



OUR MISSION

ACE protects and improves water, air, and open spaces in the Arlington community and nearby areas by promoting stewardship of our natural resources and connecting all citizens to practical solutions that achieve a sustainable lifestyle.

A Letter From the ACE Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your involvement in making 2016-2017 a strong year for ACE. We are so proud to be working with you to protect our corner of the Earth. I'm inspired by your commitment to making a difference for a healthy and clean future through your everyday actions.

We appreciate everyone who connected with ACE during several volunteer events and educational activities. Some of the highlights included:

- Volunteers who commemorated the National Day of Service in January by removing 76 bags of trash from Four Mile Run;
- Participants in the Home Energy Rebate Program who improved their insulation or purchased energy-efficient appliances to reduce energy consumption;
- Students who learned how renewable energy sources protect our air quality by participating in our energy carnivals; and
- Energy Masters' volunteers who improved the energy efficiency of the 136 homes in affordable housing communities at the Culpepper Garden senior community, Fort Myer Apartments, and Princess Square Apartments.

Our goal at ACE is to increase our impact by engaging more Arlington residents in addressing the issues of climate change and habitat destruction that affect our planet. A quote from the British architect, Richard Rogers, captures our desire best: "The only way forward if we are going to improve the quality of the environment is to get everyone involved." Thanks again for caring for our planet.

Sincerely,



Elenor Hodges, Executive Director



2017 Achievements

ACE connected, educated, and empowered individuals to become actively involved in making small changes that positively impact our environment and our world.

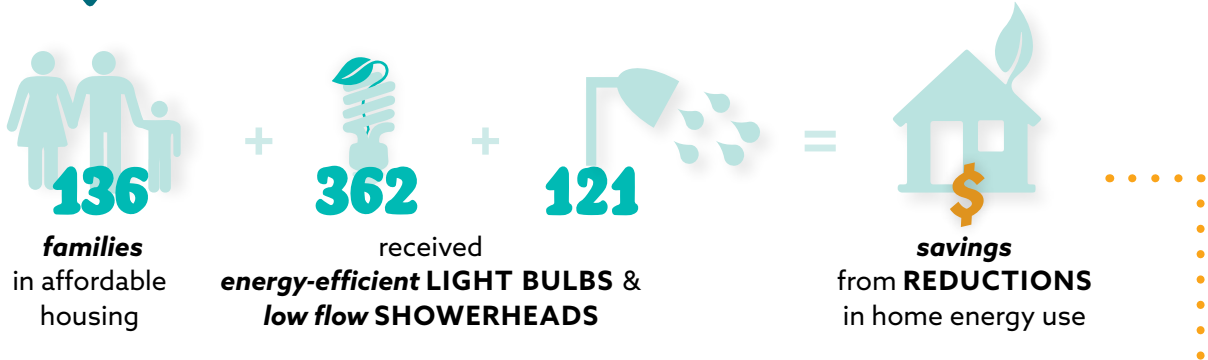


Advancing Energy Efficiency

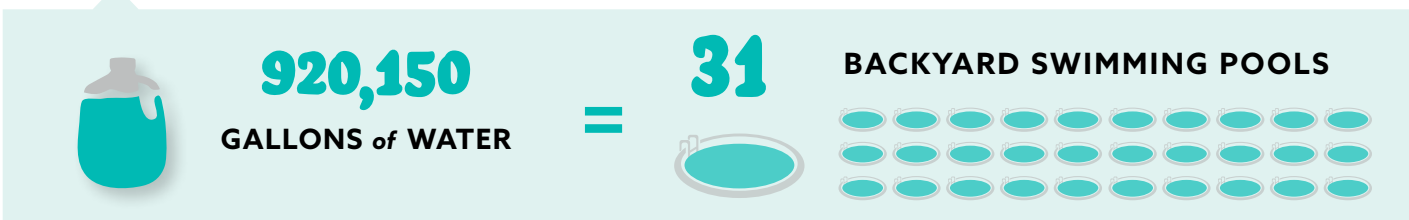
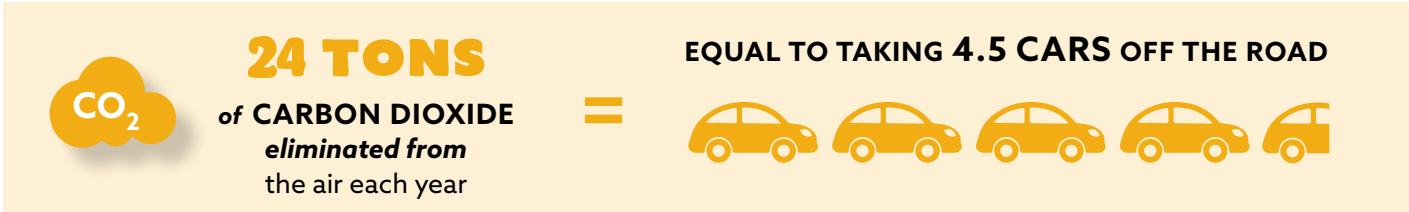


ACE ENERGY MASTERS

ACE volunteers demonstrated their commitment to increasing energy efficiency strategies among community members living in affordable housing units.



