



Restore the Earth
FOUNDATION

2019

Annual Report





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Dear Friends,

2019 was a year full of hard work, action, new partnerships, AND unique opportunities for Restore the Earth. We continue to extend and amplify our work to reforest more of the 1 million acres of degraded land in “North America’s Amazon”, the largest ecologically degraded areas in the US with the largest concentration of underserved communities in the United States.

We were excited and inspired to see that 2019 was filled with its share of commitments and investments in reforestation initiatives. We believe that the momentum is truly shifting to focus on nature based solutions and forests as serious, effective solutions to climate change.

Given this momentum, we have been hard at work to deliver on our million acre mission, with real, permanent and impactful restoration in the Mississippi River Basin. As with any major undertaking, this cannot be accomplished alone. Critical collaborative, cross-sector partnerships are needed for these projects to be successful, scalable and effective.

To help fund this initiative, Restore the Earth, working with TerraCarbon and the Climate Action Reserve pioneered the development of the Climate Action Reserve’s Climate Forward Reforestation methodology. The Climate Forward program is designed to support and accelerate action on climate change by encouraging companies and organizations to proactively invest today in projects that mitigate **future** greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The Climate Forward program provides a mechanism for Restore the Earth to quantify, verify, and register forecasted mitigation units (FMUs), on our projects which our partner ClimeCo will market to voluntary buyers to help fund future reforestation efforts in the Basin.

Dow, the Official Carbon Partner of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), teamed up with Restore the Earth Foundation, Inc. in the summer of 2019 to generate 80,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions reductions over a 40-year period to help mitigate the climate footprint of the IOC and the Olympic movement by planting 400 acres of native trees in coastal Louisiana.

The Dow/IOC project will be the very first reforestation project registered on CAR Climate Forward.

In the fall 2019, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)’s National Coastal Resilience Fund awarded Restore the Earth \$2.6 million to complete the reforestation at the Pointe-aux-Chenes AND install a complimentary grey infrastructure component which will divert **10 billion gallons of fresh river water per year** into the Pointe-aux-Chenes wetland restoration project by retrofitting existing infrastructure.

Formalizing partnerships with Silicon Ranch, the Alliance for Water Stewardship and BlueStone Life Insurance provided innovative, new pathways for us in 2019. We can’t wait for you to read all about these fabulous partners and our work with them.

Collaborative, cross-sector, out of the box thinking is how we were founded and continue to operate to this day, as we enter the 10th year since the Foundation was officially created. We can say that this ethos is continuing to drive our momentum and ability to deliver on real, permanent and impactful landscape scale restoration today.

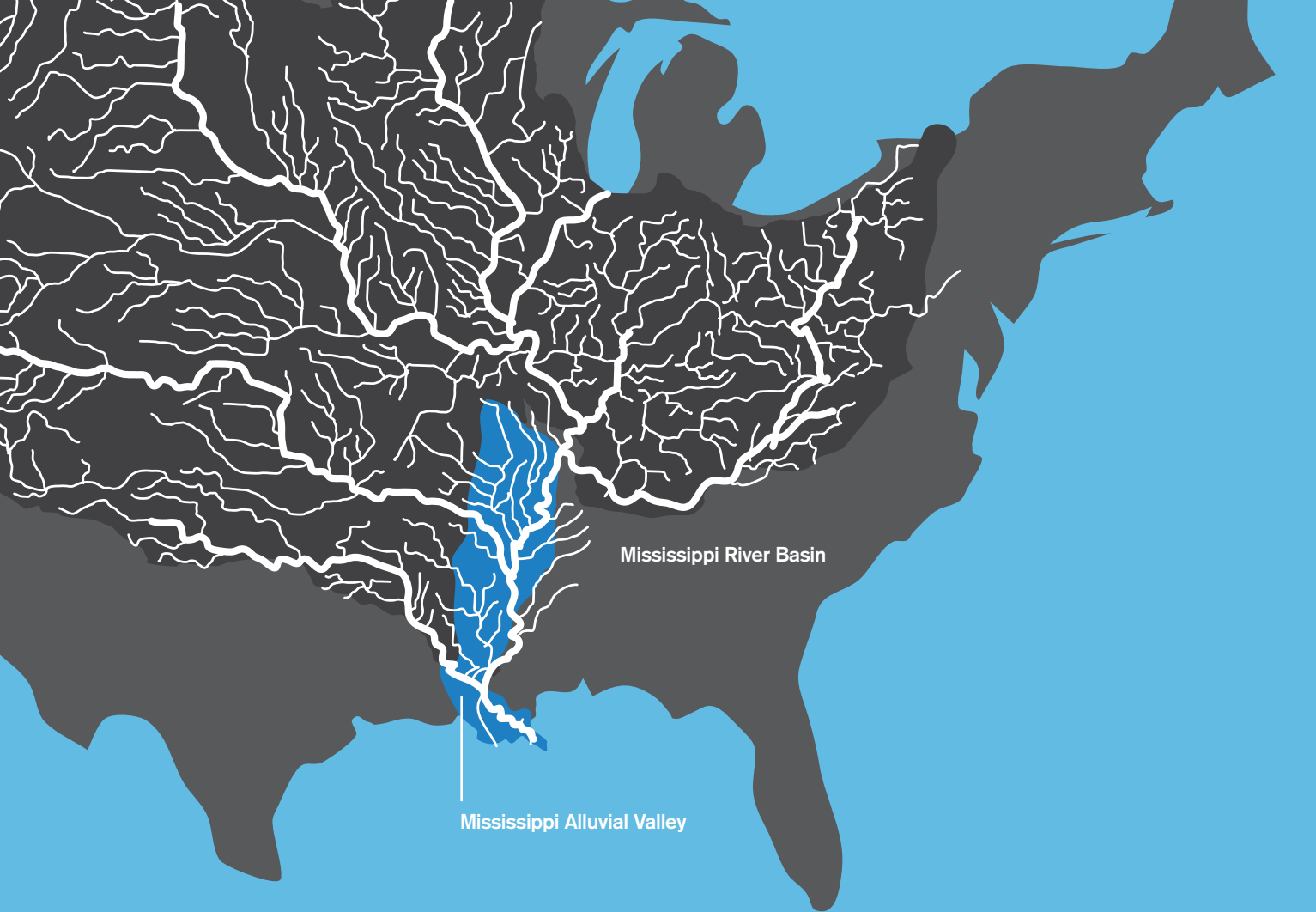
We are deeply grateful for the work we are doing and the amazing partnerships we have created through this journey! We look forward to you learning about our activities from 2019, but more importantly, we can’t wait to share all the amazing leaps and bounds that continue to lay ahead.



