

Ecology Action

Working together, we can grow a better world

A QUICK-START GUIDE TO OUR PROJECTS, PARTNERS AND PROPOSALS



*To forget how
to dig the earth
and tend the soil
is to forget
ourselves.*

-Ghandi

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Ecology Action of the Mid-Peninsula has been a
501(c)(3) non-profit organization since 1971.



*Ecology Action teaches people worldwide to better feed themselves
while building and preserving the soil and conserving resources*

Aware of intensifying world challenges and the basic need of people to feed themselves, we have been working for 40 years to develop an elegant, small-scale agricultural system — GROW BIOINTENSIVE® Sustainable Mini-Farming — that when practiced correctly, nurtures healthy soil fertility, produces high yields, conserves resources, and can be used successfully by almost everyone, everywhere.

Our goal is to help this system be known and used locally...on a worldwide basis.

Our path to accomplishing this goal lies in our training programs and our publications, and the financial support of our members and donors.

Through the generous contributions of visionary people like you, Ecology Action has catalyzed many projects worldwide—projects which have put down strong roots and have been the means by which hundreds of thousands of people have learned how to successfully grow their own food and to grow a better, more sustainable life.

As our projects continue to grow and flourish, the world presents an increasing need for the expansion of existing projects, and the creation of new programs to attend to the challenges presented by climate change, food security, resource scarcity and population growth.

We're glad you're interested in our work, and hope that you will join us in growing a better world. In the following pages you will find short descriptions of some of the programs that need your help.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like more information on any of these projects, or would like to donate a sum greater than that allowed on our secure donations page (<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/ecologyaction>):

Ecology Action

5798 Ridgewood Road Willits, CA 95490

Tel.707.459.0150

contact@growbiointensive.org

www.growbiointensive.org/giving

What We Do:

We have a lot of different ways to do it, but when you boil it down,
we teach people around the world to grow more food
using the GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable Mini-Farming Method.

Why We Do It:

We believe the GROW BIOINTENSIVE method can help create solutions
to the challenges of hunger, poverty and environmental degradation
because it is efficient, adaptable, productive and accessible:
it can be used by almost anyone, almost anywhere in the world to
start building soil fertility and growing food, and it doesn't cost a lot to start using it.

What makes GROW BIOINTENSIVE special?

Ecology Action's research (*Journal of Sustainable Agriculture* (Vol. 19 (2), 2001, p. 81-83)
shows that Biointensive methods enable small-scale farms and farmers to
significantly **increase food production and income**, utilize predominantly local,
renewable resources and **decrease expense and energy inputs**, while
building fertile topsoil at a rate 60 times faster than in nature.

GROW BIOINTENSIVE mini-farming techniques, when properly implemented,
have the potential to:

- o **Use 67% to 88% less water** than conventional agricultural methods.
- o **Use 50% to 100% less purchased (organic, locally available) fertilizer.**
- o **Use up to 99% less energy** than commercial agriculture, while using a fraction of the resources.
- o **Produce 2 to 6 times more food** at intermediate yields, assuming a reasonable level of farmer skill and soil fertility (which increase over time as the method is practiced).
- o **Produce a 100% increase in soil fertility.**
- o **Reduce by 50% or more the amount of land** required to grow a comparable amount of food.

**All of which adds up to less hunger and poverty,
and a healthier, happier planet for us all.**

Your contribution can ...

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...help widows and orphans in Malawi, on the brink of starvation and marginalized from society, learn the skills they need not just to survive one more day alone, but to build a thriving community together.

...bring hope to the people of South Sudan, where according to the World Food Program 4 to 5 million people are on starvation track, requiring \$162 million in emergency food aid.

...transform barren land in the arid regions of Mexico as it comes to life under the care of farmers who graduated from Ecology Action's Internship Program.

...catalyze positive change as grass roots farmer-to-farmer teaching programs take root across Latin America, Africa and the Pacific Rim.

...grow the next generation of farmers as interns from US colleges gain skills to teach sustainable agriculture in communities across the country.

...make it possible to provide community-enriching workshops and classes, empowering online learning tools, informative newsletters, books, videos and other publications that help millions of people across the world to take control of their own food security.

Your contribution means all this ...and much, much more.



