

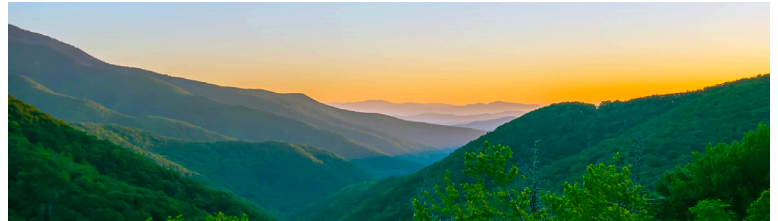
# ANNUAL REPORT

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# MERCK FAMILY FUND

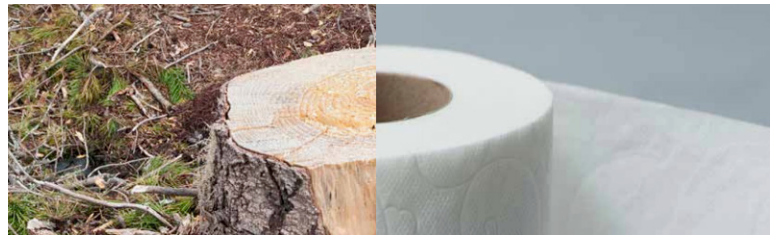
protecting the natural environment • strengthening the urban community

2020



**CONSERVING ECOLOGICALLY VALUABLE LAND**

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**MAKING PAPER PRODUCTION SUSTAINABLE**

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**PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND  
CARBON PRICING**

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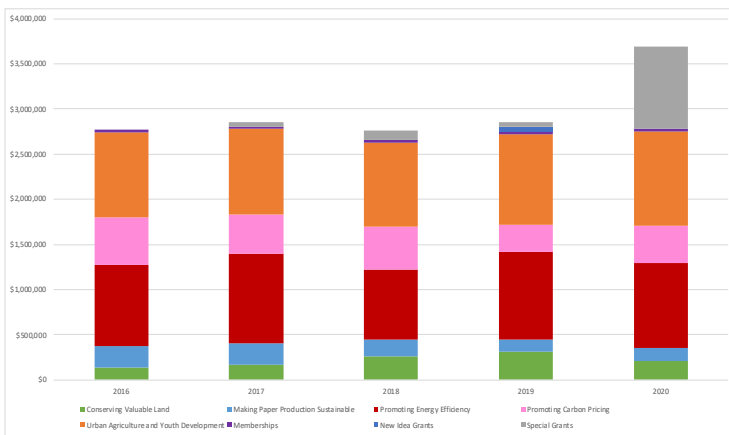