P.J. Marshall
Co-Founder & Executive Director



Marv Marshall
Co-Founder & CEO



North America’s Amazon

At Restore the Earth we know that it’s possible to go beyond just protecting our environment; it’s possible to restore it. And when you restore the environment at a landscape scale, it creates incredible value for business, communities and the Earth. We are restoring 1 million acres in the Mississippi River Basin, North America’s Amazon. We have the business case to support major private investment in restoration with verifiable returns. We’re leading a movement that recognizes we can do more than just protect the Earth—we can restore it.

The Million Acre Opportunity

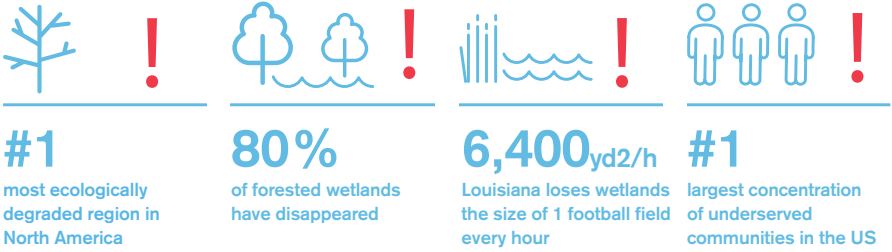
Iconic, vast and essential, the Mississippi River Basin is the third largest watershed on Earth.

It is considered “North America’s Amazon,” in the very heart of our nation. It encompasses over 40% of the contiguous US, spanning 31 states & two Canadian provinces. 60% of all the fresh water flowing into the Gulf of Mexico comes through the Mississippi River. The importance of this ecosystem is not just national, it plays a global role in climate change, the water cycle and ocean acidification. It’s an economic and environmental powerhouse. Millions of people and billions of dollars depend on the benefits it provides, from national and international commerce and transportation, recreation and tourism to hurricane defenses, clean air and water and climate change mitigation.

The Challenges

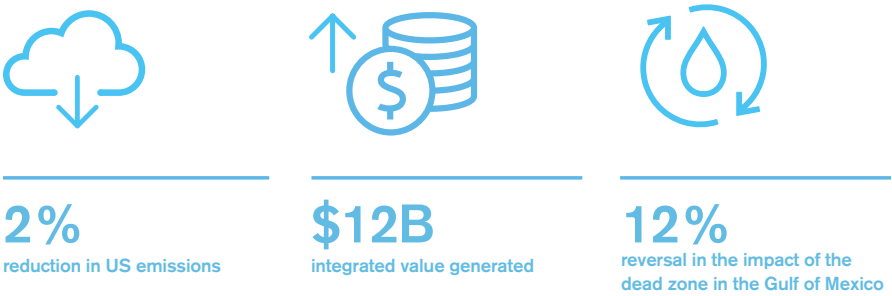
North America’s Amazon generates significant value to the national economy despite the fact that over the last 100 years it has been depleted, altered and degraded. The southernmost region of the river basin is the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, the most ecologically degraded region in North America - originally 24 million acres of forest, now only 5 million acres of forest remain.

In Louisiana’s coastal areas alone, we are losing wetlands the size of a football field every hour. Imagine the value it could provide if we restore it.



The Opportunity

Restore the Earth is restoring 1 million acres of ecosystems in North America’s Amazon over the next 15 years through private/public partnerships. Restoring these natural systems will reduce America’s climate footprint by 2%, start to reverse the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico by 12%, reduce business risk, make communities more resilient, enhance health and well-being, create jobs and improve livelihoods. US Fish and Wildlife Service and their partners have identified every acre of the million waiting to be restored. This is not just talk, this work is already under way!





Restoration Updates



In 2019 Restore the Earth continued our adventure with a number of exciting highlights, partnerships, and project updates. As we continue our efforts to restore the Earth, and work towards our restoration goals, we are always pleasantly surprised by the people we meet, partners we join with and collaborations that are created as a result.

Here are some highlights from our work and partnerships from 2019.

Pointe-aux-Chenes
Reforestation Project

Our focus on landscape scale restoration - all 1 million acres - is a huge undertaking. At Restore the Earth we love a challenge, but we know we cannot do it alone. We work closely with our private, state and federal partners to identify large-acreage project sites that will have the most meaningful impact in the landscapes, ecosystems and communities where we work. Our 5,000 acre Pointe-aux-Chenes project is one of those projects.

In 2019, we experienced significant progress on our Pointe-aux-Chenes reforestation project, a now 5,000 acre historic bald cypress forested wetland located at the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Montegut, Louisiana.

