



IMPACT REPORT

2023/2024



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on another remarkable year at Green Living Science, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the strides we've made in advancing sustainability and environmental education in Detroit. The 2023/2024 fiscal year was one of growth, innovation, and meaningful impact, and I am thrilled to share some of the year's highlights with you.

This year, we made key staffing changes to better support our expanding programs. We were able to bring Curtis on as our Director of Education. Created a new Recycling Program Manager position where Justine is seeing growth in the commercial recycling programming. And Kam was promoted to Community Engagement Program Manager, recognizing her invaluable contributions and growth in leadership. These changes reflect our commitment to building a strong team capable of meeting the growing needs of our community.

At the heart of our mission is engaging and empowering the community. This year, we conducted a busy spring semester of assemblies and pre-K lessons across Detroit schools, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. We also hosted successful cleanup activities at the Lincoln Street Art Park, fostering a cleaner, greener space for future youth programming such as summer camp and field trips.

Financially, we experienced an impressive 24% growth in revenue during the 2023/2024 fiscal year. This growth underscores the increasing support for our mission and our ability to scale impactful programs effectively. A significant contributing factor to this growth was securing an additional contract to execute a grant awarded to the City of Detroit by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. This project, focused on planning the future expansion of recycling in Detroit, is a testament to our growing leadership in waste reduction and recycling initiatives. We are excited to see this work continue through 2025.

As we prepare for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, our goal is to maintain the incredible momentum we've built. By sustaining the level of work and revenue achieved in 2023/2024, we aim to give our team the time to grow with intention, establishing strong foundations for the future.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Together, we are making a lasting difference in Detroit—one program, one lesson, and one cleanup at a time. Here's to another impactful year ahead!

With gratitude,

NATALIE JAKUB

Natalie Jakub



OUR VISION

UNIVERSAL ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY, ADVOCACY, STEWARDSHIP, AND JUSTICE.

Green Living Science envisions a Detroit with a robust circular economy and citizens who are mindful about our environment and natural resources.



OUR MISSION

TO TRANSFORM DETROIT BY TEACHING ABOUT WASTE AND RECYCLING.

Green Living Science is dedicated to working alongside Detroiters to increase recycling participation and awareness of environmental issues and personal responsibility through education.

OUR TEAM

GLS can't operate alone, our staff is small but when supported by our amazing board, volunteers, interns, and contractors we are able to accomplish so much more. Thank you to each and every one of our team members who help us accomplish our goals.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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GREEN LIVING SCIENCE TEAM



