Friends,

I was elected President of the Board of Directors of 350PDX at the end of 2022. I couldn’t be prouder to be stepping into this role after such a monumental year for us and for the climate justice movement in Portland.

The incredible work that 350PDX and our movement allies and partners accomplished in 2022 is celebrated throughout this report, but let me first offer some highlights: we worked in coalition with a tapestry of organizations to help pass historic state laws to provide overtime protections for farmworkers; invest millions into heat relief for Oregonians as our state increasingly grapples with deadly heatwaves; strengthen protections for our forests, waters, and fish; and take steps to help improve earthquake safety in order to prevent a catastrophic oil spill into the Willamette River. Locally, we joined forces with dozens of groups to pass monumental charter reform here in Portland, opening the door to a more democratic and representative form of government starting in 2024. Our long history of working closely with partner organizations whose missions focus on racial justice, worker protections, environmental conservation, and more has always struck me as one of 350PDX’s greatest strengths. We know that all our liberation is bound up together, in the immortal words of Lilla Watson, and that climate justice is not a single-issue fight.

As remarkable as our policy achievements have been, where I think 350PDX has always shone brightest is in our movement-building work. 350PDX has always remained steadfast in our commitment to building people power for the long haul and investing in collective action, even when headlines seem to offer little reason for hope – as is too often the case in these turbulent times. We mobilized supporters to the powerful Portland Youth Climate Strike in May, organized actions for Heat Week in June to commemorate the deadly heat wave of 2021, and rallied to put our forests and the climate over Wall Street profits. We also trained and skilled up hundreds of new volunteers and hosted vibrant monthly Action Nights at our North Portland office. All year long, our ever-growing community came together to combine advocacy, organizing, art, and joy.

I am always in awe of how much 350PDX does every year with few material resources – with a modest budget and a small staff team, we punch far above our weight. The reason, of course, is our movement – all of you. 350PDX is not only our amazing staff, myself, and the rest of the Board; it’s our community of hundreds of volunteers and donors, everyone who has ever attended a rally or an Action Night, and everyone who has ever signed a petition or joined our email list. And though we may certainly be cursed to live in interesting times, I have no doubt that this movement will keep winning progress for a more stable climate and just future, year after year, step by step.

Thank you for being here with us.

Devyn Powell
Board President
ABOUT 350PDX

Our mission is to build a diverse grassroots movement to address the causes of climate disruption through justice-based solutions by inspiring, training and mobilizing people to act.

350PDX exists to address capitalist and political systems where profits trump people, false climate solutions are written by those protected from climate chaos, and the climate movement is steeped in white supremacy culture. We solve these problems by centering the needs of frontline communities in our campaigns and programs, while being co-conspirators in the fight for social and racial justice.

Goals

Stop the Bad
Build the Good
Build the Movement

Values

Healthy, Welcoming Organization
Climate Justice Education
Broaden the Movement
Centering the Frontlines
Radical Transparency
Accountability
Rest
Anti-Racism
Creativity & Adaptability
This Year’s Highlights

Passed the City Charter Campaign

350PDX worked with the Portland United for Change coalition to help pass the first round of City Charter reforms in November 2022 — Measure 21-228. This measure will establish ranked choice voting in elections for mayor, auditor and city council, create four City Council districts with three representatives each, and appoint a professional city administrator to manage all city services.

Successfully defended the Portland Clean Energy Fund from corporate attacks. PCEF approved $111 million in funding for 65 projects that will help communities hit hardest by climate change generate their own solar power, build better food systems, and enter careers in the new green workforce, all with the goal of repairing racial wealth disparities and making our city more resilient to the climate crisis.

Launched Brooklyn Neighborhood Team

Hosted a film screening in the Aladdin Theatre with 80+ members of the local community to kick off our newest team, focused on climate action and local climate resilience.

Advocated for Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF)
Helped launch the Shade Equity Coalition, which brings 17 organizations together to advocate for a more equitable tree canopy in Portland; helped organize Portland’s first Heat Week, a series of events (including our Pedalpalooza ride) that commemorated the lives lost to the 2021 heat wave, strategizing about strengthening our emergency preparedness systems, and advocating for policy changes to mitigate and prepare for extreme weather events; lobbied Commissioner Rubio for a city commitment to fund planting and maintenance of street trees, which became a key component of the successful PCEF charter reform.

Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub on the Willamette River is home to 630 storage tanks storing 90% of all of Oregon’s liquid fuels on a former wetland. If there is a major earthquake, 200 million gallons of these polluting fuels would spill into the river, causing over $2 billion in damages to the local communities and ecosystems. With the passing of SB 1567, all storage tank owners in the area must assess and report on tank vulnerability during a major earthquake. The bill also requires the Department of Energy to create a security earthquake preparation plan that aligns with Oregon’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gases 90% by 2050.

Authored two sign-on letters to the Oregon Board of Forestry advocating for a robust Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for western Oregon State Forests; sent postcards, emails, and testified at Board of Forestry meetings encouraging the agency to vigorously implement their Climate Change and Carbon Plan.
Helped organize simultaneous rallies in Portland and Seaside to draw attention to the role of Wall Street investors in clearcutting Oregon’s forests and calling for divestment from asset managers like TIAA.

launched 350PDX summer school

Our first online training had over 160 participants. It was a series of 28 short videos that covered the basics of people power, climate justice, and tools to help people find their place in the movement. Now called “Climate Movement Fundamentals.”
Our bread and butter is bringing people together to take action. Sometimes that looks like big marches and rallies, but more often it looks like connecting people at events and in teams to build relationships, solidarity, strategy, and power. We meet people where they’re at, then invite them into the movement.
2022 Financials

Balance Summary:

Assets
Cash and cash equivalents: $285,561.00
Inventory: $17,145.39
Accounts Receivable: $13,424.49
Total Assets: $316,130.88

Liabilities & Equity
Total Liabilities: $24,172.09
Equity
Current Year Earnings: ($82,559.51)
Unrestricted Net Assets: $150,004.54
Retained Earnings: $224,513.76
Total Equity: $291,958.79
Total Liabilities & Equity: $316,130.88

Revenue & Expense Summary:

Revenue
Individual Contributions: $199,968.61
Grants: $196,101.48
Other Revenue: $22,947.48
Less COGS: (5,150.88)
Gross Profit: $413,866.69

Expenses
Personnel Expenses: $392,675.04
Non-personnel Expenses: $103,752.16
Total Expenses: $496,426.20

Net Income: ($82,559.51)
In 2020 and 2021, 350PDX received PPL loans that assisted us, like many organizations, in stabilizing our operations despite pandemic disruptions. In 2020, two employees left, and similarly in 2021, we also had two employees leave the organization. This created a major gap in capacity and savings on operating expenses, resulting in a surplus. In 2022, 350PDX hired two additional positions in development, allowing us to grow capacity to meet the needs of the organization. We anticipated a deficit of $30,000 and planned for this eventuality.

After ending last year in a larger deficit than we anticipated, our reserves are in a strong position with over six months’ operating reserves in place. This was aligned with a national trend of decreased funding for environmental nonprofit organizations. The Staff Collective did decide we needed to update our fundraising strategies to be more responsive to our strengths in grassroots organizing and the demands of climate justice organizing.

Because of the 2022 deficit, our Volunteer Manager stepped up to be our donor cultivation coordinator, reframing his role to both recruit new volunteers and grow our donor base as we recruit new members. Since 2018, the Volunteer Manager has recruited, on-boarded and trained all new volunteers. Because of his personal relationship with all active volunteers, we see this as an opportunity to engage existing volunteers who have not yet been donors to our organization as well. Our Grants & Operations Manager continues to focus on foundation grants, and we have earned $323,000 in grants.

A note from 2023: Ensuring plans are in place to end the 2023 year with no deficit, our Outreach and Events Manager led the planning and execution of our 10-Year Anniversary Party, with support of the staff, board and volunteers. We are so excited that we were able to raise ~$13,500 for our work, and gather so many loved ones to celebrate our work! While we only raised $196,000 in 2022, our Grants & Operations Manager increased grants to $323,000 in 2023. With our staff’s combined efforts, we are looking forward to having accomplished our goal of raising wages while ending the year with a balanced budget.