**URBAN FARMING AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP**

## MFF Assets, 2013 - 2020

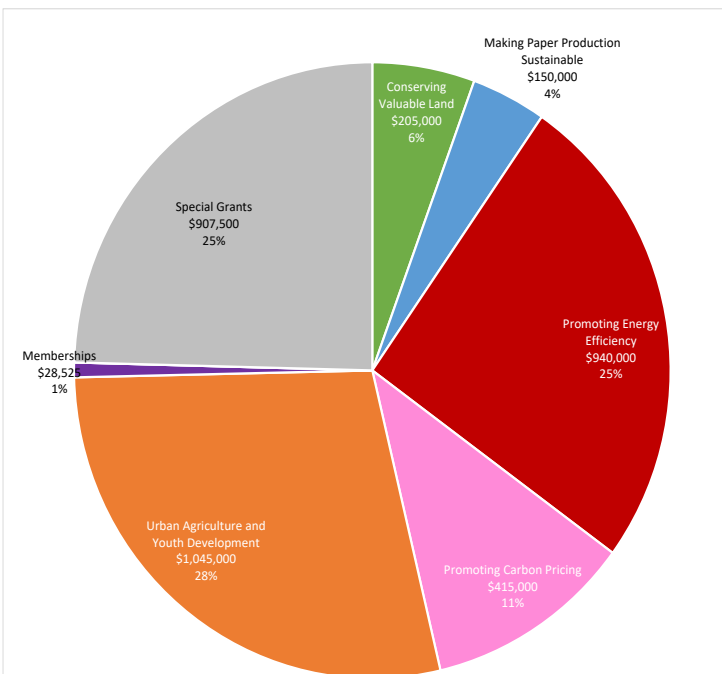


## Grants Paid, 2016 - 2020



## 2020 Grant Program Allocations

Total Disbursements: \$3,691,025



## Conserving Ecologically Valuable Land

*Urban sprawl, resource extraction, and poorly enforced environmental regulations place enormous pressures on natural resources. A healthy world needs a combination of land protections and sustainable use policies to ensure clean air, clean water, and healthy land. The geographic focus of this area will be the southeastern United States, with priority given to the Southern Appalachians and the states of Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia.*

### American Rivers

Washington, DC

\$40,000

To support efforts to conserve and restore habitat for native aquatic organisms in the Little Tennessee River basin under threat from climate change and development.

### Dogwood Alliance

Asheville, NC

\$25,000

To support grassroots organizing focused on protecting wetland forests in North and South Carolina.

### Environmental Integrity Project

Washington, DC

\$25,000

To support the enforcement of air pollution permits for wood biomass plants.

### Land Trust Alliance

Washington, DC

\$35,000

First year of a two-year \$70,000 grant to support the work of land trusts in the Southeast to reduce carbon emissions and increase resilience to climate change.

### Natural Resources Defense Council

New York, NY

\$40,000

To support the "Our Forests Aren't Fuel" campaign.

### Trust for Public Land

Boston, MA

\$40,000

First year of a two-year \$80,000 grant to support state and local governments in the Southern Appalachians establish new and dedicated sources of public funding for land conservation.

## Making Paper Production Sustainable

*Paper production is a highly toxic, carbon-emitting, water-intensive, and forest-reliant industry. There are a number of ways to improve the environmental impact of the sector. The goal is to increase the rates of recycled paper in large paper sectors, reduce sourcing from endangered forests, and maximize clean production.*

### Canopy

San Francisco, CA  
\$70,000

First year of a two-year \$140,000 grant to support a transformation of the packaging supply chain to protect the world's forests.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Tides Foundation*

### Environmental Paper Network

Asheville, NC  
\$40,000

To support the leadership, coordination, and resources of a global network concerned with the sustainable production and consumption of pulp and paper.

*Fiscal Sponsor: SEE Inc*

### Stand

San Francisco, CA  
\$40,000

Second year of a two-year \$80,000 grant to support the Healthy Forest Campaign.

## Promoting Energy Efficiency & Carbon Pricing

*Without a price on carbon emissions, the cheapest and fastest way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is through energy efficiency. The Fund's strategy is to support efficiency policies and implementation efforts in the Northeast and Southeast. In the long run, it is still essential that a price be paid for carbon emissions. The Fund will therefore support the development of political and economic drivers at the state and federal level to establish or expand carbon pricing mechanisms.*

## Energy Efficiency

### Acadia Center

Rockport, ME  
\$100,000

First year of a two-year \$200,000 grant to support efforts that will maximize the funding and deployment of efficiency programs.

### American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

Washington, DC  
\$70,000

To support technical assistance and resources to energy efficiency advocates and policy makers in the Southeast.

### Ceres

Boston, MA  
\$75,000

First year of a two-year \$150,000 grant to support the implementation of energy efficiency targets and initiatives with major industrial sectors.

### Coastal Conservation League

Charleston, SC  
\$40,000

To support the Energy & Climate Program.

### Conservation Law Foundation

Boston, MA  
\$50,000

Second year of a two-year \$100,000 grant to support enhanced state energy efficiency in New England.

### Environmental & Energy Study Institute

Washington, DC  
\$25,000

To support cost-effective, equitable access to clean energy and energy efficiency.

