



Missouri Coalition for the Environment
EFFECTIVE CITIZEN ACTION SINCE 1969

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Image: MCE Volunteer Event at Greenwood Cemetery to Remove Honeysuckle

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 3	Mission & Vision
Page 4	Board of Directors
Page 4-5	President's Statement
Page 5	Advisory Board
Page 5	Regional Captains
Page 6-9	Annual Highlights
Page 10	Financials
Page 11	Financial Supporters
Page 13	Business Members
Page 13	Community Partnerships
Page 14-15	Executive Director's Statement
Page 16	Staff
Page 16	Contact Info





OUR MISSION

To [educate](#), [organize](#), and [advocate](#) in defense of Missouri's people and their environment.



OUR VISION

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.



PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT



After adopting a significant strategic plan in 2021-2022 to guide our growth for the next 50 years, the focus this year has been on implementing that plan and staying true to the aggressive goals set. Led by our fearless leader, Executive Director, Jared Opsal, the Board of Directors and Staff have spent the year working on three strategic priorities – Building Our Advocacy Infrastructure, Centering People in Our Work and Building Our Capacity and Financial Stability.

Part of this work took place at a first in a long time Board Retreat in February at the Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park. The Board separated into three groups to independently focus on these priorities and to set short-term, mid-term and long-term goals, assuring that along the journey we can hold ourselves accountable. Our hope is to make this an annual or biennial event, adjusting these goals as needed. Of course, we took a break for a short hike through this beautiful Missouri park and for a little refreshment.

Our committees were active with a number of initiatives to create structure to accomplish these goals. Our DEI Committee has created a plan to assure that DEI related strategies are included in every priority of the strategic plan. The Board Governance Committee significantly updated our Gift Acceptance Policy to assist in our financial stability as well as updating our Board Member Expectations Guidelines.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - Dawn Christoffersen
- Vice President - Debbie Njai
- Treasurer - Ingrid Lee
- Secretary - Deidre Griffith
- Past President - Kally Coleman
- Antonia Burgess
- Rev. Rodrick Burton
- David Garin
- Caryn Haddix
- Steve Mahfood
- Dr. Bryan Meyers
- Ojetunde "Tunde" Ojewola
- Joe Pitts
- Arlene Sandler
- Gwendolyn Verhoff
- Eric Wilkinson

ADVISORY BOARD

- Doug Doughty
- Patrick Geraty
- Jeanine Arrighi
- Dan Snyder

REGIONAL CAPTAINS

- Joel Adams
- Jeff Brown
- Inmaculada Cepeda
- Jemila Collier
- Jacob Cummings
- Valerie De Wandel
- Jordan Durham
- Susan Fair
- Roya Farrow
- Charlene Flowers
- Robert Fuller
- Carolyn Hillard
- Helena Kelkai
- David Kesterson
- Kit Kramer
- Indica Kramer
- Brooke Kuykendall
- Drue Lawrence
- Nicholas Manczuk
- Samantha Meyerson
- Victoria Okereke
- Sarah Olsen
- Siboney Oviedo-Gray
- Shante Redden
- Braden Roberts
- Josh Stevens
- Mark Swain
- Clarisse Teepe-Fryrear
- Chelsie Tyrrell
- Michael Vestweber
- Maria von Stamwitz

Possibly the busiest of all Committees, the Development Committee redefined individual Membership categories for MCE, unveiled long awaited corporate and business Memberships, and created a Missouri Environmental Pledge for businesses to adopt along with a toolkit to improve environmental practices. The Committee also planned and/or participated in various environmental events, such as the Earth Day Festival, Honeysuckle Removal at Greenwood Cemetery, the Wild and Scenic Film Festival and most recently, the Americans Who Tell the Truth Exhibit, in addition to assisting in the partnership of our Known Grown program with Le Champ de Fleurs by Stone Soup Cottage.

We were also happy to welcome our new Kansas City staff member and the numerous Regional Captains added as we focus on all regions of the state as well as our newly created Advisory Board, with advisors that can educate our Board, Staff, and Members in the advocacy of our environmental causes. We look forward to what these additions can bring to MCE going forward.

With all this hard work, our Board, Staff and Members still made time for enjoying the wonderful environment that Missouri has to offer and we hope you have as well. As one of my favorite bands is known to sing – “let’s go outside, let’s go outside our minds and play.” We look forward to seeing you on the trail.