THIS SAVES ← MAKING A DIFFERENCE



One-third of the **10 MILLION TONS OF CARBON** generated by every person **comes from home energy use**, with more than half resulting from **HEATING AND COOLING**.

REDUCTIONS in home energy use provide one of the greatest opportunities to **DECREASE** our **CARBON FOOTPRINT**.



HOME ENERGY REBATES

ACE we partnered with Arlington County to help residents increase energy efficiency through the **Home Energy Rebate Program**.



457
Home Energy
Rebates delivered



\$200
Average utility bill savings
per household
through rebates



8% REDUCTION
in energy bills

Increasing **Tree Canopy**

The Tree Canopy Fund helped homeowners and community associations plant more trees.



213

Trees planted.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Each year this **ELIMINATES**

213 TONS

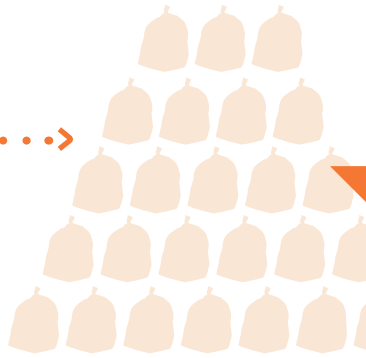
of **CARBON DIOXIDE**



This is **EQUAL** to
the **CO₂ EMITTED**
by **21 PEOPLE** in **ONE** year

Reducing Litter

Our volunteers **REMOVED** hundreds of bags of *litter* from Arlington parks and waterways to help combat contamination that *threatens the safety of our waters*.



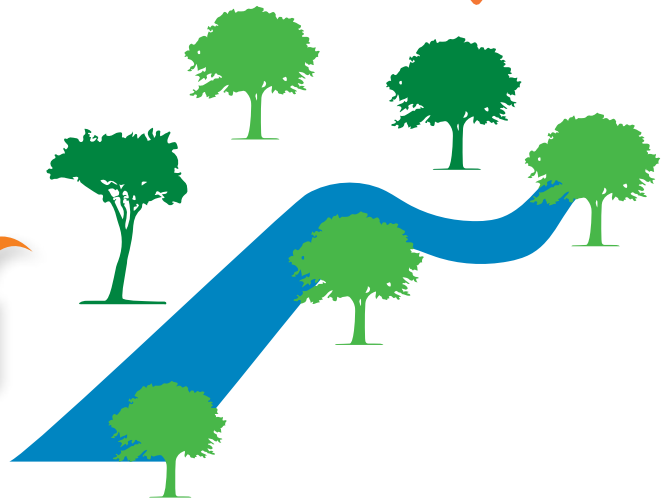
294

bags of trash
REMOVED from
Arlington
streams and
parks

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

18% of ALL LITTER ends up
in streams and waterways.*

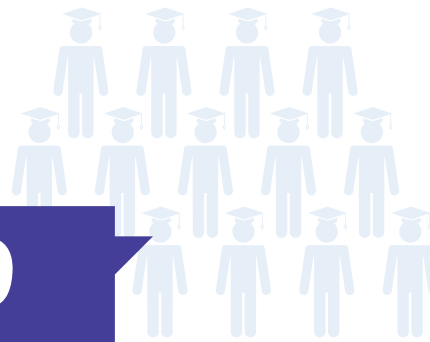
REMOVING LITTER
from our waterways
protects the health
and safety of *people,*
animals, and plants.



*Source: Keep America Beautiful.

Preparing the **Future**

Working with teachers and students at all grade levels, ACE shared knowledge and skills about the benefits of protecting the planet and conserving resources.



3,550
STUDENTS took part in *hands-on* energy efficiency and environmental activities



2 HIGH SCHOOLS & 1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL collaborated with the ACE *R4 Action Group* on solid waste reduction and recycling activities



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION introduces students to everyday solutions that eliminate and diminish threats to a healthy environment.



