



NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP ACTION COUNCILSM

ADVOCATING FOR AN EQUITABLE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



L to R: Heidi Sanborn, NSAC; Wes Carter, Atlantic Packaging; Jordan Wells, NSAC; Fiona Ma, CA State Treasurer; Don Meek, A New Earth Project



L to R: Dr. Anja Brandon, The Ocean Conservancy; Ben Allen, CA State Assemblymember; Heidi Sanborn, NSAC; Isabella Gonzalez, The Nature Conservancy

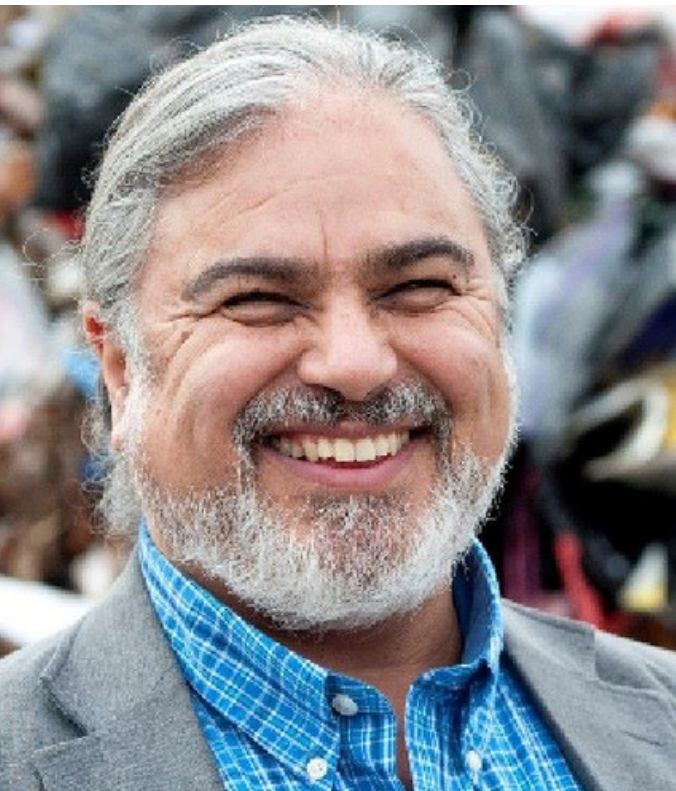


L to R: Gloria Skeet, Baahaali Chichiltah Regional Solid Waste & Collection Center (Navajo Nation); Liz Chapman, Recycle Colorado; Charles Fiedler, New Mexico Recycling Coalition; Heidi Sanborn, NSAC; Shirlene Sitton, City of Santa Fe, SAF Board Member; Sarah Pierpont, New Mexico Recycling Coalition



L to R: Tina Andolina, Legislative Director for the Office of Senator Allen; Heidi Sanborn, NSAC; Senator Ben Allen, CA State Senator

ADVOCATING FOR AN EQUITABLE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY



A WORD FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

It's been an extraordinary year at the National Stewardship Action Council. NSAC's efforts have resulted in truly groundbreaking new legislation. Awareness of the importance of the circular economy and extended producer responsibility have hit the mainstream, and requests for assistance come in almost daily from all over the country. Staff and board members receive more requests for speaking engagements, interviews, and articles than we could ever satisfy. More and more stakeholders have joined us in placing equity and environmental justice at the very center of our efforts.

The accomplishments over the past year are a testament to the hard work and brilliant efforts of our dedicated staff. NSAC is poised for an unprecedented period of growth and expanded influence. As Board President, I am very proud of this incredible organization, and very grateful to all of you who make it possible. The challenges of running a non-profit are endless, but with your support, this essential work can continue and expand.

I know you'll be astonished to read in this report of the amazing efforts of the NSAC team in the past year, locally, nationally, and abroad. I look forward to sharing with you our future efforts in the year to come. We'll do our best to make you proud.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do to make this important work possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Goncharoff". The signature is fluid and cursive.

TIM GONCHAROFF
BOARD PRESIDENT

TO OUR PAST BOARD PRESIDENT,



We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Founding Board Member and past Board President, David Stitzhal. David served in the role of President from 2017 to 2022, during which he led the Board and staff through challenges and significant growth. David will continue to provide his thoughtful feedback to the organization as a member of NSAC's Board of Directors. Thank you so very much for your service.



