

2022 Impact Report



A message from our Founder + Executive Director

At Sustain Charlotte, we work to build a better community for all by addressing climate change, advancing racial equity, and supporting residents' health and wellness.

In 2022, we made a meaningful impact on plans, policies, funding and people in support of equity, sustainable growth, a sound economy, individual wellness, and a healthy environment.

Our advocacy led to record levels of funding to buy land for new parks, greenways, and nature preserves; record funding for making our streets safer for walking, biking, and accessing transit; and a better set of laws to shape how the city grows, to name just a few important achievements.

Our 52 educational presentations and events led to nearly 4,000 people learning more about how to grow our community more sustainably and the role they can play. And tens of thousands were reached through our more than 75 quotes and features in local media and 51 articles we wrote and published on local sustainability.

Thank you to the hundreds of individuals, businesses and foundations who support our work and make our impacts possible. We also thank the hundreds of residents who stood with us and used their voice to make our community better in 2022. Together, we made a difference!



In gratitude,

Shannon Binns

2022 by the numbers



- 06** Policies implemented, adopted, or passed
- 09** Campaigns organized to increase issue awareness and engagement
- 16** Resources and programs developed and shared
- 26** Partnerships formed to work collaboratively toward goals
- 51** Thought leadership pieces published
- 52** Educational programs delivered
- 75** Media mentions
- 4k** Attendees of programs and events

Subscribe
for local news
and events —
sent once a week!



Stay informed!



Helped shape the city's new mobility plan and 50/50 mode-share goal

Our staff worked hard to advocate for the Strategic Mobility plan to be centered on an ambitious goal to reduce the share of people driving to work alone in cars to just 50% from today's 76% by 2040.

In June, Charlotte City Council passed the Strategic Mobility Plan, which lays out a vision and commitment to dramatically improve Charlotte's public transportation infrastructure and make our city more walkable and bikeable.

Secured \$50 million for expanding the greenway network



We convened the Growing Our Greenways initiative to highlight the many benefits of greenways and to amplify the voices of Mecklenburg County residents and organizations advocating for equitable and expedited construction of our county greenway network.

Sustain Charlotte organized six guided "all ages, all abilities" educational walks and bike rides featuring guest speakers as we introduced the public to greenways throughout Mecklenburg County. Our advocacy paid dividends in June when the county passed a record \$50 million to buy land for more greenways, parks, and nature preserves.



Shaped the city's new rules for development

We played a critical role in Charlotte City Council's adoption of a Unified Development Ordinance, which establishes the regulations that will guide our city's growth over the coming decades and help implement the Charlotte Future 2040 Plan.

Opened the 5th/6th St protected bike lane

We were honored to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new protected bike lane spanning all of downtown Charlotte that Sustain Charlotte and supportive residents first petitioned the city to build in 2016. Sustain Charlotte is grateful to all those who rallied around this effort and added their support to making this major project in the Uptown CycleLink a reality.



Launched the Impact 704 Academy

We hosted our first Impact 704 Academy, an in-person series to educate more than 100 local residents about smart growth topics and equip them to effectively advocate.

Our work would be far less effective if the voices of the many residents who advocate for smart growth issues throughout the year weren't heard by decision-makers. The three sessions focused on introducing the concept of smart growth, transportation, and land use and development.



"I really like the way Sustain Charlotte advocates for safety for pedestrians, for cyclists, and even for drivers.

The biggest thing that I appreciate is that Sustain Charlotte actually gets stuff done. Sustain Charlotte navigates the private and public sector and actually makes things happen."

WALTER SANDERS

Honored sustainability leaders



We hosted an evening of celebration and inspiration at our 10th annual Charlotte Sustainability Awards Presented by Duke Energy.