...make a world of difference

MEMBERSHIP



An Easy Way to Support Our Mission

Becoming a Member of Ecology Action

By becoming a member of Ecology Action, you will help further our mission of **teaching people worldwide to better feed themselves while building and preserving the soil and conserving resources**. Memberships and contributions support programs in education training, and outreach, as well as our continuing research in GROW BIOINTENSIVE® Sustainable Mini-Farming.

Your donation to Ecology Action means you are part of a global network of people working to replace hunger, poverty and environmental challenges with sustainable and healthy abundance around the world.

All donations and contributions to Ecology Action are tax-deductible. A yearly membership includes Ecology Action's Triannual Newsletter..

Contribution Levels:

\$40 Member

\$60 Farmer

\$100 Family

\$250 Neighborhood

\$500 Village

\$1000 Town

\$5000 Region

\$10,000+ World of Hope

Other _____

To become a donate, go to <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/ecologyaction>

Large and small, your contributions are essential to Ecology Action's efforts to create a more sustainable future.

As farmers, we know that we are all part of the great cycle of life, and that the resources of today can grow a beautiful and sustainable tomorrow for generations to come. Bequests and donations are a way to support the continued growth of our sustainable agriculture education network into the future.

Ecology Action has bequest plans available, including charitable remainder trusts and annuities.

A bequest can be a beneficial way to support Ecology Action's work while reducing estate taxes, and can be in the form of a specific gift of cash or property. It may be structured to provide support to specific programs, or can be given without restriction to best meet future needs. A will is essential if you wish to make a bequest, and an attorney should be consulted; we will be glad work with you and your attorney.

Another simple and effective way you can support Ecology Action is by offering charitable gifts through a one-time contribution or ongoing donations. Memorial and Tribute donations are a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one by building a better world in their name. A donation to Ecology Action can qualify as a U.S. tax deduction; individuals outside the U.S. should consult their nation's tax code.

Contribution Options:

- One-Time Cash Contributions and/or Regular Annual Cash Contributions
- U.S. Savings Bonds
- Qualified Retirement Plans
- IRA's
- Annuities
- Profit-Sharing Plans
- Tangible Personal Property
- Memorial and Tribute Gifts
- Significant Professional Contribution Gifts and Matching Gifts

If you are interested in one of these options, contact us at contact@growbiointensive.org

Creating a Legacy of Sustainability for Future Generations



**BEQUESTS &
DONATIONS**

THE U.S.



*Tours, Classes, Workshops, Internships, Apprenticeships, Publications
and Our World-Class Research and Demonstration Mini-Farm*

8-month Internship Program

Our internship programs provide a unique opportunity for enthusiastic people interested in creating a sustainable future to gain a thorough understanding of GROW BIOINTENSIVE sustainable mini-farming. Participants immerse themselves in the subject, living and working on location at one of Ecology Action's research sites, attending classes taught by our master farmers, gaining practical field experience, and working with other interns from around the world, building connections that will last a lifetime. Upon completion of the program, interns have gained the ability to apply and teach the method at a beginning and intermediate level.

Our interns are more than students; through this program, they become part of the network of farmers, gardeners, researchers, teachers and policy makers that make up the global Ecology Action team. Our interns come from many different countries and cultures, and are determined to return to their communities and work hard to create a better, more sustainable future.

These are fee-based, unpaid internships, and our resources for scholarships are extremely limited. Your support will provide the opportunity for Ecology Action to accept more applicants who demonstrate the need for aid as well as a significant ability to use the skills they gain through an internship to benefit their communities and the planet.

\$23,000 provides a 8-month full scholarship for one participant.

...and donations of all sizes add up to help someone achieve success!

(Full scholarships include tuition, room, board, fees, supplies, transportation, communication, insurance, incidental expenses and follow-up.)

2-Month Summer Internship Program

Because the world needs more skilled, educated young people working to create a sustainable future, Ecology Action provides a 2-month summer internship program aimed at college students, designed to accommodate student summer break schedules.

Though working on a compressed schedule, this 2-month program is similar to the 6-month internship in many ways, teaching participants the GROW BIOINTENSIVE method and focusing on using sustainable, small-scale, organic, non-mechanized, low-input food raising techniques to grow better lives and more sustainable communities.

This two-month internship is an opportunity to learn valuable techniques and information, to experience an alternative living style, and to make lifelong ties with other interns from different states and countries. Interns will assist Ecology Action in accomplishing important work that can help farmers, gardeners, and communities around the world to raise food, conserve resources and build fertile soil sustainably. The program is a combination of lectures, study, garden work, and living the method. The program provides a solid foundation to launch a career in sustainable agriculture; once interns have completed their stay it is hoped they will continue their education and engage in public service for food security in communities across the country and around the world.