Jordan Wells; Courtney Scott, Zero Waste Sonoma; Leslie Luckacs, Zero Waste Sonoma & National Recycling Council; Janette Freeman, FabTech; Rusty Thatcher, FabTech; Heidi Sanborn; Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority at the FabTech Facility in Gilbert, AZ

OUR MISSION

Formed in 2015, the National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) is a 501(c)4 non-profit that advocates for the United States to attain an equitable, circular economy anywhere in the U.S., and at any level of government. The leaders that make up NSAC's outstanding Board and staff have a proven record of passing cutting-edge policy and implementing programs to find practical and affordable solutions for problematic material streams. They are called upon regularly to provide testimony to legislatures and state agencies, as well as often being quoted in the press.

NSAC offers consulting services to state and local governments, corporations, and other organizations to identify solutions to materials management issues for products. These include packaging, pharmaceuticals and sharps, carpet, mattresses, textiles, vaping and cannabis waste, paint, organics, and much more. Visit [our website](#) for more information.

STAFF



Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director



Jordan Wells
Director of Advocacy &
Communications



Victoria Reiser
Associate



Doris Kim
Intern

BOARD MEMBERS



Tim Goncharoff
President

Independent Consultant



Maia Corbitt
Vice President

Garver, Black, Hilyard
Family Foundation



Patty Garbarino
Treasurer

Marin Sanitary Service



Constance Hornig
Secretary

Constance Hornig, Esq.
Law Offices



Bob Gedert

Independent Consultant



Rubi (Rajbanshi) Soares

Terrascope Consulting



David Stitzhal

Full Circle Environmental, Inc.



Joe Neugebauer

West County Wastewater

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Ajay Chandramouly

Oracle Corporation



Raj Dhillon

LA County Chief
Sustainability Office



Yogi Hale Hendlin

UC San Francisco



Vernell Hill

Advantech



Chris Ripley

Consultant

Over the years, NSAC has emerged as the leading force in advancing an equitable, circular economy in the United States. Our intersectional approach to environmental issues has been instrumental in addressing environmental inequality and ensuring that our policies and initiatives are inclusive and fair. Our commitment to reducing waste and pollution, keeping materials in motion, and regenerating natural systems has driven achievement of the world's first circular economy legislation for packaging. Looking ahead, we are more committed than ever to building a sustainable future for all.

THE NATIONAL RECYCLING REFUND

In February 2023, NSAC hosted a **Recycling Refund Webinar**, which included panelists representing the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Can Manufacturers Institute, U.S. PIRG, Container Recycling Institute, National Recycling Coalition, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), Atlantic Packaging, Blue Triton, the Association of Plastic Recyclers, and more to share the merits of a national recycling refund.



Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) addressing the World Wildlife Fund Plastics Summit attendees



Anthony Tusino, WWF; Heidi Sanborn; Maia Corbitt, NSAC Vice-President

NSAC staff traveled to Washington D.C. in March 2023 to present on Deposit Return Systems (DRS) (also known as Recycling Refunds or Bottle Bills) at the WWF's Plastic Policy Summit.



March 2023 Walk the Halls Participants

NSAC staff were then joined by advocates to "Walk the Halls" and meet with Congressional offices regarding a national Recycling Refund. NSAC staff continue to work with legislators and stakeholders to align on the contents of a national bill for introduction.

On September 28, 2023, the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing titled, "Examining Solutions to Address Beverage Container Waste."

In May 2023, Heidi Sanborn attended the Ocean Plastic Leadership Network's (OPLN) recycling refund study trip to Oregon and British Columbia.



May 2023 OPLN Study Trip Participants at Return-IT, Vancouver, British Columbia

DRIVING “TRUTH IN LABELING”

“FLUSHABLE” WIPES TRUTH IN LABELING INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS!

Following the success of getting NSAC-sponsored **AB 818 (Bloom)** signed into law in California, NSAC has been focused on getting introduced and passing a federal wipes labeling bill, the Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act (WIPPES Act). On April 27, 2023, Congressmembers Merkley (D-OR) and McClain (R-MI) introduced **S. 1350** and **H.R. 2964** in the Senate and House respectively. The Act would require the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have “Do Not Flush” labeling no later than two years after the date of enactment.

