

2020 BENEFIT REPORT



A Message from OGC's Mission Team

Organically Grown Company (OGC) is the largest independent distributor of organic fruits and vegetables in the Pacific Northwest, founded nearly 43 years ago to help transform and sustain a healthy and fair food system. Our pioneering spirit and founding purpose live on today.

OGC's achievements and impact are the direct results of incredible partnerships with our stakeholder groups - coworkers, growers, customers, mission-aligned investors and community allies working on causes we believe in. As a company owned by [the Sustainable Food and Agriculture Perpetual Purpose Trust](#), we balance our actions, returns, and investments in a way that benefits all of our stakeholder groups.

This 2020 Benefit Report provides a snapshot of the metrics and initiatives that highlight our commitment to equitable and sustainable agricultural systems for global health and pioneering steward ownership work.

2020 may be the most memorable year in many of our lifetimes. OGC pivoted from two initial months of normalcy; then, like the rest of the world, we spent ten months in near-constant assessment and adjustment, responding to rapidly changing circumstances and serving evolving needs.

The produce and transportation industries require flexibility to react to the unforeseen changes we grapple with daily. OGC's and our partners' ability to be nimble and creative across the supply chain enabled resiliency. In partnership, we met the needs of eaters in the Pacific Northwest and across the country at a crucial moment. A rallying phrase, "*we pull off miracles daily*," was amplified as COVID-19, wildfires and extreme weather put us to the test in ways we never imagined. Our purpose became an even more powerful way to rally and a driving force to ensure we kept each other safe so that we could continue to serve all our stakeholder partners while weathering the pandemic.

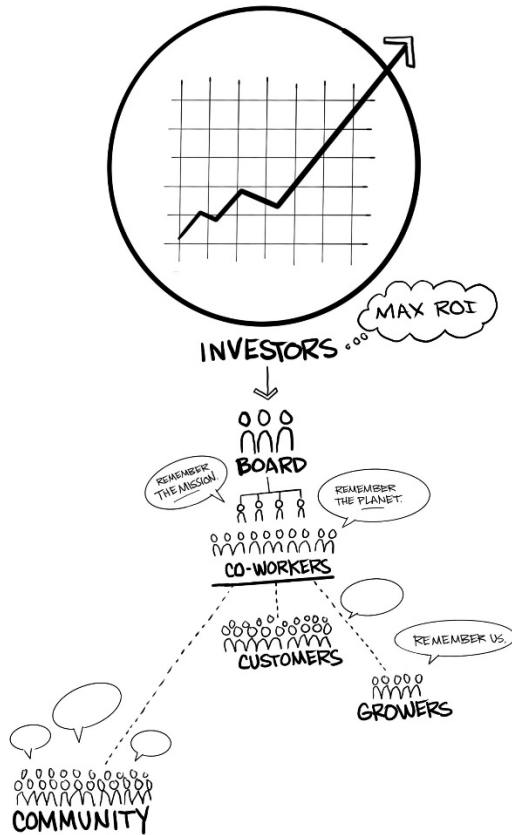
Most importantly, 2020 brought a profound awakening that we have the responsibility to manifest into ongoing, introspective, actionable, and accountable changes in how we as a society treat one another. Join us as we partner to build a more just food system by leading with equity and systemically addressing injustice experienced by Black, indigenous, people of color, women and other marginalized communities.

Thank you for your partnership in 2020 and forward!

Purpose Driven, Trust Owned

OGC exists to support organic agriculture and benefit its partner stakeholders, including farmers, coworkers, customers, investors, and community allies. In pursuit of this goal, in 2018, OGC pioneered a unique ownership structure to serve its evolving needs and permanently ensure its independence, mission, and commitment to operate for good. Learn more about our innovative trust ownership model at sustainablefoodandagtrust.com.