NATALIE JAKUB
Executive Director



CURTIS SCHABATH
Director of Education



KAMRYN GARDNER
Community Engagement
Program Manager



JUSTINE ABBO
Recycling Program
Manager



LOGAN APPLEBEE
Director of Community
Engagement
Served through December 2023



BEE GREEN MASCOT



123 VOLUNTEERS



**17 COMMUNITY
AMBASSADORS**



**14 DETROIT PARK
CHAMPIONS**

CONTACT GLS



www.greenlivingscience.org



(313) 871-4000 ext 3



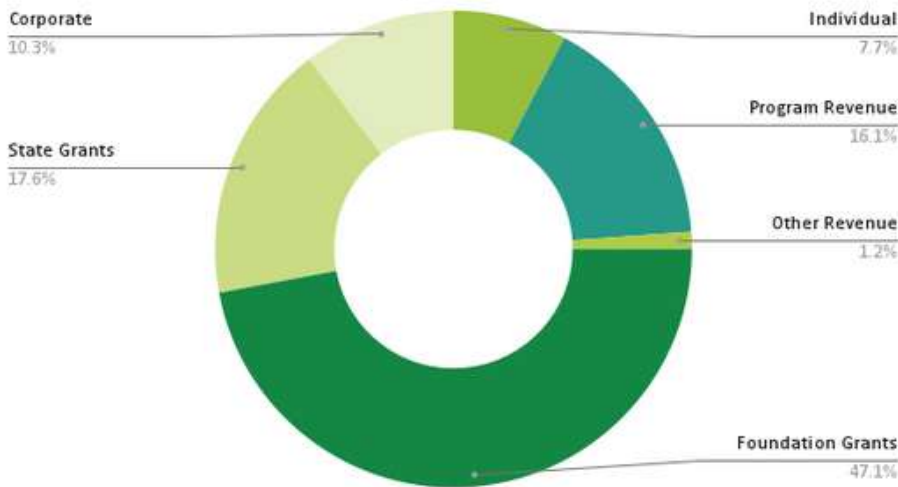
info@greenlivingscience.org

FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

For the 2023/2024 year, Green Living Science saw another year of tremendous growth. A large portion of this growth is income from a grant awarded to the City of Detroit from the State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy that Green Living Science has been contracted to execute. This grant has a number of components related to preparation of expanding recycling in the City of Detroit, and will extend through the end of 2025.

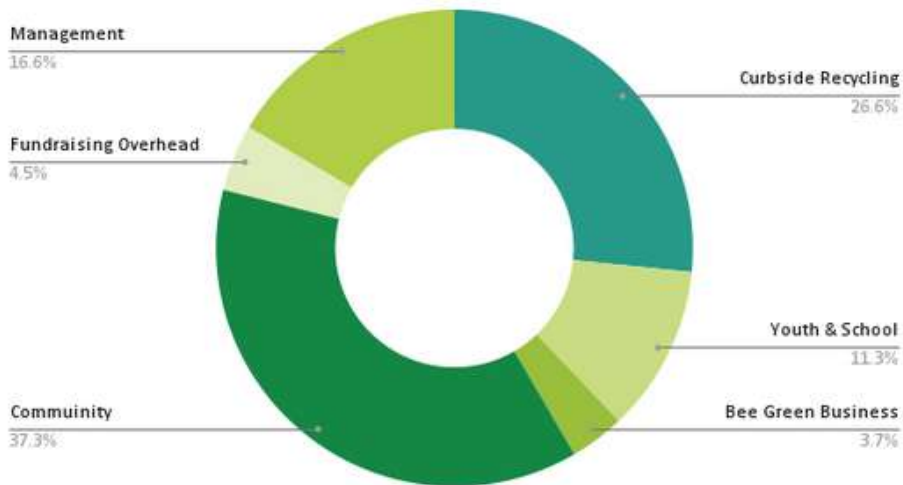
On the expense side, GLS returned to its offices in the DreamTroit complex, fostering staff collaboration but increasing management overhead. The largest expenses remain tied to the Our Backyard Detroit program, where Park Champions receive stipends for their work, and the Curbside Recycling program, which saw a rise in costs due to grant-related activities.

FY 2023/2024 Revenue



GLS SAW A 24% GROWTH IN REVENUE IN FY2023/2024 OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR

FY 2023/2024 Expenses

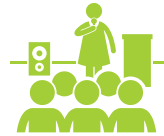


YOUTH PROGRAMMING

From the moment we step into a Pre-K classrooms, we see the excitement to learn about protecting the Earth. As we journey with students through K-8th grade, their understanding deepens, and they discover the power they hold to create meaningful change. By high school, we collaborate with these exceptional students, preparing them to become dedicated planet protectors both during and beyond their school years. At every stage, we educate, empower, and uplift these lifelong learners, nurturing their growth into passionate and accomplished environmental advocates.



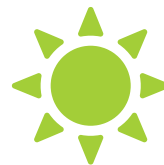
526 PRE-K STUDENTS
received in-class lessons



9,149 STUDENTS
attended assemblies



~250 STUDENTS
participated in our Every Day is
Earth Day Event with seven
partners organizations



**20 DETROIT AREA HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS**
completed the Student Recycling
Ambassador Program



**“YOU ALL DO SUCH IMPORTANT WORK IN DETROIT
SCHOOLS. THANK YOU FOR EDUCATING STUDENTS AND
HELPING OUR CITY BECOME MORE GREEN”**

- PALMER PARK TEACHER



**“Students enjoyed the
hands on sorting
activity and cleaning
up the park activity.
Lessons were age
appropriate and
engaging to children”**