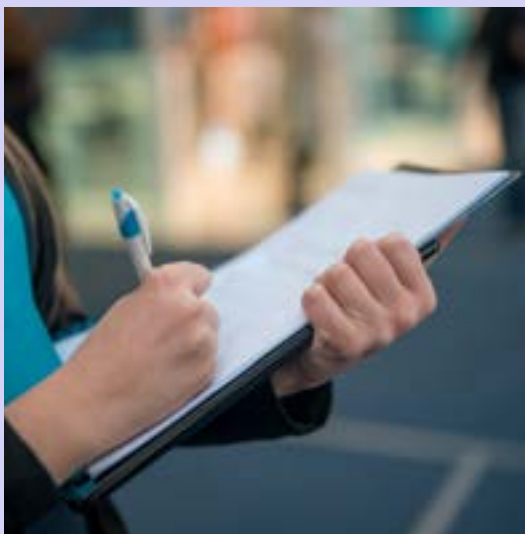
Over the past decade, Sustain Charlotte has lifted up and honored more than 500 organizations and individuals who are moving our region toward sustainability. The sold-out dinner, fundraiser, and networking event recognized 63 nominees in six categories.



Hosted Biketoberfest

More than 600 people explored Charlotte's neighborhoods and local businesses on foot or bike during our 8th annual Biketoberfest.

This family-friendly event has quickly grown to become a beloved annual tradition that celebrates the joy and ease of riding a bicycle for daily transportation where safe places to ride have been built.



Conducted candidate surveys

We surveyed all candidates for Charlotte City Council, Charlotte Mayor, and Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners about their positions on various sustainability issues related to land use, transportation, and the Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP).

We compiled their answers and shared them with the public through our newsletter, blog, and website. Local elected leaders are responsible for many decisions that affect our future sustainability, so this survey provides voters direct insight into how candidates will approach smart growth decision-making if elected.

2022 Impacts



Helped secure record funding

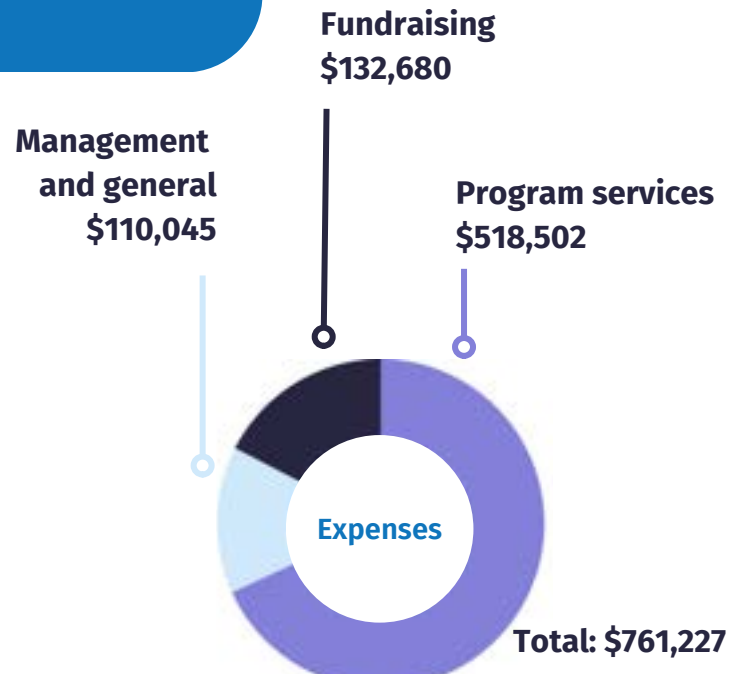
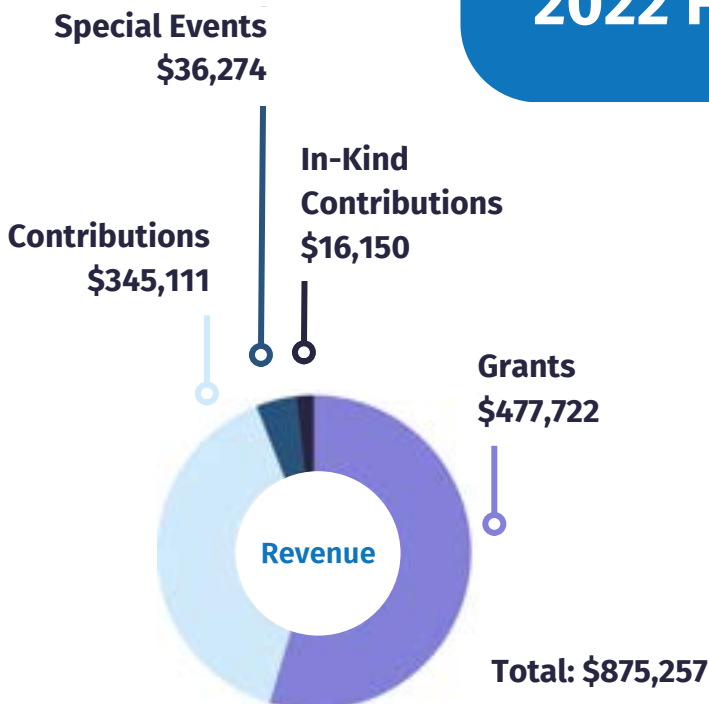
We celebrated when Charlotte City Council approved the FY2023 budget with record funding for active transportation and other sustainability initiatives. The budget included \$50 million for sidewalks (more than three times the amount in the 2020 bond), \$8 million for the bike program, and \$4 million for Vision Zero. Our staff spoke at the public hearing and issued an action alert encouraging the public to speak up and contact city council members.