Students learn about the impact of their actions on the environment and embrace the concept of becoming **GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENS.**

Engaging the **Community**



We engaged hundreds of residents, members, and friends in proactively supporting a healthy planet by volunteering their time.



29 ENERGY MASTERS
volunteers trained

120

Neighborhood
storm drains marked



664

VOLUNTEERS
worked with ACE



3,563

VOLUNTEER
hours worked

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Working with **ACE**, community members are **IMPROVING** Arlington's natural places and adopting personal behaviors to **IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY** and make the Earth **more sustainable**.



Every environmental action matters.
THE REAL POWER OF ACE IS YOU.

Profile **Alex Brown**

Volunteering with ACE sparks a career in the environment



// Energy Masters was my first involvement with conserving the environment, and it sparked my interest in environmental conservation. Since I first began to volunteer with the Energy Masters program about five years ago, ACE has given me many fantastic opportunities," says Alex Brown, a Washington-Lee High School graduate.

Energy Masters was just the beginning. Alex expanded his volunteer experiences to include build-your-own rain barrel workshops for the Northern Virginia Rain Barrel program, serving as a student member of the ACE board of directors and doing outreach in elementary schools, as part of a senior experience internship.

Alex began studying at the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment in August and plans to pursue a career working in the environmental field. He says, "Without ACE, I would never have gotten involved in the environment, and I likely would not be pursuing an environmental career."

Alex didn't realize the impact working with ACE would have on his life. "Again, I would like to thank ACE for everything that it has done to help me and for the huge part the organization had in providing these opportunities. ACE has truly changed my life."

Profile Phyllis Castillo

Arlington residents and the environment reap the benefits of the Tree Canopy Fund program

Phyllis Castillo learned about Arlington's Tree Canopy Fund program through her civic association's website. She thought it was interesting, but wasn't ready to apply. After relocating about five years ago from Delta, Colorado to Arlington, Phyllis took time to settle in before making changes in and around her new home.

Two years later, Phyllis was ready to apply for a tree. She knew more about Arlington, her neighborhood, and most of all she was more familiar with what each tree, flower, and bush in her yard would bring with each changing season. What was missing was a shade tree, and she knew exactly where the tree should be planted and how it would enhance her home and her well-being.

Phyllis submitted her application, received approval, and her tree was planted in the spring.

"Everything about the planting process was good, and it didn't cost me a thing. They came out and dug a hole for the tree, mulched around it, and gave me a water bag, which was really wonderful. And, they gave me instructions on how to take care of it, especially in the first year."

Phyllis was pleasantly surprised with the size of the tree she received. "I thought I'd get this little sapling and it was tree. It was not a sapling."

Phyllis is looking forward to enjoying the beauty of her new tree for many years to come.

The Tree Canopy Fund program is one of the many

ways ACE is showing Arlington residents how to improve our air, water, and outdoor spaces with simple everyday choices – Let ACE show you how!



Profile **Shah Family**

A family makes a positive impact on the community



The Shah family is doing what it takes to protect our environment.

Picking up trash from Arlington's parks and streams can be a messy job. It's also one of the simple everyday things ACE volunteers like Mimi Shah and her two daughters Kira and Jaya readily do to keep our parks clean and prevent contaminated trash and debris from entering our streams.

Mimi's been volunteering with ACE off and on since 1998; taking a periodic hiatus when her girls were infants. Despite the everyday pressures of raising a family, work, and other commitments, Mimi keeps coming back to ACE. "What I like about ACE and what keeps me coming back is the chance to work with other people who are passionate, committed and focused on trying to be better stewards of the environment." Today, she focuses on volunteering with her girls to help them understand the importance of doing their part to make a positive impact in the community.

When she first reconnected with ACE after completing graduate school and starting a new job, Mimi decided to work with high school students to help them become more aware of environmental issues and

career opportunities within the field. Fast forward to today, and she's using that same process, but now gearing her work towards everyday behaviors that impact the environment. Working through the ACE R4 (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot) Action Group she's reaching elementary school kids like her own children. "I want to help kids consider recycling in their day-to-day activities and in the school. If we can raise awareness and lead them to action, we can create a ripple effect; because that change in behavior will also result in kids thinking about recycling in their homes. If we can eventually get them to think about reuse and reduction, then I think we've achieved success."

Mimi and her family are dedicated to being voices for the environment by committing to personal actions. They are speaking up, making changes, and raising awareness so that people understand the importance of caring for the environment. "I think it goes back to that old saying, 'be the change you wish to see in the world'."