### Majority Action

Silver Spring, MD  
\$35,000

To support investor efforts that will hold the boards of electric utilities accountable for achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

### New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York, NY  
\$100,000

First year of a two-year \$200,000 grant to support the PEAK Campaign which aims to replace fossil-fuel powered peaker plants in low-income communities of color in with clean energy alternatives.

### **Nicholas Institute**

Durham, NC

\$75,000

To support research and recommended policy on overburdened communities with high energy costs in the Southeast.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Duke University*

### **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships**

Lexington, MA

\$75,000

To support the advancement of resilient, low carbon homes, buildings and communities in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

### **Southeast Sustainability Directors Network**

Asheville, NC

\$30,000

To support local governments in the Tennessee Valley in sustainable energy and efficiency goals, plans, policies and programs.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Urban Sustainability Directors Network*

### **Southern Alliance for Clean Energy**

Knoxville, TN

\$100,000

First year of a two-year \$200,000 grant to support involvement in regulatory proceedings, collaborative working groups, and utility resource planning to advance cost-effective energy efficiency programs.

### **Southern Environmental Law Center**

Charlottesville, VA

\$150,000

To use market forces and regulatory conditions to achieve utility investments in energy efficiency.

### **Upstate Forever**

Greenville, SC

\$15,000

To support progress on energy efficiency programs in South Carolina.

## **Carbon Pricing**

### **Clean Water Fund**

Boston, MA

\$35,000

To support policies that provide safeguards and clean transit benefits for overburdened and front line communities through the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI).

### **Energy and Enterprise Initiative**

Fairfax, VA

\$40,000

To support RepublicEn and the activation of conservatives to advance climate action in select districts and states.

### **Environmental Advocates NY**

Albany, NY

\$20,000

To support participation on the New York State Climate Action Council to advance carbon pricing.

### **Environmental Defense Fund**

New York, NY

\$60,000

To support advocacy for a cap-and-trade program in Oregon through legislative or administrative action.

### **Georgetown Climate Center**

Washington, DC

\$45,000

To support coordinated action on state and federal initiatives on carbon pricing, clean energy, and clean transportation systems through convening, analysis, and online tools.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Georgetown University*

### **Institute for Policy Integrity**

New York, NY

\$50,000

To support carbon pricing initiatives in wholesale electric markets.

### **Oregon Environmental Council**

Portland, OR

\$50,000

Second year of a two-year \$100,000 grant to advance and secure a cap and invest carbon pricing program in Oregon and related climate protection measures.

### **Our Climate Education Fund**

Washington, DC

\$20,000

To empower Generation Z and millennials in the Northeast to advocate for a price on greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Resources for the Future**

Washington, DC

\$30,000

To support RFF's Carbon Pricing Initiative which helps leaders better understand the fiscal and environmental costs and benefits.

### **Vermont Public Interest Research & Education Fund**

Montpelier, VT

\$15,000

To support advocacy that leads to equitable carbon pricing programs.

### **Union of Concerned Scientists**

Cambridge, MA

\$50,000

First year of a two-year \$100,000 grant to support the implementation of an equitable market-based cap and invest program for transportation in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic.

## **Urban Farming & Youth Leadership**

*Growing food in community is a collective and personal entry point to many systemic issues including: health and nutrition, job training, environmental sustainability, and the creation of social capital. The local cultivation and distribution of fresh, healthy, and affordable food raises the awareness about quality and access something sorely lacking in low-income communities. This program at the Merck Family Fund will support programs in low-income urban areas that are harnessing the power of young people to create urban farms and local markets.*

### **Campaign Against Hunger**

Brooklyn, NY

\$25,000

First year of a two-year \$50,000 grant to support the year round Green Teens urban farming and food justice program.

### **Civil Eats**

New York, NY

\$10,000

To support reporting on urban agriculture projects across the US with a focus on the northeast.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Sustainable Markets Foundation*

### **Community Food Funders**

New York, NY

\$25,000

To support the networking of funders working towards an ethical and equitable food system.