HR 2964 & S1350: The Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention & Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act



COLLABORATION WITH THE RESPONSIBLE FLUSHING ALLIANCE

NSAC also worked with the Responsible Flushing Alliance (RFA), which is an independent, nonprofit trade association committed to educating consumers about responsible and smart flushing habits, in order to reduce damage to our nation’s sewage systems. RFA was formed in response to AB 818’s Consumer Education and Outreach Program requirements, which mandates covered entities to “participate in a collection study conducted in collaboration with wastewater agencies for the purpose of gaining understanding of consumer behavior regarding the flushing of premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes and to conduct a comprehensive multimedia education and outreach program in the state.” The Outreach Program will continue until January 1, 2027.



Collaboration with RFA and NSAC included promotion of **Flush Smart Day**, a nationwide observance established in California, thanks to a proclamation by AB 818 Author Assemblymember Bloom in 2022, to recognize every July 1st as an opportunity to educate the public on what not to flush. NSAC also spoke at RFA’s second virtual Annual Meeting on March 7, 2023, which was attended by wipes manufacturers, wastewater and sanitation agencies, consumers, and the media.

ADVOCATING FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION

SAYING FAREWELL TO FLUORESCENTS WITH CLEAN LIGHTING LEGISLATION

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin listed by the World Health Organization as a **top 10 chemical of major public health concern**. Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) use half the amount of electricity, last 2-3 times longer, and do not contain toxic mercury.

NSAC-sponsored AB 2208 (Kalra) in California was signed into law in 2022 and **banned the sale of mercury-containing fluorescent lamps by 2025**. Six states have since introduced and passed clean lighting legislation, replicating the AB 2208 model.



1. Colorado (HB 23-1161): Signed into law June 6, 2023.
2. Rhode Island (H 5550): Signed into law June 22, 2023.
3. Hawaii (HB 192): Signed into law July 5, 2023.
4. Maine (LD 1814): Signed into law July 5, 2023.
5. Oregon (HB 2531): Signed into law July 27, 2023.
6. Nevada (AB 144): Vetoed on June 1, 2023.

PERFLUORINATED AND POLYFLUORINATED ALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

Comprising more than 4,700 chemicals, PFAS are a group of widely used, man-made chemicals that bioaccumulate and are extremely persistent in our environment and bodies. They are **known as 'forever chemicals' and can lead to health problems such as cancer, liver damage, thyroid disease, obesity, and fertility issues**.

NSAC has been a strong proponent of eliminating the use of PFAS in products and packaging, including advocating for bills such as California's **AB 496 (Friedman)**, which prohibits the manufacturing, selling, delivering, or holding in commerce any cosmetic product that contains specified intentionally added PFAS starting January 1, 2027.

NSAC also advocated for intentionally-added PFAS to be included in the **U.S. Plastics Pact's Problematic and Unnecessary Materials List**. U.S. Pact Activators will take measures to eliminate the 11 items on the List in plastic packaging by 2025.



EDUCATING, CONVENING, COLLABORATING

NATIONAL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PANEL RECYCLING DIALOGUES

NSAC was contracted by the **Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)** to host three national virtual meetings and invite key stakeholders to discuss Photovoltaic (PV) panel end-of-life management. The objectives were to:

1. Bring stakeholders together to have honest discussions regarding PV EOL management to identify key issues for all stakeholder groups, and;
2. Identify the considerations for a system that will work nationally to greatly expand PV panel recycling

NSAC invited over 65 stakeholders representing PV panel developers, manufacturers, distributors, installers, decommissioners, recyclers, and reuse companies, haulers, local governments and their associations, environmental NGOs, and researchers. Staff hosted three large group meetings in early 2023, as well as 10 meetings of five subcommittees: 1) Reuse; 2) Funding and Policy Development; 3) Test Methods; 4) Lifecycle, and; 5) Residential PV, Education, and Communication). Staff developed a report that included preliminary recommendations discussed during the dialogues.



Heidi Sanborn & Tim Flanagan, SWANA Board President at the 2023 SWANA SOAR Conference

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Representing NSAC and providing technical expertise via participation on: Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Advisory Board, California Green Bond Market Development Committee, Mattress Recycling Organization Advisory Committee, and the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA).