Coordinating the Charlotte Regional Transportation Coalition



We organized monthly meetings of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Coalition, including two meetings with Charlotte City Council members, a transportation survey conducted in partnership with CharlotteEAST, an engagement activity at Biketoberfest, and a sign-on comment letter advocating for equity in the redevelopment of the Charlotte Transportation Center and the future Silver Line light rail alignment.

2022 Financials



2022 Impacts



"As an architect I'm very passionate about sustainable communities and sustainable design practices. I am also a new parent and I would love for my daughter to grow up in Charlotte, a city which is more equitable, healthy, and vibrant.

I enjoy all of the programs Sustain Charlotte organizes. Every time I participate in a program, I always walk out inspired and motivated."

VAAMA JOSHI

Thank you for contributing to building a stronger future for Charlotte.



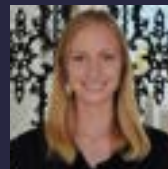
Our Staff



Shannon Binns
Founder +
Executive Director



Krissia Bonilla
Donor
Specialist



Sophia Ege
Marketing +
Comms Manager



Allison Rhodes
Director of Donor
Engagement



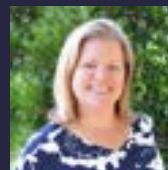
Lauren Sawyers
Director of
Communications



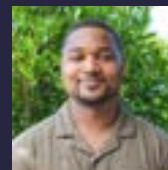
Hope Wright
Advocacy
Manager



Meg Fencil
Director of
Engagement
+ Impact



Jessica Freely
Director
of Operations



Walsh Powe
Community
Engagement
Coordinator



Eric Zaverl
Urban Design
Specialist

Thank you

to the foundations, businesses + government agencies who supported us in 2022

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Ray Addison
Board member

50,000+

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NCDOT
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RAO Community Health
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Bank of America

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Sunlight Financial
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American Public Transportation
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Sun Raised Foods
National Resources Defense
Council
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Wastequip
Arrival
National Gypsum

1,000+

Crescent Communities
Carter Bank & Trust
Recover Brands
Metropolitan Shopping Center
Google Fiber
WSP
JE Dunn
Electrolux
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Goode Properties
EarthShare North Carolina
Lime
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\$500+

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Help us inspire choices
that lead to a healthy,
equitable, and vibrant
community for
generations to come.



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