Summer 2019

In support of the Official Carbon Partnership between Dow and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Dow partnered with Restore the Earth Foundation, Inc. to replant 400 acres at Pointe-aux-Chenes. (see page 11 for more information)

November 2019

Restore the Earth is announced as a recipient of a \$2.6 million dollar grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)'s National Coastal Resilience Fund to restore over 3,000 acres at Pointe-aux-Chenes completing the project. (see page 21 for more information)



Recreational activities: hunting, fishing, bird watching



Economic value for commercial and recreational fisheries



Threatened, critical and/or endangered species



Critical fish and bird habitat



Support of heritage and culture: two native tribes located adjacent to the WMA

Project Benefits

- Serves as critical storm protection and aids in community resilience for 200,000+ residents of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes
- Represents the last large landmass protecting these Parishes from the open water of the Gulf of Mexico
- Protects local communities and indigenous nations/tribes from risks associated with storm and flood events
- Generates opportunities for sustainable hunting, fishing, camping and wildlife watching
- Enhanced coastal wetland and watershed systems
- Restored native wildlife and fisheries
- Local jobs created, to initiate and implement the project
- Increased economic opportunities generated by recreation and tourism
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Improved water quality



Reforestation
Outcomes to Date
on Acres Planted

- 85% survival rate
- 20% propagating seeds
- Observations of natural regeneration
- Supporting wildlife habitat
- Significant vegetative coverage

Tracking Our Progress

DATE	PLANTING ACTIVITY	PARTNERS
Fall 2015	Test Planting	–
Dec 2016 - Jan 2017	1,500 acres	US BCSD Collaborative Fund
Nov 2019	200 acres	DOW + IOC
Fall 2020	200 acres	DOW + IOC
Fall 2021	3,300 acres	NFWF

Partners making this innovative project happen:





Bayou Terrebonne Freshwater Diversion

Restore the Earth Foundation has been working in Terrebonne Parish for a decade, and while our work focuses on restoring forest and wetland ecosystems, we know that the community is inextricably intertwined with those natural ecosystems.

Last year we partnered with the Parish on the Bayou Terrebonne Freshwater Diversion Project. The project, designed by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Terrebonne Parish, and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), takes a common sense approach, retrofitting existing pump infrastructure to create an innovative, integrated and coordinated system that serves the dual purposes of community flood management and introduction of freshwater back into the degraded system for wetland restoration.

This diversion will move approximately **10 BILLION gallons of freshwater per year**, including the nutrients and sediments originating from the Mississippi River into the Pointe-aux-Chenes wetlands in Central and Eastern Terrebonne Parish. This freshwater diversion will enhance conditions for the creation of wetlands to support Restore the Earth’s 5,000 acre cypress restoration at Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area.

In 2019, in addition to private funding from Coca Cola Foundation, Entergy and Shell Pipeline, we were able to finalize the funding for the project, with funding from Terrebonne Parish and Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)’s National Coastal Resilience Fund Grant.

The freshwater diversion is scheduled to be operational by end of 2020.

Project Attributes

This project serves as a pilot for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)’s Water Quality Trading Program

Restore the Earth is working closely with LDEQ to measure, value and report on the ability freshwater diversions like this one to provide for:

Nitrogen and phosphorus mitigation

Improvements in the watershed

Enhancement of water quality and quantity

Increased sediment to support land creation



Improved water quality and quantity



Protection of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parish communities

10 Billion Gallons

per year input of nutrient rich freshwater into the Pointe-aux-Chenes bald cypress reforestation site



Protection of adjacent native tribes including the Point au Chien and United Houma Nation



Enhanced healthy freshwater habitat which promotes the creation of emergent wetlands and the maintenance of land

Partners making this innovative project happen





2019 Highlights

Partnerships

Dow and the International Olympic Committee



Restore the Earth and Dow celebrate partnership alongside Pointe-aux-Chenes project partners including Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center (SLWDC)



Dow, the Official Carbon Partner of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), teamed up with Restore the Earth Foundation, Inc. in the summer of 2019 to generate 80,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions reductions over a 40-year period to help mitigate the climate footprint of the IOC and the Olympic movement by planting 400 acres of native trees in coastal Louisiana.

The Dow/IOC project will be the very first reforestation project registered on Climate Action Reserve's (CAR) Climate Forward Program.

The first 200 acres of this reforestation were planted in November 2019, and included a volunteer day with Dow employees and leadership. The remaining 200 acres will be planted in 2020, and will include another volunteer event Fall 2020.

Dow committed to this collaboration with Restore the Earth Foundation to generate 80,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions reductions over a 40-year period to help mitigate the footprint of the IOC and the Olympic movement.

This project is also anticipated to generate \$21 million in environmental, social and economic value in the region, as estimated by Restore the Earth's [EcoMetrics Model](#) and outlined in the [Cypress Reforestation Social Return on Investment Report](#).

"This partnership is unique in providing ecosystem services that demonstrate the value of natural capital to accelerate adoption of green infrastructure solutions," said Mary Draves, corporate vice president and chief sustainability officer, Dow. "Together with Restore the Earth, our collective goal is to inspire actions that can reduce carbon emissions and support restoration of one of our most valuable assets – nature's forests."

The collaboration with Restore the Earth Foundation aligns with Dow's "Valuing Nature" journey. Dow's 2025 Valuing Nature Goal aims to deliver \$1 billion in net present value from projects that are good for business and better for nature.

The Restore the Earth Foundation is the only nature based solution under Dow's others Collaborative Blueprint projects for unlocking carbon reductions. The impact of this partnership goes beyond balancing the IOC footprint and creates a legacy of low carbon technologies and climate action focused collaborations by encouraging organizations outside and within the Olympic movement to adopt initiatives for reducing carbon emissions while catalyzing change in their operations and value chains.

**Due to Covid-19 the 2020 Tokyo Olympics have been postponed until July 2021. The offsets created by this partnership will now be applied to the 2021 Olympic activities.*

Partnerships

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation National Coastal Resilience Fund



In November 2019, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Shell and TransRe announced that Restore the Earth was the recipient of a \$2.6 million grant from their National Coastal Resilience Fund. The project, a “Green-Gray Approach to Gulf Coast Resiliency”, will restore 3,300 acres at Pointe-aux-Chenes, Wildlife Management Area in Montegut, Louisiana, AND retrofit an existing Terrebonne Parish pump to provide for a freshwater diversion into the Pointe-aux-Chenes wetlands, which will deliver 10-15 billion gallons of freshwater, per year.