DAWN T. CHRISTOFFERSEN

President

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATE

- Delivered 20 presentations to community members and partners on environmental issues such as the Farm Bill, hazardous waste, and CAFOs.
- Hosted 19 events to connect people and organizations interested in addressing environmental problems in their area
- Disseminated over 4,000 pieces of literature to the public, including our People's Pocket Guide to Environmental Action.
- Created a new Local Food Locator tool for the Known and Grown website to connect more people to eco-friendly, local food in their community.
- Garnered over 50 media stories to inform the public about issues such as radioactive waste, regenerative agriculture, and climate change in Missouri.
- Canvassed over 3,000 homes to provide them information about radioactive waste in their neighborhood, how they can protect themselves from exposure, and how to learn more about this issue.
- Provided a table with information about environmental issues and MCE at 12 events.





ORGANIZE

- Hosted our annual state environmental legislative summit in Columbia with 20 organizations from across Missouri to strategize on legislative priorities around water, energy, air, food access, agriculture, waste, and public lands.
- Added 7 new farms certified in regenerative agricultural practices to the Known and Grown program.
- Launched the Regional Captain program to reach more people throughout Missouri and receive more localized information from across the state. There are now 31 captains in various areas of Missouri.
- Received a grant to purchase a refrigerated trailer to transport eco-friendly food from our Known and Grown farmers to points of sale within 150 miles of St. Louis to help these farms with their economic viability.
- Continued hosting volunteer honeysuckle events at Greenwood Cemetery, a historic black cemetery, and began partnering with MO Hives and Missouri River Relief to help recruit people for their volunteer events.
- Added a new staff member to help expand the Known and Grown program to reach more people in our original footprint of 150 miles of St. Louis as well as strategize for expansion of the program to the rest of Missouri.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

ADVOCATE

- Held our annual Advocacy Day at the Missouri State Capitol Building to provide citizens an opportunity to engage with their Missouri elected officials alongside a trained staff member.
- We signed onto 15 different letters supporting environmental action both locally and nationally that included actions such as opposing coal ash in landfills, removing federal funding support for factory farms, increasing air quality monitoring in Missouri, and increasing the resilience of communities most at risk from climate change's impacts.
- Engaged in over 120 meetings or phone calls with elected officials representing local, state, and federal districts in Missouri.
- We tracked nearly 300 bills in the Missouri legislature that related to the environment, voting access, and the initiative petition process.
- Our team and allies were successful in stopping the following harmful bills from passing the Missouri state legislature:
 - HB 268: This bill would have established the The Regulatory Sandbox Act which would have allowed corporations temporary exemptions from following environmental regulations.





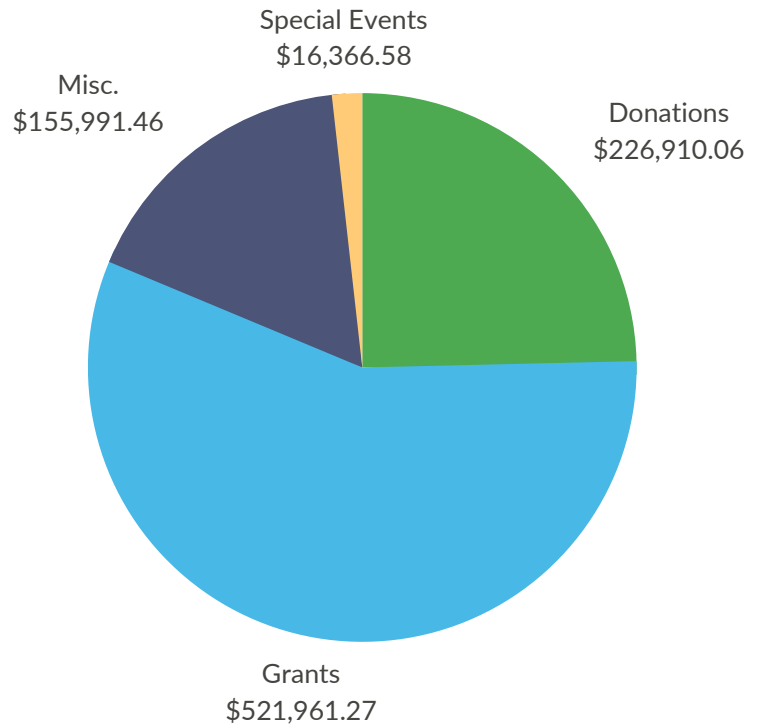
ADVOCATE

- HB 184: This bill would have required local governments to pay businesses to install electric vehicle chargers based on ordinances that get passed. This bill would have placed roadblocks in the way of a cleaner transportation future for Missouri.
- Various CWIP Bills: We were able to fight off all three bills related to Construction Work in Progress (CWIP). These bills would have allowed utilities to charge customers for the cost of the construction of a power plant, specifically nuclear, before the customers even benefited from the energy produced from the plant.
- Continued our campaign for the 2023 Farm Bill. We are advocating for the expansion of funding towards regenerative agricultural practices and removing incentives for factory farms.
- We are nearing a settlement offer from the EPA in relation to our litigation regarding their unreasonable delay in completing reconsideration of the 2012 Secondary Lead Smelting National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) lead air emission rule and its overdue review and rule-making of the Secondary Lead NESHAP. The settlement will lead to an updated rule that will severely limit lead and other harmful pollutants from being emitted from these facilities.