Awards and Recognition



Energy Masters, a joint program of ACE, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Arlington THRIVE, was honored on November 17, 2016, at the Virginia Governor’s Housing Conference, with the Best Affordable Housing Energy Conservation Effort award, which recognizes innovative, effective efforts that address housing needs in the state. The program received a second award from the first-ever Virginia Energy Efficiency Leadership Awards on November 29, 2016. Energy Masters was awarded third place in the Low-Income Category. This award acknowledges demonstrated commitment to energy conservation and prudent use of resources in the renovation of affordable housing properties.



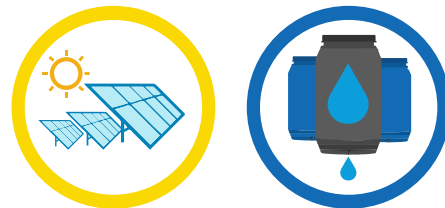
Elizabeth Woolford, a student board member of ACE from 2015 to 2017, was recognized by *Arlingtonian* magazine in July 2017 with its Extraordinary Teen Award for spearheading a project to improve the recycling system at Yorktown High School. Elizabeth’s project included auditing waste, organizing and labelling waste and recycling bins, and educating students, staff and custodians on what can and can’t be recycled.



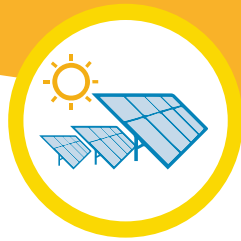
2017 Partnerships

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

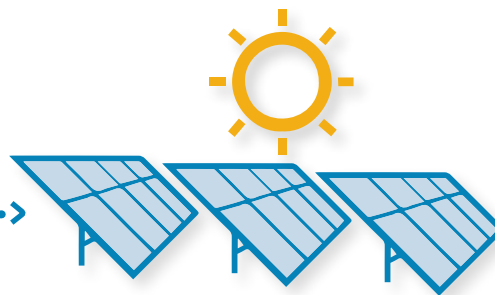
Our partnerships helped us share environmental practices with our own community and neighboring cities and jurisdictions.



Promoting Renewable Energy

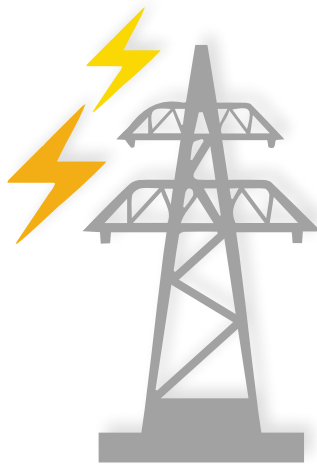


Working collectively, ACE, the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy, and Solar United Neighbors organized the Potomac Solar Coop, which enabled homeowners going solar to ease the transition, save 30 percent, and benefit from lower energy cost and less environmental impact.



56

solar photovoltaic systems installed
PRODUCING



= 350
KILOWATTS
of installed capacity

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



RENEWABLE ENERGY from *solar panels* produces *little to no global warming emissions* and no associated *air pollution emissions*, which **IMPROVES** public **HEALTH** and environmental **QUALITY** for our air and water.

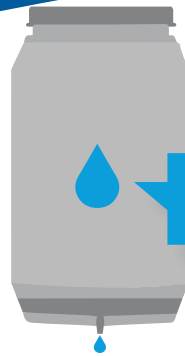
Conserving & Protecting Water

Rain barrel workshops introduced people from Arlington and neighboring areas to the benefits of water conservation by repurposing rain water.



PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

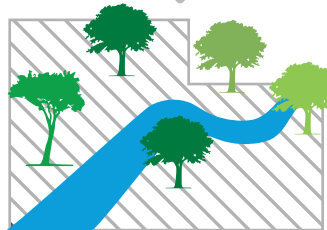
The Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Program is a partnership between ACE, Clean Virginia Waterways, Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church, the Reston Association, Fairfax and Arlington chapters of Virginia Naturalists, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.