**- Spain Elementary
Pre-K Teacher**

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

The initial goal of Green Living Science, and a continued primary focus of our work, is signing up residential homes in Detroit for curbside recycling carts. To do this, we hold workshops, attend community events, do door-to-door canvassing, and utilize Recycling Ambassadors. For the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year, GLS was able to accomplish the following:



2,183

Curbside recycling carts distributed



438

Households signed up for recycling carts by Recycling Ambassadors



106

Community events attended



17

Recycling Ambassadors working to educate the community about curbside recycling



39.74%

Citywide curbside recycling participation rate (an all time high!)

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS, RECYCLING AMBASSADORS, AND PARK CHAMPIONS WHO SUPPORTED THESE EFFORTS!



OUR BACKYARD DETROIT

At Our Backyard Detroit, we believe in the power of community stewardship to transform green spaces into vibrant hubs of connection and enrichment. This happens through the events hosted by our Park Champions. In the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Our Backyard Detroit was able to accomplish the following:



346.16 LBS OF TRASH CLEANED UP



78.28 LBS OF RECYCLING CLEANED UP



18 CLEAN UP EVENTS HOSTED



95 HOUSES SIGNED UP FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING



2,798 DETROIT RESIDENTS ENGAGED



This year Our Backyard Detroit programming expanded from seven parks to 14 parks, this allowed us to double our engagement numbers during the program years.



BUSINESS

A huge portion of the waste we produce occurs at our place of work. Whether you're unboxing hamburger buns, cleaning out old files, or pouring jars of kombucha, we believe that recycling in your workplace is essential to decreasing your personal carbon footprint while taking part in increasing Detroit's sustainability and the planet's health.



60 BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS LEARNED ABOUT RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY POSSIBILITIES IN DETROIT



225 ALLY FINANCIAL EMPLOYEES NOW HAVE ACCESS TO COMPOSTING & RECYCLING



15 MULTIFAMILY BUILDINGS LEARNED HOW TO INITIATE RECYCLING PROGRAMS AT THEIR PROPERTIES



8 COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES SIGNED UP FOR RECYCLING THROUGH DETROIT RECYCLES

160

DETROITERS WERE GIVEN RECYCLING EDUCATION AT THEIR WORKPLACE.





DETROIT RECYCLES

This year GLS was awarded a contract to help the City of Detroit execute a grant awarded from the Michigan State Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. This work aims to do a number of items that in the long run will increase recycling rates in the City of Detroit, and reduce the amount of waste headed to landfills. There are four major focuses on this project all geared towards moving the city towards becoming a sustainable and resilient city.

Multifamily Recycling Expansion

The GLS team is studying educational effectiveness at multi-family properties and collecting data to determine ways to improve multifamily recycling in Detroit and the service offerings of the commercial recycling program.

Residential Curbside Recycling Expansion

Currently, residents have to opt in to the curbside recycling program. GLS hosts canvassing and tabling events to provide Detroiters the resources to recycle and participate.

Recycling Market Inventory

The GLS team seeks to connect companies in the recycling market to strengthen Detroit's circular economy. This project aims to identify opportunities for waste diversion and material reuse locally.

Develop a Waste Diversion Plan

This council is working to prepare a comprehensive report on waste diversion strategies and goals over the next 5 years, including community testimonials, a gap analysis, and partner resources.

A group photograph of approximately ten diverse individuals, likely staff members of Green Living Science, standing together in a professional setting. The photo is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

GLS CONTINUES TO PUSH FORWARD POLICY CHANGES AT THE CITY, REGIONAL, AND STATE LEVEL THAT WILL MAKE DETROIT A LEADER IN WASTE REDUCTION.

OUR PARTNERS

GLS is grateful for our 2023-2024 partners. Their financial support, both new and recurring, helps GLS operate, supports our youth programming, and allows us to focus on the work of transforming Detroit. For us these are more than just a financial sponsorship - they are true corporate partners who align with our values.



Mercedes-Benz
Financial Services



OUR DONORS

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THANK YOU!