**CONVENTIONAL:
ECONOMICS GOVERN**

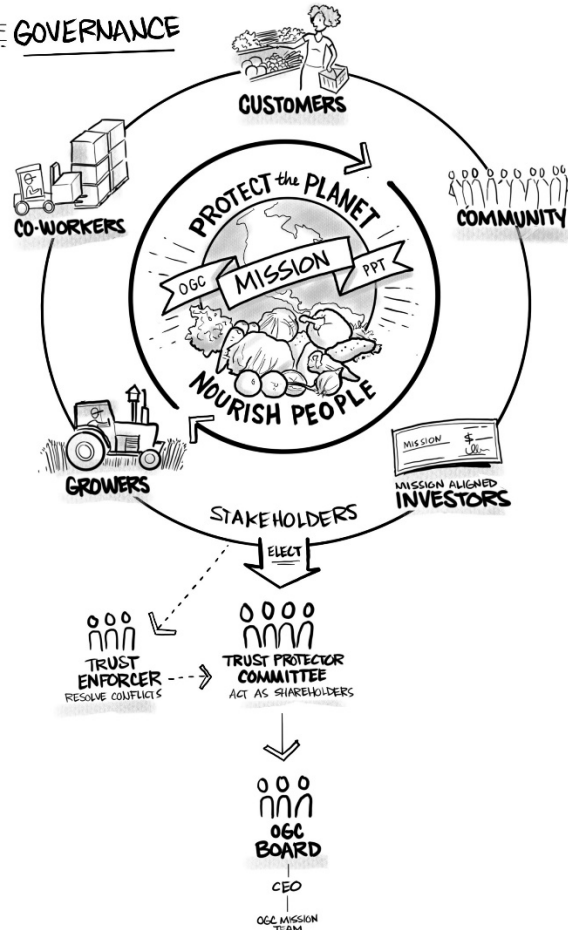


OGC: PPT

ECONOMICS



GOVERNANCE



OGC is a registered Oregon Benefit Company. As such, we are committed to publicly sharing an annual report that measures our benefit to third-party standards. Our Benefit Report connects to the ten [Trust Principles](#) that guide our business and purpose. All principles are focused on ensuring that we engage in activities that advance sustainable agriculture practices and food systems. Each chapter ties back to the framework below, taking relevant aspects from four different third-party standards to create a reporting system pertinent to OGC’s unique business.

OUR FRAMEWORK FOR REPORTING

Benefit Report Chapter & Category	Perpetual Purpose Trust Principles	Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)	Sustainable Food Trade Association (SFTA)	B Impact Assessment	UN Sustainable Development Goals
Chapter 1: Organic Grower Prosperity					
Commitment to Pacific Northwest Farms					
Sourcing Beyond the Pacific Northwest					
Fair Trade Produce					
Chapter 2: Customer Health					
Food Safety Innovation					
Helping Independents Shape their Future					
Chapter 3: Environmental Quality					
Greenhouse Gases					
Chapter 4: Resource Consumption					
Reducing Food Waste					
Reducing Consumption of Materials					
Chapter 5: Coworker Well-being					
Safety					
Health and Benefits					
Chapter 6: Community Building					
Contributions to Our Communities					
Contributions to Our Industry / Trade					

- Trust governance engagement
- Sharing economic benefit
- Natural resource preservation
- Climate change mitigation
- Equitable & diverse supply
- Purpose-driven operations
- Best practices in organic agriculture
- Reduce dependence on non-renewable resources
- Reduce toxic & persistent synthetics
- Holistic food system policy

Chapter 1: Organic Grower Prosperity

Organic Produce — Our Priority

In the Northwest and beyond, OGC is dedicated to growing and supporting an organic, fair and equitable food supply chain. In 2020, 96 percent of the produce sourced, sold, and distributed by OGC was certified organic. The majority of non-organic produce sourced consisted of wildcrafted or foraged items, products purchased from farmers transitioning to organic, or non-organic items to support existing customer partners when organic is not available.

Our Commitment to Local

The percent of local product purchased in 2020 remained consistent with 26 percent of our overall volume sourced from Northwest organic farms. This sourcing equated to more than 1.5 million cases of local, organically grown produce distributed to communities near and far. In light of the pandemic and impact on growers, we were pleased with our ability to maintain a consistent supply from local growers year-over-year.