*Fiscal Sponsor: North Star Fund*

### **Conservation Law Foundation**

Boston, MA

\$30,000

To support growth of urban agriculture for historically marginalized communities in Massachusetts and to continue to expand the Legal Food Hub.

### **Equity Advocates**

Brooklyn, NY

\$20,000

To support Equity Advocates to provide policy, advocacy and coalition building programs to MFF's Urban Farming grantees to increase their capacity to engage in food policy and build collective power.

### **Everett Community Growers**

Everett, MA

\$20,000

To support the Youth Crew to grow food, learn about food justice, and participate in the Everett Food Policy Council.

### **Federation of Neighborhood Centers**

Philadelphia, PA

\$20,000

To support youth leaders to increase access to fresh food in their neighborhood through urban agriculture, education, and community engagement.

### **Gardening the Community**

Springfield, MA

\$30,000

First year of a two-year \$60,000 grant to support youth leaders to address community food security and healthy food access through farming, operating a farm store, community engagement, and city-wide advocacy.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Third Sector New England*

### **Green City Force**

Brooklyn, NY

\$25,000

To support the 8-month training program for NYCHA residents at 5 Eco Hubs to grow food, expand food access and learn other green economy skills.

### **Green Guerillas**

Brooklyn, NY

\$25,000

To support a year-round Youth Empowerment Pipeline that enables young people of color to develop leadership, gardening and food justice skills to lead in the food movement.



### **Greenroots**

*Chelsea, MA*

\$20,000

To build agricultural leadership among young people through production at the new Urban Farm and four community gardens.

### **Groundwork Lawrence**

*Lawrence, MA*

\$30,000

First year of a two-year \$60,000 grant to support Green Teens to cultivate an urban farm to increase access to fresh, healthy food and provide educational programming, employment, & leadership opportunities.

### **Groundwork Somerville**

*Somerville, MA*

\$25,000

To support the Green Team, South Street Farm, Schoolyard Gardens, and World Crops programs.

### **Groundwork Southcoast**

*New Bedford, MA*

\$25,000

To support Green Teen leaders to grow and distribute food and advocate for increased access to fresh food for their community.

### **Haley House**

*Boston, MA*

\$15,000

To support local teens to become food justice advocates and ambassadors in their community by developing their farming, cooking, programming and neighborhood engagement skills.

### **Harlem Grown**

*New York, NY*

\$20,000

To develop leadership opportunities for teens through increased training and greater responsibilities in the gardens and throughout the organization.

### **Hattie Carthan Community Garden**

*Brooklyn, NY*

\$25,000

First year of a two-year \$50,000 grant to support the Transforming Youths through Holistic Farming leadership program and local food access and sovereignty activities.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Magnolia Tree & Earth Center*

### **John Bartram Association**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

Second year of two-year \$50,000 grant to support urban farming and youth leadership development steeped in the traditions, culture and history of the African diaspora.

### **Lion's Tooth Project**

*Brooklyn, NY*

\$10,000

To support the leadership of LGBTQ youth of color to provide healing and wellness spaces for other youth through connections to the land, herbal medicine and the arts.

*Fiscal Sponsor: iOby*

### **Local Enterprise Assistance Fund**

*Boston, MA*

\$25,000

To support the expansion of the MA Food Trust Program which provides technical assistance and capital to local food enterprises in low-income, low-access areas of the state.

### **MA Food System Collaborative**

*Greenfield, MA*

\$55,000

To promote, monitor, and facilitate implementation of the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan; and to support the Urban Agriculture Network to create connections, mutual learning and build the advocacy capacity among urban farming organizations in MA.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Franklin County Community Development Co.*

### **Mill City Grows**

*Lowell, MA*

\$25,000

Second year of a two-year \$50,000 grant to support the engagement of young people in urban farming through education programs, summer youth employment, and mentorship pathways.