This grant is matched with private and public funding from Coca-Cola Foundation, Dow, Entergy, Shell Pipeline, VMware, CITGO, Terrebonne Parish, Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District and others.

Restoration and protection in this area is of critical importance to coastal resiliency. The project site is the largest remaining contiguous land mass that protects Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes and adjacent Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw and United Houma Nation native tribes from the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This innovative green-gray restoration approach will strengthen natural systems to protect these coastal communities, support biodiversity, and enhance wildlife habitat, providing long term coastal resiliency.

These coastal ecosystems are critical in protecting significant national and international economic assets such as energy, shipping, navigation, and seafood, while also supporting a variety of regional recreational activities, cultural values and longstanding heritage based practices – all unique and invaluable to coastal Louisiana.

The Pointe-aux-Chenes project is also a pilot for the State of Louisiana’s Water Quality Trading (WQT) Program. LDEQ developed a WQT program that is supported by state legislation and consistent with the Clean Water Act, and state and federal law.

“This project is significant for the Parish and its residents. Once complete, this project will provide significant resilience for critical infrastructure, services and properties, buffering the impact of future storm and flood risk,” said Mart Black, Director of Coastal Restoration and Preservation for Terrebonne Parish. “Projects like these – large scale, visionary projects, with collaborative public-private partnerships and significant co-benefits – are increasingly necessary as they give us a fighting chance to restore and protect our vulnerable coast and the human and animal communities that live here.”

The “green” native tree planting for the reforestation will begin in the fall of 2021 and the “grey” pump retrofit is scheduled to be functioning in fall 2020.

Partnerships

Bluestone Life

The Bluestone Life logo consists of the word "bluestone." in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular background.

Restore the Earth formed a new and unique partnership with Bluestone Life. Both are part of the **1% for the Planet** network, a non-profit where affiliated groups donate 1% of annual sales to environmental principles, and were connected through their passion for finding ways to have meaningful impact. Bluestone Life chose to support Restore the Earth Foundation because of our work to foster positive change at scale, and accomplishing it by bringing together a group of unlikely partners - life insurance and an environmental non-profit.

Bluestone Life is a 1% for the Planet business member and a certified B Corp that leverages the power of life insurance in order to protect family, community, and our home planet. In addition to giving a percent of all premium collected nationally to 1% For the Planet nonprofit partners, every one of Bluestone's policies carries a complimentary Impact Rider giving customers an additional 1% of their policies death benefit to be donated to the non-profit partner of their choice.

The idea is to convert money people would already spend – on food, clothing, loans, and insurance – to make a big impact with no additional consumption or expense. Bluestone supports nonprofits like Restore the Earth that tackle critical environmental and social challenges to effect change on a large-scale.

Bluestone believes life insurance best protects those you love when it also protects our communities and our home planet. In addition to Restore the Earth Foundation's North America's Amazon reforestation, current investments include Nature Conservancy bonds and green energy power generation.

Carbon + Climate Forward

Climate Action Reserve Climate Forward: Setting the Stage for Major Investment in Reforestation

Forests and reforestation activities build up the Earth's net carbon storage and help moderate and reduce the impacts of climate change. As a forest grows, the trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere storing it in their growing trunk, branches, leaves and root systems. A forest carbon offset is a metric ton of CO₂ equivalent, (CO₂e) of newly stored carbon emission reductions.

Reforestation projects are significant because they also generate additional co-benefits to the environment, local communities and economies. Benefits like erosion control, nutrient mitigation, improved water quality, habitat creation, enhanced biodiversity, recreational activities and all the related economic opportunities from which these benefits trickle down.

So, why hasn't major investment been pouring in?

Historically, there has not been significant investment in reforestation projects because of the time gap between initial funding and the assignment of carbon offsets. This time gap is often too long for corporations and investors interested in including reforestation in their carbon reduction portfolios.

This year, with the finalization of the [Climate Action Reserve's Climate Forward Program](#), reforestation methodology has reached a significant, game-changing milestone.

Climate Forward provides an opportunity for corporations making an investment in forest carbon projects, including reforestation, to realize all the carbon emission reduction offsets, dividends and co-benefits generated by the reforestation UP FRONT!

The Climate Action Reserve is one of the world's most prominent carbon offset registries, managing 80% of North America's voluntary offset market.

Restore the Earth Foundation recognized the potential for the Climate Forward program to drive nature-based solutions like reforestation to the forefront of efforts that address excess carbon in the atmosphere.

Restore the Earth pioneered with CAR and longtime partners TerraCarbon, a leading advisory firm that develops and sells carbon offsets to fund forest and wetland conservation around the world, to develop a forward crediting accounting methodology for reforestation to be included in the Climate Forward Program. While the methodology forecasts the emission reductions from reforestation overtime, with Climate Forward the investor is issued forecasted mitigation units (FMUs) at the time of the investment, instead of waiting for the maturity of the trees decades into the future. This eliminates the time gap from the investment and provides, upfront, for the emission reductions created from the project.

Climate Forward's approved carbon accounting methodologies meets a strict set of standards for conservative in advance (ex-ante) accounting of future emissions reductions. Projects must be "real, additional, permanent, confirmable (verified by 3rd party); and enforceable."

Climate Forward provides enormous benefits and incentive for investors to be pro-active in their investment in reforestation for carbon capture.



CLIMATE FORWARD ►

This new program is ideal for any corporation that has facilities, supply chain activities, travel, etc., that require future carbon mitigation. Investing in reforestation projects under this new Climate Forward methodology is also perfect for visionary companies leading the way with ambitious goals of reaching net zero for all of or a component of their operations.