Wendy Bruget, Athens Services; Heidi Sanborn; Susanne Passantino, Republic Services; Michael Simpson, City of Los Angeles & SAF Board President; Jessica Aldridge, Athens Services at the Municipal Waste Management Association 2022 Fall Summit

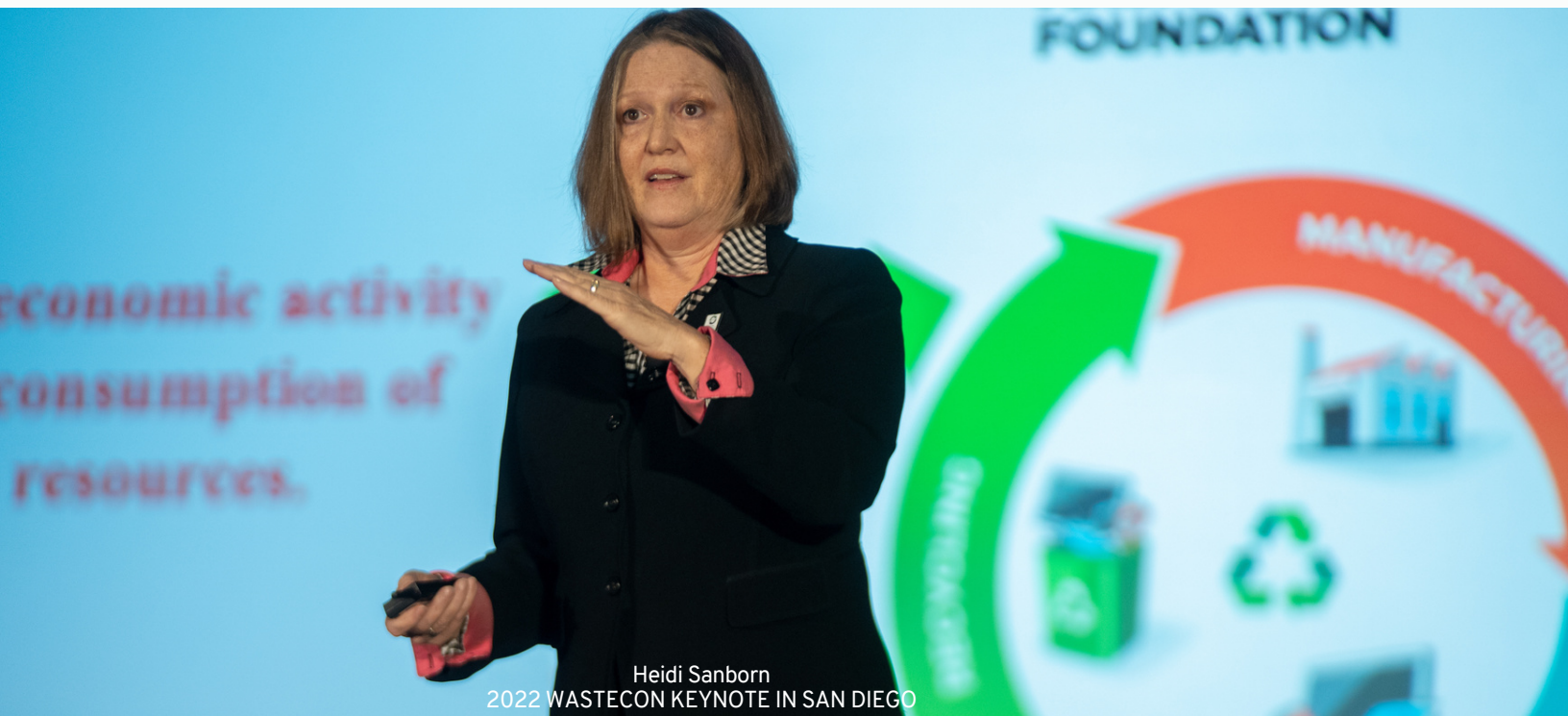


Heidi Sanborn; Estee Chang, Google; Stefan Moedritzer, Google; McKenna Morigan, Seattle Public Utilities at WasteExpo 2023



Heidi Sanborn; Jordan Wells; Emily Tipaldo, US Plastics Pact; Caroline James, Atlantic Packaging at the 2023 WWF Plastic Policy Summit

COMMUNICATIONS WITH RESULTS!



Heidi Sanborn
2022 WASTECON KEYNOTE IN SAN DIEGO

6,300 NSAC reached over 6,300 people via virtual and in-person presentations.

3,229 Followers on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.



2,499 NSAC members, media, legislators and legislative staff, and collaborating NGO staff who received weekly newsletters and videos.