### **Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group**

*Kingston, NY*

\$25,000

To support youth engagement and urban agriculture focus at the 2020 conference in Providence, RI; on-going policy and advocacy work; and an update of our Northeast regional food systems paper.

### **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$20,000

To support youth farmers to reimagine and revitalize three of the vegetable gardens, while rooting themselves in their cultural heritage.

### **Nubian United Benevolent International Association**

*Roxbury, MA*

\$15,000

To educate youth and families and provide fresh local food through urban agriculture and farm stands across Boston.

### **One Art Community Center**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

To support scaled seedling production and distribution and increased growing through the One Art Community Center and the Oasis Farm.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Soil Generation*

### **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$20,000

To support preservation, capacity building, and leadership of community gardens and gardeners across the city.

### **Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$30,000

To support strategic planning work, the Urban Agriculture Plan, and City food initiatives to build a more racially just and resilient food system.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Fund for Philadelphia*

### **Project Bread**

*Boston, MA*

\$25,000

To ensure that the emergency food system overall is adapted, improved and accelerated.

### **Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

Second year of a two-year \$50,000 grant to support low-income community gardeners and market farmers through the use of law and advocacy.

### **Red Hook Initiative**

*Brooklyn, NY*

\$25,000

Second year of a two-year \$50,000 grant to support an urban farming and food justice program that inspires teens to become leaders, educators and advocates.

### **Regional Environmental Council, Inc.**

*Worcester, MA*

\$35,000

Second year of a two-year \$65,000 grant to support youth leaders in farming, community engagement and local advocacy, as well as build out community garden and farm infrastructure.

### **RiseBoro Community Partnership**

*Brooklyn, NY*

\$20,000

To institutionalize urban farming and food justice in all programming with youth and community residents to increase demand and advocacy for healthy food.

### **Rockaway Youth Task Force**

*Far Rockaway, NY*

\$25,000

Second year of a two-year \$50,000 grant to support youth-driven farming, community gardening and social justice organizing in the Rockaways.

### **Roots Rising**

*Pittsfield, MA*

\$20,000

To support Youth Crews to farm, run a Farmer's Market and initiate a new Mobile Market Truck.

### **Soil Generation**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

First of a two-year \$55,000 grant to strengthen the movement for food and environmental justice, through organizing, community education, and advocating for structural change.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Nature's Garden for Victory and Peace Inc.*

### **Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA**

*Worcester, MA*

\$15,000

To support the holistic growth of Southeast Asian youth via intergenerational gardening, food security advocacy, leadership development, and preservation of cultural food heritage.

### **Springfield Food Policy Council**

*Springfield, MA*

\$10,000

To support production gardening on school gardens during the summer of 2020 and to staff the MA Urban Ag Working Group.

### **The Food Project**

*Lincoln, MA*

\$25,000

Second year of a two-year \$50,000 grant to support 145 teens to develop leadership skills, grow food, build community and support the local food systems in Boston and Lynn.

### **United Community Centers**

*Brooklyn, NY*

\$50,000

Second year of a two-year \$100,000 grant to support youth driven leadership for systemic changes to the local food system through farms, gardens, markets, community education and engagement, and network organizing.

### **Urban Farming Institute**

*Mattapan, MA*

\$30,000

Second year of a two-year \$60,000 grant to support farm development and farmer training, including a new Youth Program.

### **Urban Tree Connection**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

To support training and leadership of Youth Apprentices in Just Transition framework through urban farming, Farmers' Markets and community engagement activities.

### **VietLead**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

Second year of a two-year \$50,000 grant to support Southeast Asian youth leaders to build a garden, promote healthy living, foster intergenerational relationships, and organize campaigns to protect their community.

## **Special Projects Grants**

*The combination of COVID, the heightened commitment to racial justice, and protection of the vote inspired the Trustees to make additional one-time grants to the following groups.*

### **American Civil Liberties Union Pennsylvania**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

To support voter education, litigation against voter roll purges and election day protections in key areas of Pennsylvania.