Restore the Earth's first Climate Forward project is a 5,000 acre reforestation project in the Mississippi River Basin. The project is projected to remove over 1,000,000 mt CO₂e from the atmosphere over a 40-year period.

One of the first funders of Restore the Earth's 5,000 acre project is VMware, a "climate forward" Silicon Valley technology company that has actively embraced a visionary carbon offset strategy.

"We applaud the Climate Action Reserve, Restore the Earth and VMware for demonstrating effective leadership at this crucial time when climate action is imperative," said Nicolette Bartlett, Director of Climate Change for the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

Forests are the most efficient carbon sinks on Earth, delivering an abundance of environmental, social and economic co-benefits. With Restore the Earth's landscape scale reforestation approach and Climate Forward providing the incentive today for investing in reforestation, we can take even more tangible action now to reduce global warming and address climate change.

EcoMetrics

Silicon Ranch + Regenerative Energy



Community stakeholders
tour Bancroft Station solar
project site

[Silicon Ranch Corporation](#), the U.S. solar platform for Royal Dutch Shell and one of America's largest independent solar power producers, today announced the launch of [Regenerative Energy](#), a verified, third-party certified product that combines clean electricity generation with carbon sequestration, ecosystem restoration, and rural economic revitalization.

"Regenerative Energy™ marks a new era at Silicon Ranch that speaks to who we are as a company and is a direct reflection of the value we deliver to our customers and our communities through pioneering, responsive, and holistic approaches to the work we do," said Reagan Farr, Co-Founder, President, and Chief Operating Officer of Silicon Ranch. "We are committed to advancing this nature-based solution to climate change that sets a new standard of excellence for our industry, keeps solar land in agricultural production, and brings people together to increase the pace and scale of adoption of regenerative agriculture practices that are critical to the health of our planet."

To develop its Regenerative Energy™ program, Silicon Ranch has partnered with renowned regenerative ranchers and local farmers, who are working with Silicon Ranch to deploy holistic land use practices on solar farms across the country. Adaptively-managed grazing animals, diverse native plants, pollinator habitat, and wildlife work together to revitalize soil, enhance biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, sequester carbon in the soil, and strengthen rural economies.

The program supports Shell's global effort to design nature-based solutions that protect, transform, or restore land in a manner that enables nature to absorb more CO2 emissions from the atmosphere.

"Silicon Ranch continues to grow and provide innovative solar renewable options to U.S. customers," said Marc van Gerven, Vice President of Renewable Power Generation at Shell New Energies. "Shell looks forward to the positive impact Regenerative Energy™ can bring to ecosystem restoration and rural economic revitalization."

Silicon Ranch has begun implementing regenerative agriculture practices on operating projects in Colorado, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi, with a plan to transition the balance of its portfolio over time. The company is integrating Regenerative Energy™ standards into designs for projects in its construction pipeline and is scheduled to bring more than one gigawatt of solar capacity online over the next three years.

Silicon Ranch's first new-build projects designed with the new standards are currently under construction in southwest Georgia. The company is partnering with one of the nation's leading regenerative ranchers, Will Harris of White Oak Pastures, to deploy the standards across more than 3,700 acres in the region.

Our Partnership

Through a partnership with Restore the Earth Foundation, Silicon Ranch's Regenerative Energy™ subsidiary is leading the development of science and research-based standards to measure and verify the relationship between regenerative land use practices on solar farms and corresponding environmental, social and economic outcomes. Restore the Earth is collaborating with Regenerative Energy to establish a Regenerative Solar

Industry Standard defining best practices and the development of a Regenerative Energy EcoMetrics module for valuation of benefits, based on Restore the Earth's [EcoMetrics](#) cloud-platform.

"Restore the Earth is delighted to partner with Silicon Ranch on this exciting and impact driven project initiative. We are impressed and inspired by their visionary commitment and leadership to provide clean energy production with enhanced environmental, social and economic value creation," said PJ Marshall, Co-Founder of Restore the Earth Foundation. "Through this work, Regenerative Energy™ will set the solar industry standard for projects that deliver significant, measurable co-benefits and value to the environment, habitat, communities and society at large."

Verified outcomes of Regenerative Energy™ projects will be certified by an independent third party and will vary by project and local conditions. **The spectrum of outcomes includes, among others, the following benefits:**

- Sequestered carbon, biologically active soil, and improved soil formation and stabilization
- Improved air and water quality and increased water quantity
- Increased biodiversity and enhanced overall ecosystem functions
- Established pollinator habitat and endangered species habitat
- Direct and indirect local job creation, job training, empowered community participation, distributed economic impacts, and reciprocal knowledge transfers
- Generational equity, community resiliency, and volunteer opportunities

"Regenerative Energy™ is on the leading edge of an emerging global trend to operate in alignment with regenerative principles, which are resident in nature," said Baute. "Silicon Ranch is proud to invite our colleagues in the solar industry to join us in this meaningful endeavor. Together, we have the opportunity to positively impact millions of acres of land across the U.S. and around the world as the solar land base grows."



EcoMetrics

Alliance for Water Stewardship



[The Alliance for Water Stewardship \(AWS\)](#) and Restore the Earth Foundation finalized their formal partnership in Fall 2019, with a commitment to align water stewardships standards with relevant metrics to track progress towards sustainability goals.

Restore the Earth Foundation and its EcoMetrics, announced their cutting-edge partnership with the Alliance for Water Stewardship with an [EcoMetrics + AWS Standard “Crosswalk”](#).

Quantifiable, verifiable and credible metrics are at the heart of all sustainability initiatives attempting to move the needle on holistically improving business and operations. Once corporations can review, understand and communicate on results, the stronger the business case can be made for stewardship. This is why EcoMetrics was created, to provide a “Rosetta Stone” for companies to communicate progress towards sustainability initiatives.