Resources for NW Growers

Our partnerships with Northwest farmers provide them with marketing and logistics services and so much more, including:

- Use of our in-house small fruit packing line, giving blueberry, kiwi berry and cranberry growers exposure to the national marketplace. In 2020, we sorted, packed and distributed hundreds of thousands of pounds of berries for eight Northwest farms
- Marketing under OGC's Ladybug Brand, which aggregates crops from small to midsize farmers under a unified, organic brand in the marketplace
- Assistance with organic production and food safety certification processes
- Access to Oregon Tilth's Production Partner program, which reduces annual organic certification costs for our partner growers

Sourcing Beyond the Northwest

In 2020, OGC conducted business with over 350 vendor-suppliers, with 74 percent of the produce sourced from growers outside the region. The demand for warm-weather crops during Northwest winters and the popularity of items like bananas, avocados, tropical treats, and global ingredients allows OGC to support organic and fair trade growers worldwide.

Fair Trade Sourcing Drives Impact

Fair Trade USA is a certification organization that provides retailers, traders and consumers with an assurance that their produce comes from farms with the best ethical and environmental practices and provides farmers with sustainable livelihoods. Each purchase gives back to the communities that grow the product.

OGC's sourced 2,740,888 pounds of Fair Trade Certified produce in 2020, a 12 percent increase over 2019, generating \$109,663 of Community Development Funds for fair trade projects. Since becoming a Fair Trade USA Market Partner in 2013, OGC purchases have generated a total of \$809,202 in Community Development Funds.

Projects and communities benefiting from our Fair Trade USA sourcing include:

- Calavo de Mexico Health Care Alliance
- Divemex Educational Scholarships and Optometry & Glasses
- Wholesum's Home Improvements and Health Care
- Covilli's Medical and Dental Clinic and Passenger Van

The Benefits of OGC's Banana Program

The year-round demand for organic bananas and our 16-year partnership with grower and importer, Organics Unlimited, provides benefits for our customers and the banana-growing communities in the state of Colima, Mexico. Organics Unlimited is the founder and steward of the GROW program — Giving Resources and Opportunities to Workers. A small price premium on each case of GROW bananas sold to our customers adds up to a significant annual donation to programs that improve the livelihood of those living in Colima. In 2020, our banana sales generated \$138,715 for GROW. OGC was Organic Unlimited's first GROW program partner and has raised nearly \$2,000,000 to support banana-growing communities since 2005.

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Fresh Produce

2020 was an unprecedented year with the pandemic's strain on the supply chain. Growers experienced spring surpluses as restaurants, schools, and farmers' markets responded to stay-at-home orders. Grocers managed the surge in demand as shoppers stocked up. These uncertainties, coupled with the operational impacts of implementing mandated safety protocols, took a toll on distribution, staffing, and cash flow for many businesses.

OGC's buying team worked quickly with our grower partners who needed additional help selling and transporting more of their harvests into retail grocery with restaurant business loss. Our sales team supported our accounts as many pivoted to new ways to serve customers, including expansion of online ordering and food box programs.

Growers were vulnerable and needed working capital to continue spring planting and investing for harvests for the back half of the year. To help during this pinch, OGC invested \$3.5 million over six weeks to pay our growers immediately, recognizing the impact of the pandemic on the cost of operating and keeping farm crews safe. OGC did this for all growers, regardless of their size. Our goal was to help our growers remain prosperous through the uncertainties of moving daily harvests and planting for the seasons ahead.

OGC Mission Fund Benefits NW Farmers

The launch of our Mission Fund in 2020 provided a direct benefit to our grower community. Grants totaling \$55,000 supported infrastructure growth and equipment needed by eight Northwest operations, like Eloisa Organic Farms.

Eloisa is owned and operated by Vicki Herrera and Zenon Ramirez, originally from Oaxaca, Mexico. For nearly 20 years, Vicki and Zenon farmed with Jamie Kitzrow's Springhill Farm. Upon Jamie's recent retirement, they had the opportunity to start an organic farm of their own on a parcel of land they knew well. In 2020, they faced unexpected expenses related to COVID-19, higher labor costs, lost crops due to the fires, plus a considerable expense to repair a well, including replacing a pump and lines. Vicki and Zenon will use the OGC Mission Fund grant to repair equipment, purchase a used tractor, and more.

Head to [OGC's blog](#) to meet the farmers who received 2020 OGC Mission Fund grants.