This is a fee-based, unpaid internship, and our resources for scholarships are extremely limited. Your support will provide financially disadvantaged students with the opportunity to participate in this unique program.

A donation of \$6,000 will provide a scholarship for one intern, and will help Ecology Action grow our network of skilled GROW BIOINTENSIVE practitioners in the next generation of farmers, teachers, policy makers and citizens.



THE U.S.



3-Year Apprenticeship Program

Ecology Action's three-year Apprenticeship Program is an intensive, in-depth immersion program for participants who want to build a life and a career around practicing and teaching GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable mini-farming. The program is designed to instill participants with the ability to understand and utilize the most effective and sustainable farming practices for a given situation, as well as the ability to train teachers, program members and project staff. This three-year commitment requires energy, responsibility and self-motivation. Apprentices live on site at Ecology Action's research sites, study and work full-time under the guidance of experienced Ecology Action staff, and participate in research and education activities in the classroom and in the field.

The apprenticeship program is essential for building a base of farmer-teachers with highly advanced skills who can set up their own GROW BIOINTENSIVE demonstration gardens and farmer-to-farmer teaching sites in their own communities. Because it requires a large commitment of time and financial resources from the participants, it can be a challenge for many to complete the program. Your contribution can help these dedicated individuals achieve success, and can help build a stronger teaching base for sustainable agriculture around the world.

Apprenticeship costs include tuition, room and board, medical insurance, tools, books, fuel and supplies, as well as incidental expenses.

\$20,000 funds an apprentice for one year;
\$30,000 for two years;
\$60,000 covers an entire 3-year apprenticeship.

Any contribution to this program allows us to continue to train these dedicated community-builders.

The GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable Mini-Farm at The Jeavons Center in Willits, CA is one of the oldest continuously running sustainable agriculture research and demonstration sites in the world.

It's where we research and improve the GB method, teach interns and apprentices, and give workshops, classes and tours to the public. We have two additional research sites in Mendocino County that help us further develop the method and improve how it functions in different climates and environments.

For those that can't be with us in person, we continuously work to create, improve, translate and update our websites, videos, books, booklets, research papers and informational material, and other publications. These resources, often provided free of charge (especially online) give people around the world ability to teach themselves how to build food security and sustainable soil fertility. For example, our website provides high-quality how-to videos, and a self-teaching manual free to the public. Our flagship publication "*How to Grow More Vegetables*" is now in its 8th Edition, and has been translated into Spanish, Arabic, Hindi, German and French - and we're working on getting it into more languages to make it more accessible.

Your contributions can make a significant difference in our ability to continue our research, information dissemination and public outreach activities. Some examples of the ways in which you can help us:

\$300/month covers shipping expenses to send translated publications to low-income people in other countries.

\$400/year supports one research growing bed, which includes supplies, staff maintenance, and data collection.

(There are 110 research bed units at the Ecology Action Headquarters facility.)

\$6,000 keeps our websites updated and running smoothly for 6 months.

\$15,000 helps us take a workshop to a disadvantaged community in the US.

\$30,000 funds the production of another how-to video.

This is just a sample of the many projects we work on.

Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated.



Ecology Action's Wish List

3 desktop PCs for our employees, volunteers and interns to use

A gently used car with good gas mileage so our interns have transportation into town

Two high-quality digital video cameras and video editing equipment so we can produce how-to videos

\$30,000 to provide seed processing equipment and a related safe storage facility for open pollinated seeds

\$17,000 for a greenhouse facility at one of our key research sites

\$8,400 for an Latin American Program Administrator

\$2,500 to purchase publications for our research library

\$12,500 for a data analyst to support and enhance our research capability

...and a happier, more peaceful world!

Special Contributions That Would Make Our Work Easier

OUR
WISH LIST





AFRICA

Promoting sustainable, small-scale, biologically-intensive farming as part of a diversified approach to building a stronger Africa

A Proposal for a African Mini-Ag Training Center Network

Ecology Action is heading a \$9.05 million dollar campaign to create an African Mini-Ag Training Center Network. In conjunction with our African partner organization, the GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture Center of Kenya (G-BIACK), this 4.25-year project will catalyze the training of an estimated 1.06 million African farmers at a cost of approximately \$9.00 per person.