240
RAIN BARRELS SOLD



29
PROJECTS COMPLETED



11,559
SQURE FEET OF LAND IMPROVED

THE STORMWATERWISE PROGRAM

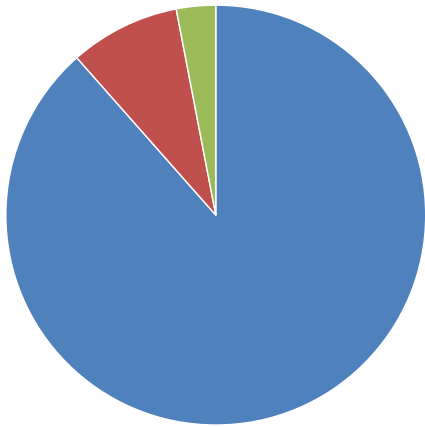
is a partnership between ACE and the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services that offers residents innovative options to **REDUCE POLLUTANTS** swept from paved surfaces into our waterways, while enhancing the aesthetics of their property.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

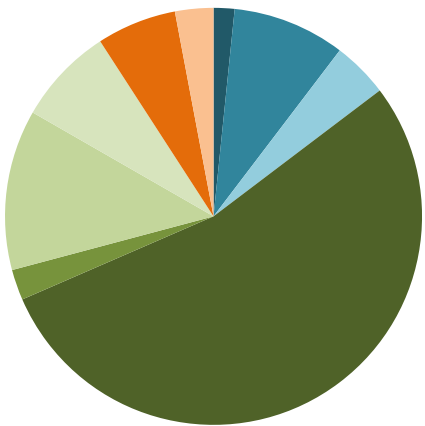
Each completed **StormwaterWise** program project contributes to **IMPROVING WATER QUALITY** and decreasing the dangers to public health and flooding by reducing the number one cause of water pollution—**stormwater runoff**.

2016-2017 Financials



FY17 Revenue

- Arlington County **88%**
 - Individuals **9%**
 - Businesses and organizations **3%**
- Total \$529,744**



FY17 Expenses

Environmental Education 15%

- School Projects
- Public Projects
- Communications

Community Engagement 76%

- Action Campaigns
- Service Projects
- Tree Canopy Fund
- Energy Masters

Support 9%

- Management & Governance
- Fundraising

Total \$556,512

Financial Report Notes: These numbers are being published before the completed audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Completed audited figures are available upon request.



ACE Partners

ACE appreciates the support of all our 2016-2017 sponsors, funders and partners.

ACE Twins Hardware
Alexandria Housing Trust
Anderson Tax
Arlington Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Committee
Arlington Cinema and Drafthouse
Arlington Community Development Fund
Arlington County Civic Federation
Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development



Arlington County Department of Environmental Services
Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation
Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission
Arlington Dentistry by Design
Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE)
Arlington Public Schools (APS)
APS School Health Advisory Committee
APS Science Program
APS Sustainability Advisory Committee
Arlington Thrive
Arlington Villages
Bike to Work Day
BikeArlington
Brent Place Apartments
Burke and Herbert Bank



Casual Adventure
Cheesetique
City of Alexandria Office of Housing
Claremont Garden Club
Clean Virginia Waterways
CoworkCafe
Culpepper Gardens
Deep Learning Analytics
Elbert Avenue Apartments
Eventive Consultants
EnviroHomeDesign
Fort Myer Apartments



Garfield Gardens Apartments
 George Mason University
 Greater Washington Society
 CPA Educational Foundation
 Harris Teeter
 Heatherlea Condominiums
 Home Energy Medics
 JBG SMITH
 KB Concepts
 KPMG
 MOMs Organic Market



Mount Olivet United
 Methodist Church
 National Park Service
 New District Brewing
 Company
 Northern Virginia Community
 College



Northern Virginia
 Conservation Trust
 Northern Virginia Rain
 Barrel Program
 Northern Virginia Soil and
 Water Conservation District
 Organic Edible Gardens
 Our Lady Queen of Peace
 Church
 Patagonia
 People's Climate March
 Princess Square
 Apartments
 RE Advisers
 Share Good
 Sierra Club, Mt. Vernon
 Chapter

Solar United Neighbors of
 Virginia
 St. Matthews United
 Methodist Church
 St. Michaels Episcopal
 Church
 Trader Joes
 Transportation Security
 Administration
 Transurban
 TreeStewards
 Virginia Cooperative Extension
 Virginia Department of
 Forestry
 Whitehall Farms
 Whole Foods
 Wild Birds Unlimited



Help **ACE Sustain Our Work**

ACE appreciates your support of our local conservation programs. We are the only conservation organization working exclusively in Arlington.

Please...

- **SUBSCRIBE** to our e-newsletter and blog
- **GET INVOLVED** ... volunteer!
- **INCREASE** your annual giving
- **BECOME** a monthly donor
- **GIVE A GIFT** of an ACE membership
- **ENGAGE** with us on social media



WWW.ARLINGTONENVIRONMENT.ORG