FINANCIALS

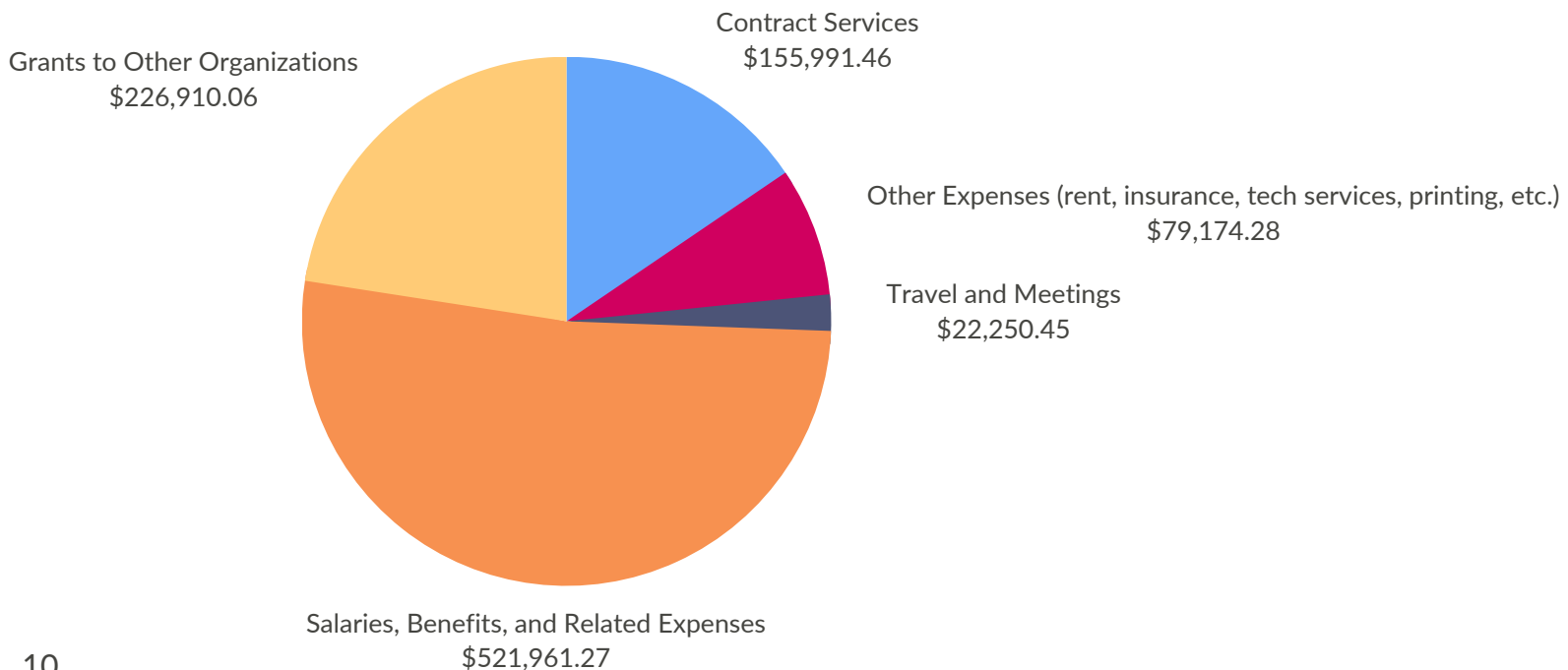
FISCAL YEAR:
JUNE 2022 - JULY 2023

OPERATING REVENUE: \$1,007,542.72



We are pleased to share Missouri Coalition for the Environment's financial activity summary from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

OPERATING EXPENSES: \$1,006,287.52



FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

Thank you to everyone who supported MCE this past year!

Your grants, charitable gifts, memberships, and volunteer hours have helped advance environmental protection throughout Missouri.