Jordan Wells
2023 CRR Conference

National and statewide press coverage quoting

NSAC and staff by name: [Western City](#), [Fashion Dive](#), [The Hill](#), [Waste Today](#), [Politico](#), [Waste Dive](#), [Capitol Weekly](#), [New Hope Network](#), [Inside Climate News](#), [SN&R](#), [Vogue Business](#), and more.

Conferences at [SWANA WasteCon](#), [U.S. Conference of Mayors Municipal Waste Management Association \(MWMA\) Fall Summit](#), [NAHMMA](#), [RE+ 2022](#), [Alberta Recycling Association](#), [SCWMF Conference](#), [National Recycling Conference](#), [The Recycling Refund Webinar](#), [WWF Plastics Summit](#), [NCRA Recycling Update](#), [Zero Waste North Bay Symposium](#), [Natural Resources Council of Maine](#), [Waste Expo](#), [California Resource Recovery Association](#), and more.



Heidi Sanborn and Siyamak Khorrami, The Epoch Times

[Watch the interview here](#)

NSAC-Hosted Webinars

- America's Bottle Bill: [Recycling Refund Webinar](#), 2/23/23
- California's [SB 54: The Path to Passage Webinar](#), 9/28/22
- Global [Sharps & Medicine Waste Management: Innovations and Policy Update Webinar](#), 9/15/22

Collaboration with the [American Sustainable Business Network](#) to include NSAC policy updates in their widely-distributed newsletter and participate in their Circular Economy Working Group and stakeholder calls.

LEGISLATOR STUDY TRIPS CHANGE THE GAME

NSAC is a member of the **California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE)** Board of Directors and started the “Recycling Challenge” study trips, which takes labor, business, local government and environmental leaders with elected officials to other states and countries to have solutions-oriented and nonpartisan dialogues. In July 2022, CFEE and NSAC hosted its fourth Recycling Challenge study trip to Maine followed by the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. On the trip, participants met with government representatives and regulators, stewardship organization operators, recycling business managers, and more. The 2022 trip included, but was not limited to, the following educational briefings, and tours:

1. **CLYNK** recycling refund redemption system including a demonstration of the bag drop method and tour of a sorting facility.
2. **Owens-Illinois** bottle manufacturing facility, the world's leading glass bottle manufacturer.
3. **Graphic Packaging** recycled paperboard mill, one of the largest manufacturers of paperboard and paper-based packaging.
4. **Lithion Technologies** electric vehicle battery recycling facility.
5. **Ecomaine's** Recycling and Waste-to-Energy Power Plant, which receives trash identified as un-recyclable and converts it at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit to energy in the form of electricity.

Pictured below (LtoR): Sarah Duckett, Rural County Representatives of California; Sonia Gagné, Recyc-Quebec; Heidi Sanborn; Jacob Martin-Malus, Quebec Ministry of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change; Cosmin Vasile, Quebec Ministry of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change



Heidi Sanborn; Scott DeFife, Glass Packaging Institute, trying the CLYNK Bag-Drop System



Attendees learn about Graphic Packaging's recycled paperboard mill



Wendy Bruget, Athens Services; CA State Treasurer Fiona Ma; Heidi Sanborn; Jordan Wells; CA Senator Bob Wieckowski

PARTNERSHIPS

NSAC offers tiered funder levels, as well as sponsorship opportunities for speaking engagements, events, webinars, etc. NSAC also partners with companies and governments to help them reach their sustainability goals and engage in policy dialogue. To partner with NSAC, visit nsaction.us/donate.