The basis of this program is the enhancement of a Mini-Ag Training Center/Soil Test Station ("Center") in Kenya, designed to train farmers from Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, Mali and Ghana (the main program participants) in Ecology Action's GROW BIOINTENSIVE method. These countries have been selected for inclusion in the program because they have significant need, and also have cultures/environments that are compatible with our program goals and methods. The program will also teach participants (to a lesser extent) from Mozambique, Uganda, Guinea Bissau, and Cape Verde, Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone and Senegal, which can also benefit from having a group of trained farmer/teachers to lay the groundwork for an expansion of this program in the future. Program participants will learn to grow a complete diet in a small area, to produce soil-building materials to create sustainable fertility all in the same area, as well as produce a good income while honing their community-building and teaching skills.

The project will implement a farmer-to-farmer education program, in which farmers are trained at the primary Center, and then return to their own communities to establish secondary Mini-Ag Training Centers, where they will teach others what they have learned. They will encourage the people they teach to teach others in turn, creating an expanding network of food security, prosperity and community-building activities.

This program, which is based on similar smaller-scale training programs created by Ecology Action in the US, and by Ecology Action partners and associates in Kenya and Latin America, will focus on achieving several goals centered on providing tangible benefits to the small farmers and their communities in the region. These include: Improving food security, reducing chronic hunger, and improving the quality of nutrition, increasing sustainability, and empowering African farmers to create sustainable and uniquely African solutions to the challenges confronting them.

We are seeking the support of a major donor, or donors, to help us achieve success in this endeavor.

Our Existing African Partner Projects and Organizations

"If your goal is for one year, plant maize; if your goal is for ten years, plant a tree; but if your goal is for lifetime, then invest in training."

- Peris Wanjiru Nderitu, co-founder and co-director of G-BLACK

The GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture Center of Kenya (G-BLACK) is located in Thika, Kenya and was founded by husband and wife team Samuel Nderitu and Peris Wanjiru Nderitu. G-BLACK functions as a training center for people in the region, and has trained thousands of farmers to become more effective at raising food and community building. We are seeking to expand and improve the training program and facilities through the Mini-Ag Training Center Network initiative described on the previous page.

Manor House Agriculture Centre (MHAC) has provided training and certification in sustainable agriculture, organic farming methods, and ecological farm systems for small-scale farmers at their Kitale, Kenya, campus since 1984. More recently, MHAC has emphasized the training of academic researchers and NGO staff to encourage the acceptance of sustainable agricultural methods such as GROW BIOINTENSIVE among academic institutions and policy makers. Samuel Nderitu and Peris Wanjiru Nderitu are both graduates of MHAC's two year training program.

The Kilili Self Help Project is one of Ecology Action's partner organizations supporting the work of trained and certified Kenyan community workers who teach farmers the GROW BIOINTENSIVE method of organic farming and soil fertility management. Kilili provides support for graduates of Manor House Agricultural Centre in their work with farmers -- including G-BLACK founders Samuel and Peris. In 2005, with support from Kilili Self-Help Project, MHAC graduates trained more than 10,000 farmers in six-day workshops. The cost: less than \$6 per farmer! Currently, through the generosity of Kilili donors, more than 116,000 families are using simple, ecological methods to achieve food security and economic self-reliance. The average cost of training for each farmer is US\$3.50



LATIN AMERICA



Education, Training, Research and Outreach in GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable Mini-Farming and Sustainable Soil Fertility

A Proposal for a Pan-Latin America Sustainable Agriculture Training Network

“The Biointensive Method is one of the few alternatives for all those people who have been left out, [to allow them to] survive with dignity and obtain additional income. The Method also awakens their conscience so that they take part in concrete actions to take care of their soil, environment and natural resources.”