### **Blueprint North Carolina**

*Raleigh, NC*

\$75,000

To support the capacity of 60+ civic engagement members to conduct voter education, registration, and GOTV efforts across the state.

### **Bread and Roses**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$50,000

To support The Giving Project to build local leadership and funding for social justice.

### **CASA Pennsylvania**

*York, PA*

\$25,000

To support voter outreach, education, and registration efforts in the Latino community in southeastern Pennsylvania.

### **Clean Energy Group**

*Montpelier, VT*

\$25,000

To replace fossil-fueled peaker plants and create peaker replacement strategies using solar+storage to reduce pollution and enhance community health and equity in frontline communities.

### **Democracy North Carolina**

*Morrisville, NC*

\$25,000

To support voter education and outreach, advocate for accessible and fair elections, and monitor and analyze election outcomes to hold elected officials accountable.

### **Florida For All Education Fund**

*Miami, FL*

\$50,000

To support voter empowerment in communities of color through Voter Education and Voter Protection.

*Fiscal Sponsor: New Florida Majority Education Fund*

### **LivableStreets**

*Cambridge, MA*

\$40,000

To support work to create communities and streets that are safe, vibrant, and well connected to the places where people live, work, and play.

### **Make the Road Pennsylvania**

*Allentown, PA*

\$25,000

To support work to create communities and streets that are safe, vibrant, and well connected to the places where people live, work, and play.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Make the Road New York*



**National Vote At Home Institute***Washington, DC*

\$50,000

To support vote at home efforts by North Carolina and Pennsylvania including advocacy, technical assistance, training in best practices and communications.

**New Georgia Project***Atlanta, GA*

\$39,000

To support the voter registration, education, and GOTV efforts in the state of Georgia.

**North Star Fund***New York, NY*

\$15,000

To support an assessment of the impact of government and philanthropic emergency food responses to Covid-19 in the NYC region with recommendations.

**Organizing Empowerment Fund***Monona, WI*

\$25,000

To support training, tools, coaching and on-going support to a growing cohort of 8+ groups in Pennsylvania and North Carolina to build out and cultivate networks of voters.

**Power***Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

To support voter registration, get out the vote, and voter protection strategies in communities across Pennsylvania.

**Project Bread***East Boston, MA*

\$25,000

To ensure that the emergency food system overall is adapted, improved and accelerated.

**Resources for the Future***Washington, DC*

\$33,500

To support an analysis, issue briefs, and workshop of carbon pricing for transportation as part of the RGGI Project Series.

**Rocky Mountain Institute***Boulder, CO*

\$85,000

To support the outreach to communities to adopt a SolarApp permitting process.

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice***Durham, NC*

\$25,000

To support comprehensive efforts to ensure all voters have safe access to the polls this fall.

**Southern Power Fund***New Market, TN*

\$50,000

To support frontline Black-led organizations in the South working on systemic change.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Highlander Research and Education Center***The Voter Project***Harrisburg, PA*

\$50,000

To support voter registration programs and GOTV efforts in Pennsylvania.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Keystone Research Center***TransitMatters***Boston, MA*

\$25,000

To support transit advocacy efforts to help the Boston region's transportation system respond to COVID and become more resilient.

**Transportation for America***Washington, DC*

\$50,000

First of a two-year \$100,000 grant to support advocacy for equitable and green transportation funding from any stimulus package.

**Trusted Elections Fund***Washington, DC*

\$50,000

To support preparations for, and responses to, high-risk threats to election integrity with rapid-response funds.

*Fiscal Sponsor: New Ventures Fund***Union of Concerned Scientists***Cambridge, MA*

\$45,000

To support a report with MJ Bradley on rural transportation opportunities and challenges in four northeastern states.

## Membership Grants

**Biodiversity Funders Group**

\$5,000

**Confluence Philanthropy**

\$1,500

**Environmental Grantmakers Association**

\$8,525

**Funders Network for Smart Growth**

\$5,000

**Philanthropy Massachusetts**

\$3,000

**Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Funders**

\$5,500