



Celebrating 35 Years of Sustainable Solutions

Thirty five years after our founding, EcoWorks continues to respond to the pressing issues of our time while developing long-term solutions. We will continue to partner with residents, schools, organizations, and communities to get ahead of the curve - to be resilient in the face of utility prices and climate change while enhancing access and affordability to green neighborhoods, green careers, and green and healthy homes.

EcoWorks 8th Annual Breakfast

On November 4th, the EcoWorks family was proud to host its 8th Annual Breakfast at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. The event was a celebration of our 35th anniversary of supporting and building sustainable solutions in the City of Detroit. It also served as a space to reflect on our growth as an organization, hopes for the future, and the immensely

Winona LaDuke



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-Winona LaDuke

valuable partnerships we have cultivated throughout the community. We were grateful and humbled to see the faces of both our long-term and emerging partners in the crowd.

The Sustainable Communities Champion Awards are given each year at the Breakfast to highlight the influential work being done by leaders of sustainability and environmental justice in the community. This year's awards went to:

- *Michael Craig*, Educator and Drew Transition Center horticulture program director
- *Mary Templeton*, Executive Director of Michigan Saves
- *LeeAnne Walters*, Flint resident and clean water activist
- *The Cody Youth Ambassadors*, environmentally-conscious student leadership group from Detroit Institute of Technology at Cody High School

The morning culminated with words from keynote speaker, Winona LaDuke, Native American activist, environmentalist, and Executive Director of Honor the Earth. LaDuke captured people's attention with firsthand accounts of the struggles continuously experienced by indigenous populations around the nation, particularly in regards to protecting their land and environment. Noting on her outlook of the future, LaDuke stated, "[humans] have the greatest potential to do great things or to mess things up, and the challenge is to do the former, not the latter."

EcoWorks staff



Crowd at the Detroit Yacht Club



BECOME A SUSTAINING TRANSFORMER

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we reflect on the value that our individual donors offer to the success and growth of our work. *Sustaining Transformers* provide foundational support for the solutions we look to build in the community everyday. Through recurring donations, *Sustaining Transformers* are able to make a continuous and lasting impact and are key players in achieving our mission.

Our goal is to welcome 50 new Sustaining Transformers this holiday season... will you join the movement and support our work?

We're offering thank you gifts to new Sustaining Transformers, including tickets to next year's Annual Breakfast.

www.ecoworksdetroit.org/donate



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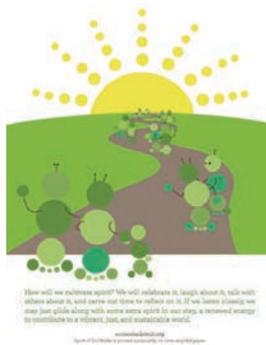
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In other news...

SPIRIT OF ECOWORKS

In honor of our 35th anniversary, EcoWorks has created the *Spirit of EcoWorks*, a concise, meaningful representation of our "true north" and what drives us as an organization. We sought to capture hints of the spirit that has sustained and shaped our work in the community. [Read the digital copy of the Spirit of EcoWorks.](#)



FICON 2016

The Financial Institutions Community Development Conference (FICON) convened on October 20th and was centered on the theme: Building an Equitable Local Economy. Keynote speaker, Maria Hadden of the Participatory Budgeting Project, spoke of the valuable role that citizens have in budget decision-making and the importance of providing the public with the tools and the voice to shape their community. Conference materials, including handouts, presentation slides, and more can be found at www.ecoworksdetroit.org/ficon.



Program Highlights



Each year, the [Youth Energy Squad](#) kicks off its school year program with a Recycling Challenge, drawing huge levels of participation from across the Detroit Public Schools Community District. Our team of 12 AmeriCorps members provides intensive support, coaching, and mentoring to 1,400 students in 54 school green teams. Although the final numbers are not in yet, schools participating in the Recycling Challenge have already reported over 16,000 pounds of recyclables collected over a four-week period! Davison Elementary-Middle School is currently the top-recycler, collecting over 2,100 pounds of paper, plastic and cardboard!



[Reclaim Detroit](#) launched a revamped 10-week workforce development training program in May focused on construction and environmental services. Graduates receive industry-recognized certifications and paid on-the-job training. We are proud to report the results: 4 cohorts, 45 trainees, 100% completion rate, 79% job placement by graduation.

A Note From Our Executive Director...

Three days before the election, we celebrated our 35th anniversary at EcoWorks. It was an emotional moment for me, thinking both about our accomplishments and our evolution but also about the present moment. I was inspired by the courageous work our keynote speaker Winona LaDuke had done to rebuff multi-billion dollar pipelines through native lands in Minnesota and the current fight she was supporting at Standing Rock, North Dakota.

Now a month after the election, our 35th anniversary celebration feels bittersweet. During the last thirty-five years of our work, and the work of hundreds of partners in Detroit and across the state, and the entire social sector trying to end a host of problems, few issues have seen improvement and many situations have become worse. Energy poverty, substandard housing, climate change, and unemployment (to name a few) are all still with us. Of the organizations like EcoWorks that have been hard at work since 1981 or longer, five administrations and myriad funding cycles later, we are still, sadly, very much needed.

If our ultimate mission is to put ourselves out of work, and if we share a vision that there will be minimal need for the on-going services of EcoWorks or any other mission-driven organization, we remain a long way—perhaps further—from that objective than we were in 1981.

How can that be? I believe much of this answer can be found in the 2016 election refrain: "It's rigged."

[Read the rest of Justin's comments on our blog.](#)

Justin Schott
Executive Director, EcoWorks



Through a new grant with the Michigan Energy Office, [Green Consulting](#) will be partnering with the city in its efforts to reduce energy consumption among city facilities. Our scope may include developing the structure for revolving loan fund, supporting energy benchmarking, proposing energy efficiency project specifications, and institutionalizing good energy practices through capital planning and coordination with multiple city departments. We look forward to supporting Detroit's new Office of Sustainability and helping the director hit the ground running in 2017!



[Residential Education's](#) Water Smart team recently completed their 600th home water conservation and plumbing repair visit with the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP). Each visit's plumbing repairs and fixture upgrades saves households over \$520 each year of their water bill!