GRANTS

- Missouri Foundation for Health
- Elizabeth Brown Foundation
- James S. McDonnell Family Foundation
- P. Wayne and Jane B. Goode Foundation
- Shumaker Foundation
- Victor and Selene deLinieri Foundation
- Whole Cities Foundation
- TEGNA Foundation
- Philpott Family Foundation
- Incarnate Word Foundation
- Regenerative Agriculture Foundation

\$2,000+

- Christoffersen and Minkoff Household
- Drey and Saunders Household
- Fair Household
- Honigfort Household
- Marcum Household
- O'Reilly Household
- Van de Riet Jr. and Van de Riet Household
- Van Der Werff Household
- White Household

\$1,000-1,999

- Bedan Household
- Cohn Household
- Flader Household
- Lammert Household
- Lloyd Household
- Lowes Household
- Arthur Household
- McPheeters Household
- Meyers Household
- Petersen Household
- Pinkston Household
- Santen Household
- Smith Household
- Stancil-Bacon Household
- St. Louis Regional Arts Commission
- Santen Household
- Zeman and Noble Household

\$500-999

- Benedetti Household
- Biver Household
- E. Brewer Household
- S. Brewer Household
- Criss Household
- EFS Energy
- Fried Household
- Garin Household
- Iman Household
- Jones Household
- Kane and Doherty Household
- Mahfood Household
- Mathews Household
- McIntire Household
- O'Brien Household
- Pufalt and Schechtman Household
- Quigley Household
- St. Louis Composting
- Szabo Household
- Whitaker Household



MCE
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NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

- Mitico
- St. Louis Composting

MCE relaunched our long dormant business membership program to coincide with our new corporate giving guidelines and Missouri Business Environmental Pledge.

Learn more about the business membership relaunch today at moenvironment.org.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This past year, we have greatly expanded our involvement to support the efforts of other environmental organizations in our state by offering a service called *fiscal sponsorship*. This service allows organizations to utilize our administrative assets to apply for grants that were previously unavailable to them as well as provide human resources support for any staff they may have.

FISCALLY SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As we reflect on the successes of the past year, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment remains committed to our mission of fostering an informed and organized community that prioritizes environmental concerns. We firmly believe that an engaged citizenry is crucial for future progress, and we are excited to share our plans for the upcoming year.

One of our primary goals is to expand our presence across Missouri through our Regional Captain program. We now have over 30 Captains in the program covering 7 regions in the state, and we aim to establish a stronger foothold in areas where environmental advocacy is needed the most. By empowering local leaders as Regional Captains, we will facilitate grassroots efforts and amplify our collective voice for environmental action.

In addition, we will be working to increase our capacity to actively engage in city and county level environmental policy efforts in St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, and Columbia. Recognizing the significance of local governance, we plan to work closely with communities to enact environmentally conscious policies that protect Missouri's people and ecosystems. By addressing environmental hazards and ensuring accountability for polluters, we will create a safer and more sustainable future for all Missourians.

Furthermore, we are dedicated to fostering collaboration and support among like-minded organizations. Through our fiscal sponsorship program, we will provide assistance to environmentally focused groups, including those historically marginalized.



By connecting organizations and individuals throughout the state, we can amplify their collective voices and expand the level of environmental work occurring in Missouri.

We are thrilled to announce the addition of a staff member in the Kansas City region, marking a significant milestone for our organization. This expansion will enhance our outreach efforts, connecting Missouri's second-largest metropolitan area with our ongoing initiatives in St. Louis and rural areas throughout our state. Through coordinated outreach, we will engage thousands of new individuals, informing them about proposed laws and regulations and empowering them to make their voices heard by elected officials.

We are actively educating, organizing, and advocating for diverse voices throughout Missouri, and our focus remains on protecting people in relation to their environment, irrespective of their income, race, ethnicity, or geography.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support we have received from our members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers. Your commitment to our cause has allowed us to address the pressing issues of climate change, hazardous waste, and other pollution. With your continued support, we can further advance our vital work and ensure a sustainable future for Missouri.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our mission.

JARED OPSAL

Executive Director



STAFF

CHRISTEN COMMUSO
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SPECIALIST - ST. LOUIS

CARMEN HARRIS
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

JIM KARPOWICZ
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SPECIALIST - MID-MISSOURI

RAE MILLER
KNOWN & GROWN
MANAGER

MAKENNA NICKENS
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SPECIALIST - KANSAS CITY

NICKI MORGAN
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
COORDINATOR - KNOWN &
GROWN

JARED OPSAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MELISSA VATTEROTT
POLICY DIRECTOR

JAELITHE VIRGIN-DOWNEY
POLICY COORDINATOR

CHRIS WIMMER
SUSTAINABLE FARMING
SPECIALIST



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