keep connecting organizations and individuals throughout our state to share their collective voices for environmental action.

Looking ahead, we anticipate the need for an increasingly strong environmental voice in Jefferson City, and we are working to increase representation of people throughout Missouri with a special emphasis being placed on communities who have historically been discriminated against and left behind.

A big part of increasing our advocacy work will come from the addition of a staff member in the Kansas City region. It has been many decades since our independent citizens’ coalition has benefited from having staff in the western part of our state, and we are excited about increasing engagement from other organizations and individual citizens in the Kansas City region. This will better connect Missouri’s second largest metropolitan area with our ongoing outreach efforts in the St. Louis region and in rural areas of northern, southern, and mid-Missouri. This more coordinated effort will reach thousands of new people throughout Missouri about proposed laws and regulations, what they mean for our environment and health, and how they can ensure their elected and government officials hear their voices.

As Missouri’s longest standing independent citizens’ environmental organization, we intend to continue being a catalyst for other environmentally minded organizations such as the two we are currently assisting, Black People Who Hike and Just Moms STL. By providing fiscal sponsorships to these and other organizations, we can help expand the level of environmental work occurring in our state.

These current and future efforts live up to our legacy and more simply, our name. Missouri – we are more effectively educating, organizing, and advocating for more voices throughout our entire state. Coalition – we are partnering with and assisting more environmental organizations in Missouri. Environment – all of our activities focus on how we can protect people in relation to their environment regardless of their income, race, ethnicity, or geography.

Your support as a member, donor, sponsor, or volunteer this past year has allowed us to continue our vital work to address the harms of climate change, hazardous waste, and other pollution on the people and environment of Missouri, and your continued support allows us to continue this work well into the future. Thank you!

**Jared Opsal**  
Executive Director - he/him/his





## DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you to everyone who supported MCE in 2021! Your membership, charitable gifts and volunteer hours have helped advance environmental protection across the state. A special thank you to the foundations, organizations, members and individuals who made the year especially meaningful.

### FOUNDATIONS

Philpott Family  
Foundation  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Trulaske Family  
Foundation  
Missouri Foundation for  
Health  
The Elizabeth Brown  
Foundation  
Goode, Wayne & Jane  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Conservation Federation  
of Missouri  
Shumaker Family  
Foundation  
Victor & Selene DeLinieri  
Foundation

### \$500-\$999 gifts

Bedan Household  
Blair Household  
Cody Household  
Dudley Household  
Fried Household  
Griesedieck Household  
Jones Household  
Kane and Doherty  
Household  
Lieber and Bilchik  
Household  
Maasen Household  
Malkus Household  
Margherio Household  
Mathews Household  
McIntire Household  
Moss and Breckenridge  
Household  
Quigley Household  
Santen Household  
Schoenhard Household  
Tupper Household

### \$1,000 - \$1,999 gifts

Arthur Household  
Bradshaw Household  
Cloud Household  
Criss Household  
Flader Household  
House Household  
Lammert Household  
Lloyd Household  
Loves Household  
McGhee Household  
Meyers Household  
Mississippi River Network  
Petersen Household  
Robertson Household

### \$2,000+ gifts

Altar'd State-St. Louis  
Galleria  
Brown Household  
Christoffersen and  
Minkoff Household  
Drey Household  
Honigfort Household  
Klepper Household  
Lieber Household  
O'Reilly Household  
P. Wayne and Jane B.  
Good Foundation  
Philpott Family  
Foundation  
Robert J. Trulaske, Jr.  
Foundation  
STL Tree Pros  
StraightUp Solar  
Van de Riet, Jr. and Van  
de Riet Household  
Zeman and Noble  
Household



## STAFF

**Jared Opsal**  
Executive  
Director

**Carmen Harris**  
Membership and  
Volunteer Manager

**Rae Miller**  
Known & Grown  
Manager

**Sophie Watterson**  
Policy  
Coordinator

**Chris Wimmer**  
Sustainable Farming  
Specialist

**Christen Commuso**  
Community Outreach  
Specialist – St. Louis

**Jim Karpowicz**  
Community Outreach  
Specialist – Mid Missouri

**Melissa Vatterott**  
Policy  
Director

**Jamaica Whitehead**  
Community Outreach  
Specialist - Kansas City

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