Chapter 2. Customer Health

Food Safety Innovation

Mock Recalls Benefit Customers

This past year reinforced the importance of preparing for the unexpected. As it relates to being responsive to food safety issues, it is critical to be able to react quickly with a strong, established product recall and withdrawal process. Having procedures in place to identify compromised product, determine where it is and where it went, alert customers and consumers, and get the product out of the marketplace is of utmost importance. Mock recalls play a vital role in preparation. In 2020, we worked with seven grower-partners to prepare using hypothetical scenarios to simulate a recall resulting from an on-farm event.

In-House Made Sanitizer Proves Especially Beneficial

As supplies of sanitizers quickly ran out in the spring of 2020, we were able to generate an endless supply of our own, capable of destroying food-borne pathogens and the COVID-19 virus without fear of shortage.

OGC's sanitizer is hypochlorous acid made from water and salt. This non-toxic but powerful disinfectant is much less irritating to users than other chlorine-based sanitizers, such as bleach. Before being activated by electrolysis, the sanitizer is nothing more than diluted saltwater, safe for the folks using it and safe for our waterways, not to mention it is approved for organic food processing plants.

OGC Mission Fund Benefits Our Customers

2020 was an incredibly challenging time for small, independent grocers, restaurants and food manufacturers. We worked to support them in numerous ways, including awarding \$25,000 in OGC Mission Fund grants to our customer community.

San Juan Island Food Co-op, one of our grantees, needed resources to update their much-loved 13-year-old business. A valued OGC customer serving island residents and visitors, this collectively-run, women-led business primarily supports local and regional producers.

Visit OGC's [blog](#) to meet the 2020 Mission Fund grantees.

OGC's New Subsidiary Helps Independent Food Businesses Shape a Viable Future

Early in 2020, OGC formally announced a new subsidiary, Alternative Ownership Advisors (AOA). AOA is part of a movement to create regenerative business models that support a paradigm shift from shareholder capitalism to stakeholder capitalism – new food, farming, finance, and economic models that work for people and the planet.

AOA supports mission-driven, independent businesses interested in steward-ownership and investment models that balance governance and returns across multiple stakeholders and reset the goals and incentives that drive corporate behavior. Models that treat businesses not as a commodity to be bought and sold but as a business rooted in purpose and mission that supports a broad range of stakeholders.

AOA's work in 2020 focused on building awareness for its consultancy services. That included launching a website and monthly newsletter and introducing AOA to a broader audience through LinkedIn and various conferences, podcasts and speaking engagements.

While each situation is unique, AOA works with companies that need hands-on support and want to learn from experienced experts. Clients generally fall into one of two buckets:

Liquidity + Legacy

Founders of mature companies, nearing an exit or retirement, who want to secure their independence and mission for the long term.

Scale + Restructure

Founders of early or growth-stage companies looking to access investment capital and an ownership structure allowing them to maintain control.

What they have in common:

- A strong mission and purpose at the core of their operations, culture and brand value proposition
- Founders and owners who care deeply about protecting their legacy and the company's ongoing mission-driven operations and are not focused on maximizing share value and profit alone
- Next generation leadership with aligned values who are excited and capable of carrying on the enterprise's stewardship into the future
- Credible business models and strategic plans; a track record of business profitability, sound financial management oversight; and capacity to adopt effective internal governance systems

AOA exists to revolutionize governance models by embedding mission and purpose in governance. As a subsidiary of OGC, the consultancy also supports our resiliency and long-term health viability.

We know that the operating landscape must shift because you can't fix a broken food system with a broken finance system. And we also understand that when our partners thrive and survive, we become stronger. Learn more at [alternativeownershipadvisors.com](https://www.alternativeownershipadvisors.com).

Chapter 3. Environmental Quality

OGC works to minimize our impact and create a healthier planet with everything we do. We're constantly focused on enhancing ecosystem health, from the practices used to move organic produce from farm to market, to employee perks, to promoting green practices in the workplace. Our goal is to achieve carbon neutrality first through sustainable practices and second via purchasing offsets.

Organic Agriculture offer Countless Benefits for Farmers, People & the Planet

- Ninety-six percent of all produce OGC sold in 2020 was certified organic
- Organic agriculture helps foster a healthier planet by promoting biodiversity, emitting fewer greenhouse gas emissions, decreasing the use of toxic chemicals, improving soil health, and so much more. These regenerative practices sequester carbon and work to mitigate climate change
- Organic products are better for human health because they don't contain antibiotics, toxic pesticides or fertilizers, and there's evidence to show that organic foods are richer in multiple nutrients
- Because they grow food organically, farmers aren't exposed to toxic chemicals; they can grow produce without sacrificing their health

Energy Reduction Initiatives

In 2020, OGC's annual energy consumption decreased by 582 million BTUs, a 12 percent reduction year over year. Reductions would have been even higher, but we changed how we circulated air in our facilities to maximize fresh, clean airflow as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19.