Corporations seeking to achieve AWS Standard certification and quantify the results of their water stewardship performance now have the option to integrate Restore the Earth’s EcoMetrics as a third-party verified, assured and transparent way to quantify and report on the environmental, social and economic impacts they may have on the watershed, landscape, local communities and economies. The overall goal for both parties is to promote water stewardship by increasing the number of sites implementing the AWS Standard in North America and demonstrating results using credible and robust metrics. The AWS-EcoMetrics Crosswalk demonstrates how EcoMetrics supports AWS implementation indicator by indicator.

“This partnership is unique in providing a robust set of environmental, social and economic metrics to demonstrate the value of the application of the AWS Standard for a site or activity and its connection within a watershed,” said Matt Howard, Director at the Alliance for Water Stewardship North America. “The application of EcoMetrics to sites implementing the AWS Standard will provide meaningful reporting to help inform, improve and inspire actions that lead to excellence in water stewardship performance.”

This collaboration will help promote EcoMetrics’ alignment with the AWS Standard and its ability to monitor, measure and report on a company’s performance towards meeting the standard’s core criteria, leading to better water stewardship. This will assist sites to quantify and monetize the water stewardship benefits and other related co-benefits. These benefits include social and economic value created to local communities and economies within the watershed that the company operates. EcoMetrics also has a robust stakeholder engagement component, as an aspect fundamental to successful AWS implementation.

The impact of the partnership goes beyond achieving AWS certification, it creates a legacy of reporting, transparency and the use of metrics to boost greater understanding and awareness about the long-term Return on Investment (ROI) and Social Return on Investment (SROI) created by endeavoring to be better stewards within a watershed.



Restore the Earth In the Community

Our favorite times of the year are Spring and Fall, and that's not just because its when we plant the trees for our projects! It's also the best time to get our partners, friends and community members out in the mud with us to see what our work is all about.

This year we had two great volunteer days with some of our partners and we put them to work!

US Business Council for Sustainable Development (US BCSD) Collaborative Fund Volunteer Event

As part of our Strategic Alliance with the US BCSD, formed in 2016, Restore the Earth organizes 1-2 volunteer days every year to our corporate partners participating in the Collaborative Fund created as part of the alliance.

In November 2019, employee volunteers from Shell and Entergy joined us in planting 1,000 trees in one day as part of the Pointe-aux-Chenes reforestation effort. Volunteers were joined by community leader Jonathan Foret, Executive Director of the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center (SLWDC), and a community project partner. Jonathan shared the local significance of the reforestation efforts at Pointe-aux-Chenes, the impacts of the restoration on community resilience, protection and the benefits of healthy ecosystems returned to the area to support local livelihoods, identity and culture.

We believe that every chance to engage our partners on the ground at one of our project sites, provides a valuable opportunity to enhance education and awareness as to the connection between healthy, restored ecosystems and the host of environmental, social and economic co-benefits that are created as a result for the region and local communities.



Jonathan Foret, Executive Director of South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center, local non-profit community partner for the Pointe-aux-Chenes project speaks with US BCSD volunteers about the significance of the reforestation to enhancing community resilience and sustaining local livelihoods, identities and culture.



Dow + Restore the Earth Partnership Activation

This past fall, Dow volunteers, joined by community members, local public officials and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) leadership, including Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett, participated in the launch event of the 200 acre reforestation Dow funded as part of their work as the Official Carbon Partner of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Volunteers braved weather and difficult terrain to plant the first 3 acres of the project to commemorate the Dow + Restore the Earth partnership (see more on page 15). Events like these are a special way to activate partnerships and demonstrate the importance of collaboration between industry, local/regional government and non-profits working together towards a shared goal of inspiring actions that can reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainable solutions and enhance community resilience through nature based solutions.



Louisiana Run for the Wetlands

Terrebonne Economic Development Authority (TEDA), partnered with Restore the Earth Foundation as the non-profit partner for their Louisiana Run for the Wetlands, a run designed to engage the broader community in directly experiencing and understanding the coastal wetlands in south Louisiana. The route, located adjacent to Restore the Earth's reforestation project at Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area in Montegut, Louisiana, gives participants "an off-road perspective through some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in Terrebonne Parish", while informing the public on Restore the Earth's work in the Parish and demonstrating the long term value of landscape restoration projects that provide long term resilience of coastal communities and beneficial impacts to critical coastal ecosystems and wildlife.

Restore the Earth is proud to be the non-profit partner for such a fun and unique event which aims to encourage the public to appreciate and explore the coastal wetlands of Louisiana.



Partner Spotlight:

Chris Lunghino

Director, Policy & Communications

Silicon Ranch Corporation



Hi Chris, tell us a little about yourself and your work with Silicon Ranch.

I'm Chris Ann Lunghino, the Director of Policy & Communications for Silicon Ranch Corporation. In my role I do many things, including developing high-value and actionable intelligence through energy policy and market analysis AND collaborating closely with all of the Regenerative Energy® team members to tell the story of Regenerative Energy innovations as they evolve and their impacts in our business and on the ground. I have played a key role in overseeing the implementation of Regenerative Energy EcoMetrics™ reporting, working closely with Restore the Earth Foundation and its EcoMetrics. As part of this work I am also particularly passionate about fostering understanding that we are all one and everything is connected.

Tell us more about Silicon Ranch

Silicon Ranch is a customer-focused, fully integrated independent power producer with a comprehensive platform to develop, design, finance, construct, own, operate and maintain utility-scale solar solutions to meet customer needs. The company's portfolio includes well over 2 GW of projects in 15 states coast to coast. Silicon Ranch operates as the U.S. solar platform for Shell and is today one of the largest independent producers of solar power in the country. Over the past decade, our team has helped a diverse set of customers, from Fortune 500 companies to rural electric cooperatives, to meet their renewable energy and carbon reduction goals, all while providing underserved communities a much-needed economic shot in the arm.

