

# Ecology Action Annual Report for 2015

## Message from the Director

Dear Friends,

This spring and summer we have experienced wide fluctuations in temperatures, as well as temperatures that have remained hotter, longer. Although we were fortunate to have some good spring rains, we are aware that much of California is experiencing its fourth year of drought. This, plus news of extreme flooding, drought and wildfires worldwide, brings home to us the realities of climate change—just one of the many challenges the Earth and all of us are facing.

Our part in meeting these challenges continues to be education and training in biologically intensive agriculture, providing the necessary skills that allow people worldwide to regain their food security and their hope. Although our work reaches out to the world, it is always grounded in our garden, which continues to teach us and create sustenance for our soul.

After forty-four years of this work, we are finding that profound results from our ongoing food- and soil-growing research are beginning to appear. In recent years, we have been able to accelerate people's learning curve of the GROW BIOINTENSIVE method, build compost with more quantitative and qualitative power, accelerate the accumulation of organic matter in the soil and miniaturize the amount of land required to grow a complete diet. In the world's current situation of increasing population, desertification, and a diminishing supply of available farmable nutrients, this range of results could speed up the number of GB farmers working worldwide, as well as lead to a faster expansion of fertile farming soil, while being able to feed a greater number of people on the soil available. Also, future GB practitioners everywhere will be able to build on these results to discover currently unknown methods of accelerating and improving farming globally.

We are extremely grateful that we now have long-term staff that care for our four mini-farms, take part in the research in their differing soil and climatic situations, teach interns, apprentices and others, and contribute their own unique skills, perspective and understanding to enrich and deepen the overall GB program. For example, in 2015, Matt Drewno, Manager of the Green Belt Mini-Farm on the Mendocino Coast, developed a seed bank for his area and is giving classes in seed production and saving.

As you know, we also have partners and colleagues worldwide who are researching, teaching and promoting GB in their own countries. Juan Manuel Martinez's current goal is to facilitate 100 certified teachers being trained in Latin America by the end of the next two years. He believes this number will help assure the quality of the GB system, as well as convince universities to teach GB as part of their regular curriculum. Samuel Nderitu is in charge of a 5-year research project on 4 GB-dedicated Kenyan farms, which found that minor fertilizer input, in the first year only, led to ongoing soil improvement over the project's 5 years, and resulted in steady increases of calorie and compost yields.

Change is alive all over the world. We believe this is a time when many more of the Earth's people are not only becoming aware of the serious challenges that are facing all of us but are putting their minds, hearts and bodies on the line to help meet these challenges. We see examples of this in the many activist sites online, ongoing protests worldwide, headlines and articles in printed media, and changes in our everyday lives. What can be harder is for each of us to accept that we have a part to play in making sure the changes are positive, that they will improve the Earth and our lives. What is needed today is that each of us be a participant, rather than just a spectator, to join our efforts with others to create what we want our future to look like.

Best Wishes,



John Jeavons, *Executive Director, Ecology Action*

## A Grateful Thanks to Our Major Donors

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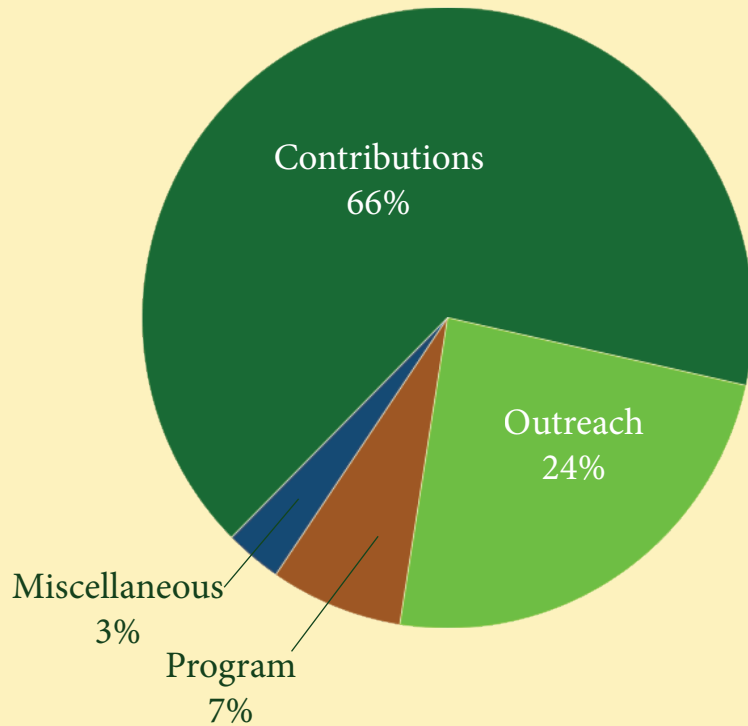
And many thanks to all  
our partners who have  
supported us in many  
ways over the years.



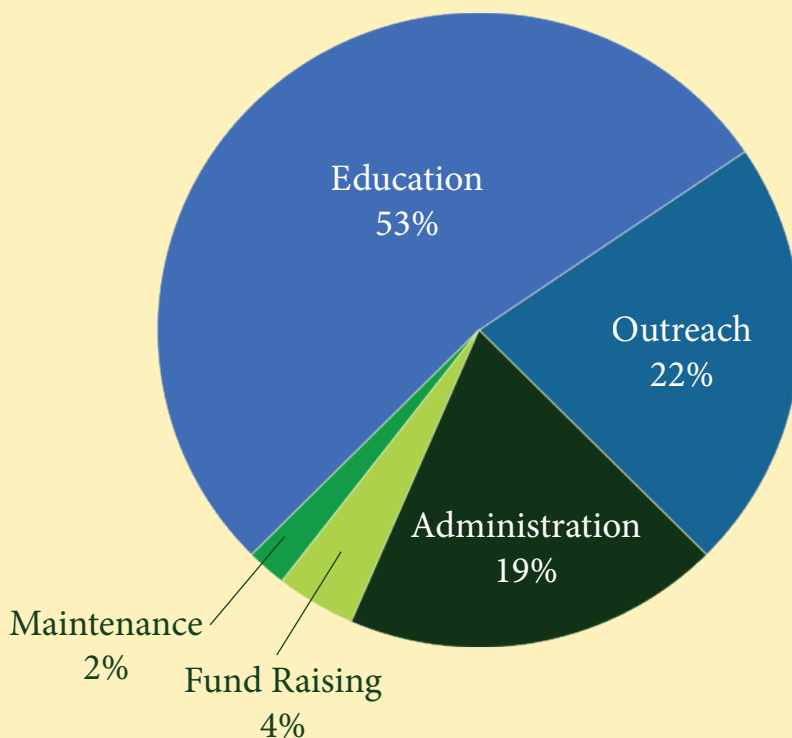
# Ecology Action's Income and Expenses for 2015



Total Income: \$695,308



Total Expenses: \$697,265



The choice is ours:  
we can have a century of  
increasing desertification  
and increasing scarcity of  
per capita resources,  
farmable soil and food,  
or we can transform the  
current global challenge  
into a situation of  
abundance—  
of enough for everyone.

~John Jeavons,  
Director of Ecology Action