Energy savings realized were mainly due to two projects implemented in 2019:

- An investment in new lights in our 114,570 sq. ft Portland warehouse. Switching to LED bulbs reduced our annual energy consumption and improved the environment in the facility.
- We upgraded banana room controls, resulting in both energy savings and a reduction in the amount of ethylene used. The new system anticipates the impact of heating and cooling systems, turning them off sooner to reduce the need for temperature corrections.

Green Fleet Program

OGC helped to pioneer many of the environmentally-focused trucking practices that are the industry standard today, including the use of biodiesel derived and taking steps to make our fleet California Air Resource Board (CARB) compliant. CARB is the only state agency able to issue vehicle emissions standards that are more stringent than the EPA. By operating a CARB compliant fleet for years, we have improved air quality, especially in urban environments.

We run our fleet on a blend of biodiesel that is derived primarily from used cooking oil and ultra-low sulfur diesel. This blend significantly reduces smog-forming emissions, while recycled biodiesel also reduces our greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2020, our trucks used 21,676 gallons of pure biodiesel and 385,487 gallons of ULSD. Due to challenges with fueling vendors, our biodiesel use declined by over 41 percent over 2019. We are exploring our relationships with vendors to balance our goals to minimize environmental impact and cost, with reliability and operational efficiency to bridge the gap to alternative transportation energy.

Other Fuel Efficiency

Fuel efficiency efforts include specifics for equipment (based on their utilization), driver training and engagement, and onboard technology that captures data on mpg, over-RPMs, over-speed, and idle time. Our trailers are cooled at our Portland and Eugene facilities using renewable electricity when docked.

Produce Delivered by Bike

OGC has a long-standing partnership with Portland-based bike delivery company B-Line. In 2020, B-Line delivered 139 tons of produce to our urban accounts, like restaurants and cafes. This human- and battery-powered service avoided 1,964 driving miles for OGC trucks, mitigating three tons of CO₂ emissions. Overall, OGC's bike delivery volume decreased by 38 percent YOY due to the pandemic's tremendous impact on the restaurant industry.

Total Energy Consumption / Emissions

Through OGC's combined efforts to become more energy efficient in facilities, we saw positive improvements resulting in a reduction in annual energy consumption.

Metric	2019	2020	YOY Change
Total Electricity Used (kWh)	2,427,178	2,130,830	(296,348)
Total Natural Gas Used (Therms)	8,350	9,865	1,515
Total BTUs of All Building Energy Consumed	62,981,915,572	62,399,789,303	(582,126,269)
% of Building Energy Offset or Sourced as Renewable	103%	115%	12%
Ave BTUs of Building Energy Consumed / Sq Ft	4,263	3,861	(402)
Ave BTUs of All Energy Consumed / Cases Sold	11,881	10,682	(1,199)
CO2 Emissions (tons) from direct energy & fuel	3,754	3,637	(117)

Chapter 4. Resource Consumption

Reduce, reuse, recycle is our mantra as we work towards operating as a zero-waste company. In 2020, our total waste declined by 23 percent over 2019, and our landfill diversion improved.

Reduce

Food Waste

Overall, 88 percent of waste was diverted from the landfill, a two percent increase over 2019. Part of this diversion included donating 692,000 pounds of produce to food banks and gleaners, and diverting 256,000 pounds of food waste to a small livestock farmer.

We're constantly looking for ways to reduce our food waste and have invested in technology to more efficiently manage our rapidly moving inventory. 2020 was the first full year utilizing a new quality control app, which has contributed significantly to our team's ability to assess product conditions and take appropriate actions quickly.

Eco-Friendly Packaging

OGC launched a trial using fully recyclable three-pound paper potato bags, removing nearly 100,000 poly-bags from the waste stream within the trial period. Research and development dedicated to environmentally responsible packaging is an area OGC is committed to in 2021 and beyond, and plans are in place to expand the trialed paper potato bags.