PLATINUM



WEST COUNTY
WASTEWATER



GOLD



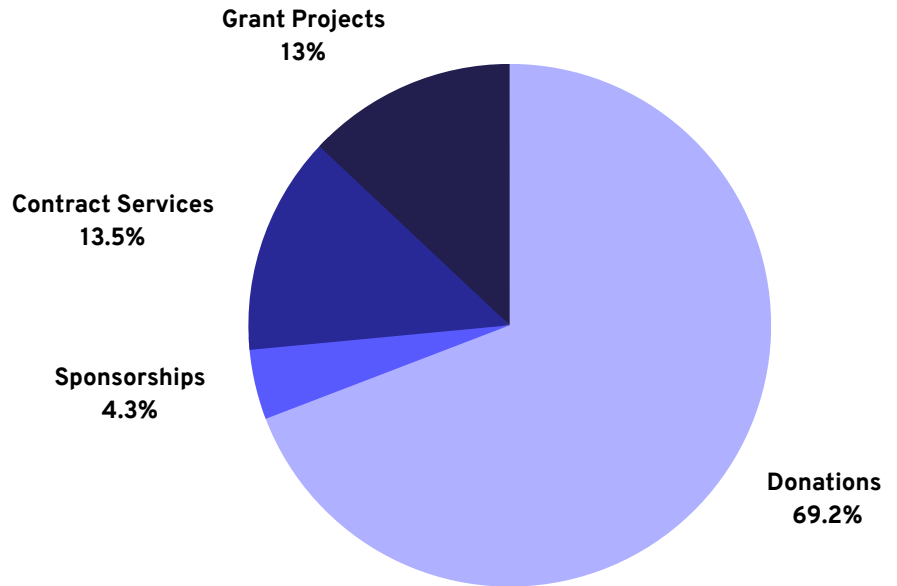
SILVER



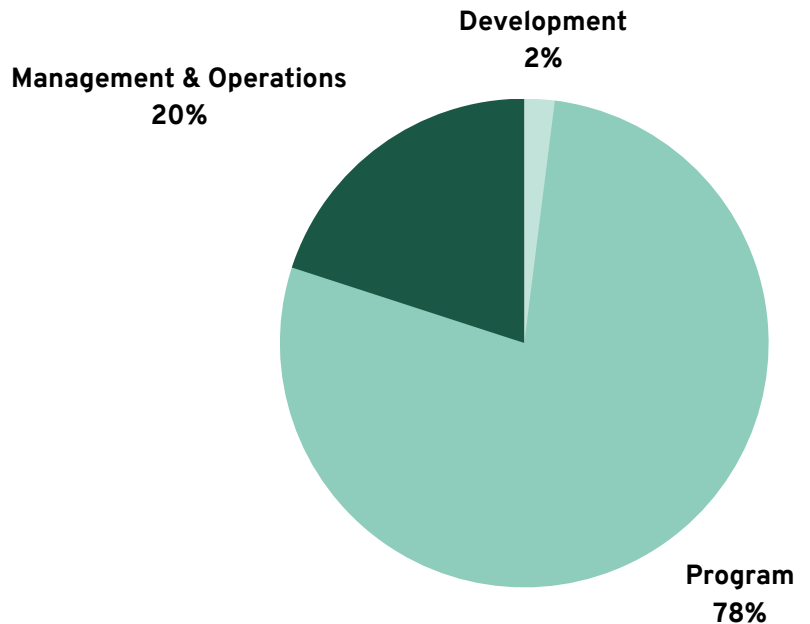
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Fiscal year 2022-2023 was a year of growth for National Stewardship Action Council with total revenues increasing over \$100,000 during the fiscal year. The Council expanded its services provided to local governments, foundations, and others while maintaining a strong base of donors and grantors. During 2022-2023, our total revenue exceeded \$543,000 in funding from corporate, foundation and individual donors as well as from contract services. We incurred \$538,732 in total expenses during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, ending the fiscal year with positive net income of \$4,305. 78% of our expenses were spent on program work.

Sources of Revenue



Programmatic Efficiency



Patty Garbarino

PATTY GARBARINO
BOARD TREASURER

Our financial outlook for the upcoming fiscal year continues to be strong with revenue budgeted at over \$750,000. We will continue to work on existing grants and anticipate receiving additional funding throughout the year. We also anticipate maintaining or increasing contributions during this upcoming fiscal year. We will continue to apply a high percentage of our funding toward program expenses and keep fundraising and management expenses to a minimum. We have budgeted a breakeven budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

AFFILIATIONS

NSAC saw the growing need for an affiliated 501(c)3 non-profit organization to educate the public about an equitable, circular economy to support NSAC's advocacy efforts. In January 2021, the **Stewardship Action Foundation (SAF)** was formed for this purpose.



SAF and NSAC have separate boards and budgets, but share the same mission and vision. The organizations align the public and private sectors through information and partnerships to implement and ensure circular systems where producers have an appropriate share of the responsibility for those systems.