As the long-term owner of every project it develops, Silicon Ranch's incentives are aligned with those of its customers, and it has a vested interest in seeing that each solar facility performs as designed. One of the company's founding principles is that "We do what we say we will do." Since it began operations in 2011, Silicon Ranch has successfully executed every project for every PPA it has signed, with a strong commitment to choose the right path over the easier path to get the job done. As long-term owners, Silicon Ranch pursues continuous improvement to deliver superior performance across the value chain, including its trademarked, transformative industry standard for solar power plant design, construction, and operation, Regenerative Energy.

Silicon Ranch's Valley View Solar Farm in Greeley, Colorado helps its long-term partner, Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, provide clean, affordable energy to the electric co-op's 45,000 members and reach its goal of powering the communities it serves with 80% renewable energy by 2030. Photo Credit: Silicon Ranch



Holistically managed sheep improve soil health, increase vegetative cover, and enhance biodiversity at Silicon Ranch’s Bancroft Station Solar Farm in Southwest Georgia, while building a resilient local economy and decentralized food and energy systems. Photo credit: Kathryn Crockett, White Oak Pastures



Silicon Ranch’s 53 megawatt (MWAC) Millington Solar Farm, the largest operating solar facility in the state of Tennessee, is the result of a unique public-private partnership that brought together the City of Millington, the U.S. Navy, Memphis, Light, Gas and Water, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Silicon Ranch with a shared vision to support the local community and the Naval Support Activity Mid-South with reliable, resilient power. Photo credit: Silicon Ranch

What do you see as the importance of applying Regenerative Energy practices to Silicon Ranch’s solar sites? Why make the extra effort?

Since the company was founded nearly a decade ago, Silicon Ranch has remained steadfast in its devotion to operating responsibly and to having a positive impact on the world, including addressing the global challenge of climate change, collaborating with, investing in, and empowering the communities it serves, and evaluating success and scaling its positive impacts by tracking and reporting outcomes. We know that the role we play in transforming our world’s energy landscape becomes more vital with each passing day, and that with this noble responsibility comes an obligation to innovate forward in ways that are ultimately optimized for productivity, efficiency, and regeneration. We saw that the solar industry had the opportunity and the responsibility to be good stewards of a growing solar land base, expected to comprise over six million acres by 2030, and that we could set a new standard of excellence to foster and guide industry responsibility.



Over 10,000 pasture-raised, solar-shaded broiler chickens thrive on grasses freshly grazed by sheep and protected from predators and rainy weather, while helping restore the land at Bancroft Station Solar Farm, where they provide an organic pest control and additional fertilization for the soil. Photo credit: Kathryn Crockett, White Oak Pastures

We love the forward thinking approach Silicon Ranch has incorporated into its business strategy, and obviously we are a little biased as that ethos provided a great bridge to Silicon Ranch’s partnership and collaboration with Restore the Earth Foundation’s EcoMetrics. What about Restore the Earth’s EcoMetrics appealed to Silicon Ranch and the development of the Standard and Regenerative Energy EcoMetrics module? Why is accounting for these things important to the company?

Silicon Ranch recognizes that work of such significance must be science-based and data-driven. We chose to partner with Restore the Earth and EcoMetrics to develop the Regenerative Energy Standard and Regenerative Energy EcoMetrics for five important reasons: i) the EcoMetrics model is stakeholder based, science-led, and data driven, ii) the model is able to account for and report on the full environmental, social, and economic value created by investments in **nature-based solutions**, iii) EcoMetrics is aligned with globally recognized international frameworks for voluntary, consensus-based standards development, [Social Value International Framework](#) and [International Integrated Reporting Council Framework](#), iv) the model yields an audit ready report **that supports corporate social responsibility (CSR) goals, ESG goals and climate disclosure reporting requirements and renewable energy and carbon footprint goals that is valuable to our customers and finally**, v) accounting for the full environmental, social, and economic value created by investments in nature-based solutions is of the utmost importance because it provides the business case for private investment, which businesses typically currently require prior to committing funds. Private investment is critical to addressing global societal challenges like climate change and food and water security. It is also essential to the successful transition to a regenerative economy, the economic system of the future, which will recognize that everything and everyone is connected and serve our interdependence.

What are some of your customers’ responses to this differentiation and the robustness of what we have created with the Regenerative Energy EcoMetrics?

The first customer-facing report received positive feedback, and the customer informed us that our science-led, data-driven, and outcome-based approach has yielded credible content to support communications with internal and external stakeholders alike. The project has been highlighted during internal “town hall” presentations and was also featured in the company’s 2019 Sustainability Report.

The Regenerative Energy platform and Regenerative Energy EcoMetrics provide meaningful differentiators in the marketplace as utility and corporate customers seek to derive additional value from the projects that serve them. These unique features of our offering have generated significant interest from forward-thinking corporate customers who recognize the alignment of the platform with their public sustainability commitments, both in relation to carbon reduction targets and biodiversity goals.