Reuse

We found a second life for our used material handling equipment to keep it out of the landfill. For example, 12 hand-jacks, "retired" from OGC, were sold for a fraction of their cost to farmers for use in packing sheds.

Recycle

We recycled 180 tons of wood pallets, wax and non-wax cardboard, glass, paper and co-mingled materials.

Chapter 5. Coworker Wellbeing

The uncertainty and anxiety brought on by the pandemic, politics, civil unrest, and catastrophic fires led to actions and investments in our coworker community to assure our team that they are heard, valued, supported and safe in the workplace.

COVID-19 Response

The safety and wellbeing of our team is a fundamental priority 365 days a year. Because of this, we were incredibly proactive in our response to care for coworkers throughout the pandemic, providing and mandating PPE, temperature taking and social distancing. Over half a million dollars were invested in keeping coworkers safe and healthy.

- Appreciation Pay
- Technology and remote working
- PPE and onsite sanitization
- Launched a healthcare concierge app to help coworkers connect to free or low-cost telemedicine visits with doctors
- Offered access to groceries through a food buying club and made everyday staples available in our employee store

Living Our Values

Living OGC's values start with taking care of our people, which is why we're dedicated to creating a positive and inclusive experience for our coworkers. Our teams' experience is not only about their role; it's about how they feel during their journey with us.

We consider many factors important in our working, including considering how physical workspace, flexibility, overall wellbeing, company practices, and day-to-day interactions affect their experience on the job.

OGC at a glance:

Our team grew by 10 percent in 2020

57% of the executive team is female

OGC has been examining ways to broaden gender and racial diversity in leadership. While progress has been made to close the gender gap on our leadership team and board, we have work to do to increase the racial diversity of our management team.

Years of Service

Average: 6 years

9+ years: 17%

20+ years: 6%

OGC median tenure is 6 years; National median is 4.1 years

OGC population, based on self-identification:

52% white

47% (Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, two or more races)

1% not specified

Personal & Financial Wellness Benefits

- Two January 2020 wellness fairs attracted more than 90 percent of our coworkers in Portland and Eugene. All appreciated the interaction with benefit carriers and learning about meditation, gardening, nutrition and healthy lifestyle tips.
- Our employees' out-of-pocket medical cost is as low as 50 percent of the Oregon average cost for medical and 65 percent lower than the national average.

Workplace and Transportation Safety

- Our transportation team covered more than 2.3 million miles without a single Department of Transportation Reportable incident.
- We implemented new processes and procedures related to safety training during onboarding and job-specific training. This investment resulted in a lower rate of incidents.

Investing in Training & Team Building

- Leaders took part in *Managing for Performance*, an eight-week virtual course covering skills and tools critical for managers responsible for maintaining and developing high-performing teams.
- *Understanding Behavior Styles* provided OGC leaders with knowledge about their behavior style, along with information about their strengths, needs and blind spots. Leaders also learned how their style impacts communication with others so they can adapt their approach when needed.

Chapter 6. Community Building

Building Connections with Suppliers, Customers & Trade

Pre-pandemic, we had the opportunity to connect with industry peers, farmers, supply chain partners and customers at EcoFarm 2020. OGC co-hosted a day-long intensive, *Organic Survival: Practical Strategies for Resilience and Regeneration*.

We also led an educational citrus tour to California in February, connecting OGC team members and customers with growers in the Central Valley. Our farm tours provide a transparent and insightful look at the supply chain from a farming and distribution perspective.

A second annual meeting of the Sustainable Food & Agricultural Trust (SFAPPT) took place in late October via Zoom. Approximately 100 OGC Stakeholders gathered virtually for updates on OGC, AOA, the SFAPPT, and to hear from Woody Tasch, author of the books *Slow Money* and *AHA!: Fake Trillions, Real Billions, Beetcoin and the Great American Do-Over*.

Giving Back through Charitable Contributions

2.5 percent of OGC's net profits annually are dedicated to funding our Charitable Contributions program. Cash and fresh produce donations target Northwest-based nonprofits and schools working on organic agriculture, sustainable land use, environmental conservation, farming/farmworker advocacy and hunger relief. Click [here](#) for a recap of our 2020 Charitable Contributions.