1% FOR THE PLANET



1% for the Planet was founded on the model of a business membership program where responsible businesses give back to environmental nonprofits to create a healthier planet. Business members join the network and commit to donating the equivalent of 1% of gross sales through a combination of monetary, in-kind, and approved promotional support directly to environmental nonprofits. Non-profit organizations must be recommended by a participating business or individual. NSAC was recommended to the 1% for the Planet network in 2021 and has been a non-profit partner since. NSAC encourages other businesses in the network to select NSAC as their recipient non-profit.

2022 CANDID PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY SEAL

Platinum
Transparency
2023

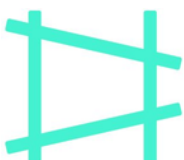
Candid.

Candid (previously GuideStar) provides information to nonprofits to find funders to support their work. Funders verify and research nonprofits that align with their priorities. NSAC achieved Candid's highest level of transparency - the Platinum Seal. It demonstrates the importance placed on sharing information with the public about in-depth financials, mission, achievements, and progress. Donors can confidently support our work with third-party verification of our openness and financial disclosure.



MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK

The American Sustainable Business Network (ASBN) develops and advocates solutions for policymakers, business leaders, and investors that support an equitable, regenerative, and just economy that benefits all—people and planet. NSAC connected with their mission to inform, connect, and mobilize business leaders and investors to transform the public and private sectors toward a sustainable economy. The association members collectively represent over 250,000 businesses across our networks.



HELPSY AFFILIATE

Textile waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the US. By extending the useful life of clothing, Helpsy keeps unwanted textiles from becoming trash. NSAC is a Helpsy affiliate, so use our link to sell, shop, and buy!

QUOTES FROM OUR POLICY MAKERS & PARTNERS



"As California's State Treasurer, I know how impactful NSAC's tireless work has been in shaping policy that advances a circular economy and job creation in the state. Heidi Sanborn's leadership in bringing diverse viewpoints together to solve complex challenges has been critical to passing difficult but important legislation. Landmark laws like SB 54 reflect their tenacious dedication to shepherding policies that improve the lives of all Californians through environmental sustainability and economic vitality."

- **California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA**



"We cannot thank the NSAC team enough for the support and assistance they provided us at OPLN to convene key stakeholders and educate them about the intersection of bottle bills and EPR through meetings and two international study trips in 2023. The results have been that more key stakeholders have been further educated and also developed deep relationships with each other to expedite the development of state and national policy to reduce waste and dramatically increase recycling."

-**Dave Ford, Founder, Ocean Plastics Leadership Network**



"It's really amazing to see product stewardship come full circle! I remember implementing our sharps and pharmaceutical programs in Contra Costa with Lois Courchaine, Central San and the County a decade ago. This reimbursement is thanks to all of your efforts. While it can take time, you're really fighting the good fight and getting results."

- **Ashley Louisiana, RecycleSmart**



"AMP Robotics finds immense value in our NSPC membership, as the information sharing and regulatory updates contained in the weekly newsletter helps us keep track of the implementation of SB54 and other happenings in California."

- **Jonathan Levy, Director of Government Relations, AMP Robotics**

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the last eight years, NSAC has grown to be a nationally recognized thought leader and expert on producer responsibility and other policies driving an equitable, circular economy in the U.S. In 2023-2024, NSAC will be working closely with policymakers and stakeholders from across the country to pass national, state, and local legislation that drive a circular economy. Please contact us if you are interested in working with NSAC!



Heidi Sanborn

Michael Timpane
RRS



Jordan Wells; Fiona Ma, CA State Treasurer;
Heidi Sanborn



Susanne Passantino, Republic Services;
CA State Senator Ben Allen; Jordan Wells;
Estee Chang, Google



Heidi Sanborn; Fiona Ma, CA State Treasurer;
Russ Knocke, Republic Services

OUR SUCCESS IS BECAUSE OF YOU!

SUPPORT OUR WORK BY:

1. Becoming a member / partner
2. Choosing us as your 1% for the Planet non-profit recipient
3. Helpsy
4. Like our social media pages and share our posts





NATIONAL
STEWARDSHIP
ACTION COUNCILSM

ADVOCATING FOR AN EQUITABLE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

1. DESIGN WASTE AND POLLUTION OUT OF THE SYSTEM
2. KEEP MATERIALS IN MOTION AT THEIR HIGHEST VALUE
3. REGENERATE NATURAL SYSTEMS
4. CONFRONT AND ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

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