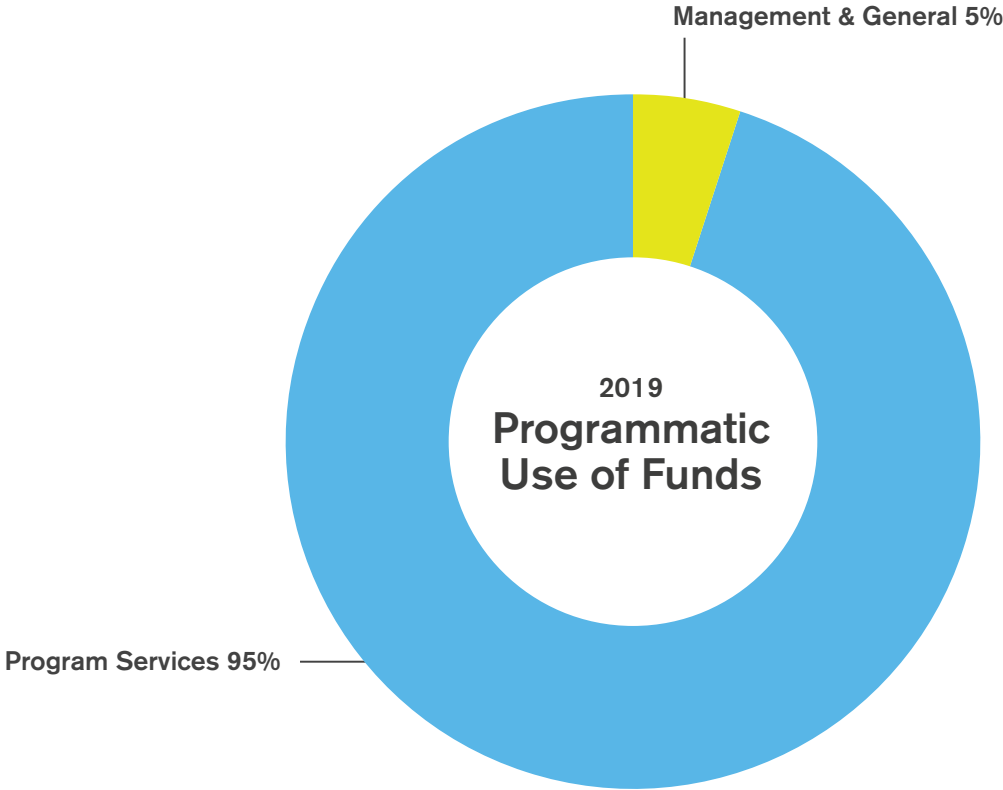
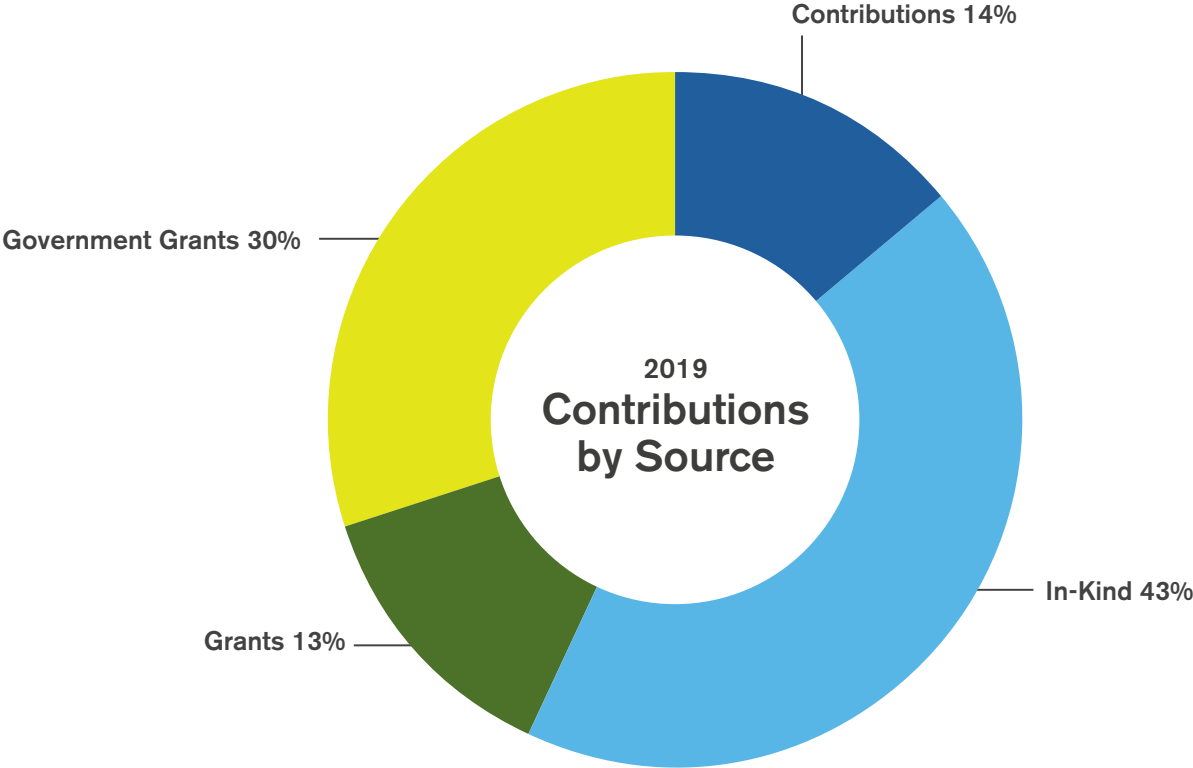
Why are partnerships like this important to Silicon Ranch?

Partnerships like ours with Restore the Earth are important because sharing resources with a like-minded, passionate team that brings complementary expertise to the table, and collaborating, innovating, learning and adapting together, leads to win-win scenarios for everyone involved—including our customers, our communities, the planet, and future generations.

Looking to the future, what is Silicon Ranch excited about?

We’re looking forward to serving more customers and expanding the positive impacts of our work by increasing the pace and scale of applying Regenerative Energy across the solar industry, in part through an upcoming pilot: a 2-acre, 250kW outdoor test lab at White Oak Pastures to measure, analyze, and refine the integration of a novel PV system design, including tracker control modules, with regenerative cattle grazing, and then scaling that at a 20 MW site. Our goal is to open up hundreds of millions of acres of land now grazed by cattle to solar energy production. This will regenerate more land more quickly than grazing with sheep because of the greater animal impact of cattle, while keeping land in agricultural production and creating additional new rancher revenue.

Financial Summary





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