Addressing a Surge in Demand for Food Assistance

In early April, we led a food donation initiative called *Project HOPE - Healthy Organic Produce for Everyone* - to get fresh organic produce to the hundreds of thousands of Northwest residents facing food insecurity because of COVID-19 related job loss, school closures and other hardships. Fifteen grower-partners quickly and generously donated pallets of produce - 46,000 pounds - which we distributed promptly to appreciative teams at Northwest Harvest, Oregon Food Bank, Portland Sunshine Division, Food for Lane County and the Relief Nursery.

Fundraising with Apples

1,800 cases of Farm to School Apples were sold, raising approximately \$65,000 for agriculture-focused K-12 learning in Northwest communities. The Farm to School Apple program provides an easy way for OGC's retail customers to raise money for a school or nonprofit in their community that's delivering agriculture and garden-focused education. While remote learning dominated much of the 2020 school year, many teachers continued to incorporate food and garden curriculum and benefited from the Farm to School Apple program's support.

Relief for Communities Impacted by Wildfires

The Oregon and Northern California wildfires of August and September impacted growers, farmworkers, customers and communities. As smoke and ash blanketed the region, OGC Buyers and leadership quickly assessed our stakeholders' needs.

\$50,000 was deployed directly to customers, farms, United Way, Unete Center for Farmworker Advocacy, and other nonprofits on the ground, aiding vulnerable populations who suffered from evacuation, property damage, business closures and home loss.

Supporting a More Equitable Food System

While we work to grow organics, achieve excellence in agriculture and commerce, protect the environment and enhance community wellbeing, it is clear that food system justice is social justice. With much work required in this area, in 2020, we took the following steps:

- Invested as a co-founder in the Organic Trade Association's (OTA) new [Organic for All: Diversity and Entrepreneurship Fund](#). OTA's emerging initiative will support and encourage organic entrepreneurs' growth and extend complimentary OTA trade memberships to farms and businesses owned by people who are Black, indigenous or people of color.
- Donated to the Urban League of Portland and Black Food Sovereignty Coalition and will continue to partner to support future work.
- Signed on to the American Sustainable Business Council's statement confronting racism and supported the [J.E.D.I. Collaborative](#), a trade organization dedicated to helping the natural products industry embed Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion into our entire food ecosystem.
- Provided \$50,000 to support the California BIPOC Farmer and Land Steward Relief Fund. This fund provided short-term relief to farmers of color and indigenous land stewards leading on climate resilience who needed immediate support due to COVID-19. Longer-term, the Relief Fund strengthens the BIPOC-led ecosystem that can help build just and resilient regional food economies.

OGC Launches Mission Fund

As part of the conversion to Trust ownership and continued focus on purpose, we launched the OGC Mission Fund in the fall of 2020. The fund provides a new way to give back to our stakeholder groups, take care of each other, and ensure that diversity in the organic supply chain survives and thrives into the future.

This loan and grant program was developed in partnership with existing allies, targeting mission-aligned supply chain partners and underserved and marginalized communities that lack ready access to capital. The OGC Mission Fund supports growers, customers, and community allies seeking funding for:

- Improvements in organic agriculture
- Preservation of natural resources and biodiversity
- Reduction of nonrenewable resources, toxins and synthetics, and environmental degradation
- Climate change mitigation
- Promotion of diversity and equity in the food system
- Fair labor practices and promotion of holistic food policy

\$140,000 was distributed to 21 Northwest businesses and nonprofits directly linked to OGC's supply chain or leading work to build a resilient and just agricultural economy in a community we serve.

Over half of the funds were awarded to projects led by Black, indigenous and tribal, immigrant or refugee farmers or business owners; community leaders of color; or other food system practitioners and entrepreneurs from underserved communities without access to traditional capital.

Here's just one example of the community-based nonprofits that this new fund supported. Learn about all recipients of 2020 OGC Mission Fund grants by visiting our [blog](#).

Viva Farms grows the next generation of farmers by engaging aspiring, historically underserved, and limited resource farmers and farm workers, helping them overcome barriers to farm ownership. They have educated over 1,000 small-scale farmers in sustainable organic farming and launched 26 farm businesses run by 40 farm owners on 88 acres. Viva is expanding by 31-acres in 2021, so their OGC grant will support ongoing bilingual, organic farm production and small business management technical assistance to the 26 existing farm businesses in incubation and an additional six farm businesses through the land expansion. Funding will also support essential infrastructure and equipment, including necessary upgrades to an open-air wash/pack facility and purchasing a passive solar-style Quonset hut greenhouse and a forklift.