- Juan Manuel Martinez, Director of ECOPOL

Ecology Action is heading a \$3 million dollar campaign, intermediate to creating a Pan-Latin America Sustainable Agriculture Training Network. In conjunction with our partner organization, *Ecología y Población*, (ECOPOL), this 4.25-year program focuses on the establishment of 10 Biointensive agricultural demonstration, teaching and soil-testing facilities (Mini-Ag Training Center/Soil Test Stations or “Centers”) — five in Mexico and one in each of five Latin American countries. The purpose of the Centers and this program encompasses four interrelated goals:

- **Extending Regional Food Sovereignty and Resilience**
- **Researching and Promoting Sustainable Soil Fertility**
- **Developing Free, Publically Available Web-based Soil Sustainability Tools**
- **Creating Program Sustainability to Catalyze Future Work**

This program, which is based on smaller-scale training programs created by Ecology Action in the US, and shown by ECOPOL and our other regional partners to be extremely effective in Latin America, will result in hundreds of thousands of people being educated in sustainable agricultural methods designed to reduce hunger, poverty and environmental damage: 331,000 people in 6 countries, directly and indirectly trained for \$3,000,000, or an average of \$9.06 per person; plus, 111 GROW BIOINTENSIVE Basic-Level and 16 Intermediate-Level trainers certified to continue the education process into the future.

We are seeking the support of a major donor, or donors, to help us achieve success in this endeavor.

Our Existing Latin American Partner Projects and Organizations

Ecología y Población, (ECOPOL) has been Ecology Action's nonprofit affiliate in Mexico, and Central and Latin America since it was founded by Juan Manuel Martinez in 1992. ECOPOL teaches families to raise food Biointensively, and has provided education programs in all 22 Latin American countries. As a result of ECOPOL's work, an estimated 2 million Biointensive gardens have been initiated in all of Mexico's 32 states, and state-sponsored organizations like SEMARNAT and CECADESU are eager to support and promote GROW BIOINTENSIVE -- something that represents a sea-change in the way Latin American countries are viewing the future of agriculture in the region. This vote of confidence shows us that the work we and our partners have been doing is creating real change, and gives us hope that the goal of global sustainability we have been working towards over the past 40 years is on its way to becoming a reality. Your contributions help programs like this stay alive.

Fundación ADYS, in Ecuador, is Ecology Action's non-profit affiliate in Ecuador. This organization, founded by educational psychologist Mercedes Torres Barriero, has helped over 5,000 indigenous Quechua, Chachi, Aiwa, Montubio and Epera families to use Biointensive methods, and has directly and indirectly educated over 90,000 people. One of ADYS's most successful Biointensive projects is at Lago Agrio, in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Colombian refugees migrating to the area impacted the ability of local people to feed themselves. ADYS encouraged the residents to grow Biointensive gardens and by the end of the program there were 60 gardens in Lago Agrio and surrounding areas and 16 gardens at the Colombian border. The 76 gardens fed about 2,400 people, both refugees and very low-income locals. The Ecuadorian government, the UN-FAO and UN's High Commission for Refugees in Ecuador all gave support to this project.

Las Cañadas is a small, wholistic living community owned and managed by Ricardo and Tania Romero, both trained by Ecology Action in Biointensive techniques, with much of its food- and seed-producing area managed by Karla Arroyo Rizo, a former Ecology Action Intern. The site offers 6-day GB workshops, 120 Biointensive beds (including a 40-bed demonstration and teaching unit) and an education program for school children who come to tour the garden. Ricardo, ECOPOL Director Juan Manuel Martinez, and others are developing a proposal to develop part of the Las Cañadas into a major training center for people from all of Latin America. With Ecology Action, ECOPOL and ADYS, Las Cañadas was a part of the *Latin American Conference 2010: Biointensive Agriculture Facing Climate Change*, which inspired the United Nations to add a GROW BIOINTENSIVE page to the UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) website.



How to Give and Get Involved

TO GIVE:

If you have questions about any of the projects described here, want to arrange a special donation, bequest, tribute or other contribution, or if you would like to connect Ecology Action with a major donor, please do not hesitate to contact us.

5798 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490
707.459.0150 (M-F 10-4 PST)

For more information online: <http://www.growbiointensive.org/giving>
Direct to the donation site: <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/ecologyaction>
Email us: contact@growbiointensive.org

TO GET INVOLVED:

Take a tour, a workshop or a class:
check out growbiointensive.org/events_main.html for opportunities to to learn with us!

Bring a workshop to your town:
Start a petition and get at least 200 people to show interest in attending a class, and then send us a notice!

Plan a screening for a community gardening group:
our how-to videos and free self-teaching booklet can show you and your friends how to get started!

Read a book with a child, a senior, or someone who could use some company, and plant a garden together:
The Sustainable Vegetable Garden is great for beginners



SECURE DONATIONS PAGE:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/ecologyaction>

If you would like more information on any of these projects, or would like to donate a sum greater than that allowed on our secure donations page then please contact us:

ECOLOGY ACTION

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