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sustaining
way

IMPACT REPORT

25

2025

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To Our Dedicated Sustaining Way Community

As we reflect on the milestones of the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. The mission of Sustaining Way—to cultivate thriving, equitable, and resilient communities—is not merely an aspiration; it is a demonstrable reality, built block by block through your unwavering commitment.

This past year, our seeds took root for enduring change. Our programs have expanded not just in their impact, but also in their depth. We saw an increase in participation in our community gardening, food preservation workshops, and backyard garden installations, translating directly into greater food security and environmental literacy for our neighbors.

Our community-based workforce training initiative equipped 20 individuals with the skills to build a clean energy economy, providing them with pathways to financial stability while reducing our collective carbon footprint.

These numbers are important, but the true measure of our success lies in the human stories they represent: the senior citizen, Elizabeth McKinney, who now enjoys fresh, nutritious produce from her backyard garden plot; Elizabeth, once a stay-at-home wife, who launched a new career conducting energy audits for the largest regional utility; and the New Washington Heights neighborhood that is now a unified force for community resiliency. The ripple effect of sustainable development is a positive chain reaction that transforms lives and landscapes.

In a world facing complex challenges, Sustaining Way's model proves that local action fuels global change. We have shown that when we invest in education, empowerment, and equitable access to resources, we don't just solve problems; we unlock the boundless potential within our communities.

This work is only possible because of you—our devoted volunteers, steadfast partners, and visionary donors. You believe in a future where sustainability is not a luxury, but a fundamental right and a collective responsibility. You invest not just in a program, but in a legacy of resilience.

Thank you for being the indispensable force behind Sustaining Way. With your continued support, we look forward to next year, ready to break new ground and illuminate the path toward an even greener, more equitable future for all.

With my deepest appreciation,
Michael Brown
Executive Director, Sustaining Way



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& Governance
VISTA

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& Leadership VISTA



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Marketing Intern



Melody Garcia Leal
Steward Leader



Devon Anker
Volunteer Coordinator

OUR MISSION

Sustaining Way Overview

Sustaining Way, a 501(c)3 formed in January 2012, is an interfaith non-profit that uses education, collaboration and advocacy to create sustainable, caring and equitable communities for current and future generations. Sustaining Way uses a unique community-based approach to sustainability through our demonstration site Annie's House, just off the Swamp Rabbit Trail in the historic Nicholtown community of Greenville, SC.

Mission Statement

Sustaining Way uses education, collaboration and advocacy to create sustainable, caring and equitable communities for current and future generations.

Vision Statement

A world where all neighborhoods, people and nature thrive.

OUR VALUES

Practicing Stewardship

All of our work is in an effort to care for people and the planet. We understand the urgency of addressing the challenges we face. We're committed to taking bold, sustained action every day to accomplish our mission, because lives are on the line.

Celebrating Faith

We believe in the power of faith to catalyze people to make changes for the common good. Because of this, we work as an interfaith organization. We celebrate and embrace all faiths and non-faiths that center on love and compassion for others.

Addressing Race, Equity & Justice

Until all people thrive, no society can claim to be just and equitable. We must continually seek to understand our own prejudices and advocate for equity, inclusion, and justice.

OUR VALUES

Committing to Integrity & Truth

Integrity is the foundation on which we build trust and just relationships. We are committed to sound moral and ethical principles. We do everything possible to live up to the commitments we have made. We make our decisions based on facts and research. We seek and expect excellence in ourselves and in how we interact with each other.

Thriving Together

We believe that sustainability starts with the purposeful inclusion of all people in solidarity and mutuality. Inclusion is essential to building just relationships among ourselves as we shape our collective future. This may require slowing things down to allow space for civil dialogue, but this is vital to cultivating a just and equitable society that is resilient and enduring.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY

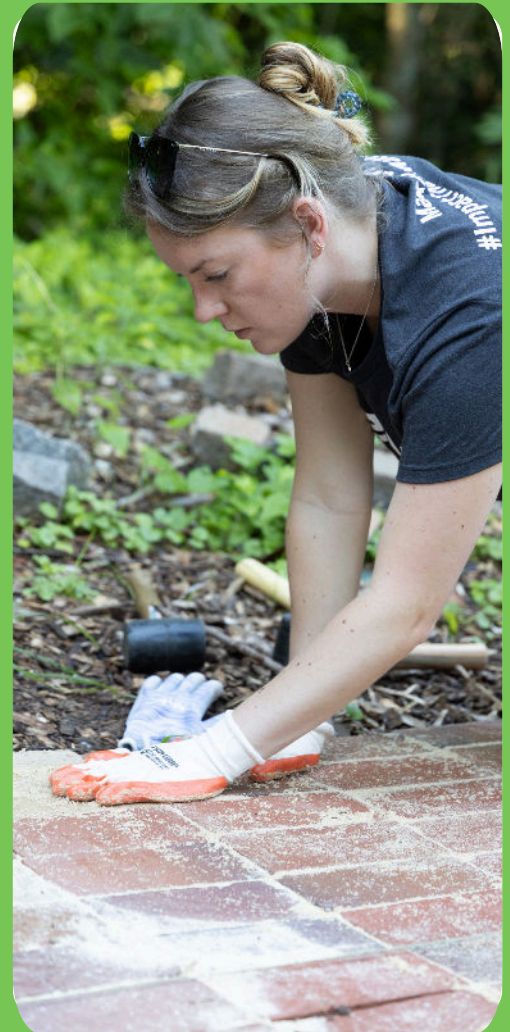


To understand Sustaining Way's focus, it helps to understand better what is meant by sustainability. At Sustaining Way, we define sustainability simply as caring for people and the environment in a way that is both accessible and affordable.

...In the Garden

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant."

- Robert Louis Stevenson



BY THE NUMBERS

870+

Volunteers engaged



2,475+

volunteer hours logged

\$82K

Economic Impact in Nicholstown



50+

volunteer groups hosted

AVG 40

repeat volunteers annually



QUARTERLY

community workshops

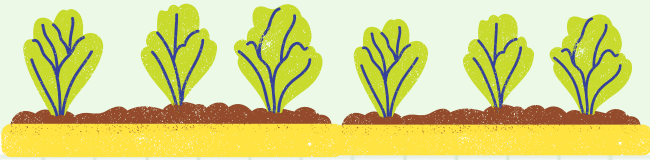


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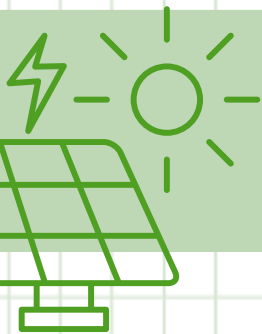
275+ LBS

of produce harvest from
community gardens



42

Backyard Gardens
Installed



10,000 KWH+
solar energy produced

730+

education
participants



8

interns through
partnerships with
Clemson University
and Furman
University

AVG 27

households served weekly
by food distribution



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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS

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Thank you!
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