Contributions to Our Trade

OGC is on a mission to change the world. This effort will require systemic change, produced through consistent advocacy and broad stakeholder engagement. 2020 proved to be a critical year to engage and influence state and federal policy. Whether informing political leaders about the impacts of COVID and wildfires or influencing the most significant proposed revision to the organic standards since its inception, OGC made sure to have a seat at the table representing our stakeholders.

Our Voice in National Policy

There were significant opportunities to engage in organic policy and advocacy work in 2020. Along with two National Organic Standard Board (NOSB) meetings, the Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) rule was released for public comment, the largest proposed revision to the organic standards since its inception.

OGC continues to view NOSB comments as an opportunity for engaging our stakeholders and ensuring their voices are elevated at the decision-making level. OGC coordinated the Organic Produce Wholesalers Coalition (OPWC) written comments which included 150+ grower responses to gather feedback and insight into how NOSB proposals would impact their production systems. The NOSB welcomed these comments and specifically referenced them publicly, and voted in alignment with the majority of the recommendations.

Our comments on SOE focused on ensuring organic integrity across the organic supply chain and proposed a new, innovative and reasonable approach to achieve that. Our proposed concept and statements were supported by OPWC and endorsed by the Produce Marketing Association, United Fresh and Western Growers Association.

Here, in the Northwest

Regionally, we served in an advisory capacity to support the Oregon Organic Coalition and Washington's Coalition for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture. These coalitions join close partners, PCC Community Market, Tilth Alliance, Oregon Tilth, Friends of Family Farmers, and others to elevate organic priorities at the state level.

In Oregon, OGC supported the Oregon Organic Coalition's work to develop the state's Organic Action Plan, which calls for hiring additional Oregon State University Organic Extension agents, creates a comprehensive statewide organic market analysis, and creates additional support for organics within the Oregon Department of Agriculture. These projects have significant momentum, both with partnership energy and legislative buy-in; OGC also contributed \$25,000 towards a national effort to kick these off in other states.

OGC Leadership Takes Action

With a deep commitment to the larger organic sector, OGC staff members serve the following trade advocacy organizations:

- Oregon Organic Coalition
- Organic Produce Wholesale Coalition
- Produce Marketing Association
- Washington State's Coalition for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Agriculture's Organic Stakeholder Group
- Organic Trade Association
 - Community Relations Committee
 - Produce Sector Council
 - Continuous Improvement Team
 - Sustainable Food Trade Action Council

A Message from OGC's Board of Governors

This past year, our community of stakeholders joined together to care for each other in ways that would have been unfathomable before. Through the pandemic, devastating wildfires, and more, we each stepped up to support each other. Together, despite these challenges, we brought the quality and joy of our organic produce to new customers and households while they altered their lifestyles and sheltered at home.

The future holds much promise and opportunity for OGC as we work on refining our strategic direction with a focus on maximizing impact toward our purpose. We will be furthering our connections to stakeholders, deepening our focus on equity and inclusion, and bolstering our trade advocacy and leadership. At the end of the day, we are proud to lead the organic produce trade in reaping the full benefits of all that our incredible grower partners have to offer.

OGC believes that organic food is the best way to nourish people while protecting the planet. Our focus today is, and always will be, on purpose over profit. As OGC's Board of Governors, we are committed to continued partnership and collaboration in pursuit of a more fair and just food system and future for us all.

OGC's Board of Governors

Brian Rohter, Hood River, OR
Lara Lee, San Diego, CA
Mike Bedessem, Hudson, WI

Cathy Calfo, Santa Cruz, CA
Maia Hardy, Springfield, OR

Cecil Wright, Viroqua, WI
Melody Meyer, Soquel, CA

SFAPPT Trust Protector Committee

David Lively, Eugene, OR
Jyoti Stephens, Vancouver, BC

George Siemon, La Farge, WI
Natalie Reitman-White, Kimberley, BC

Joe Rogoff, Guerneville, CA