

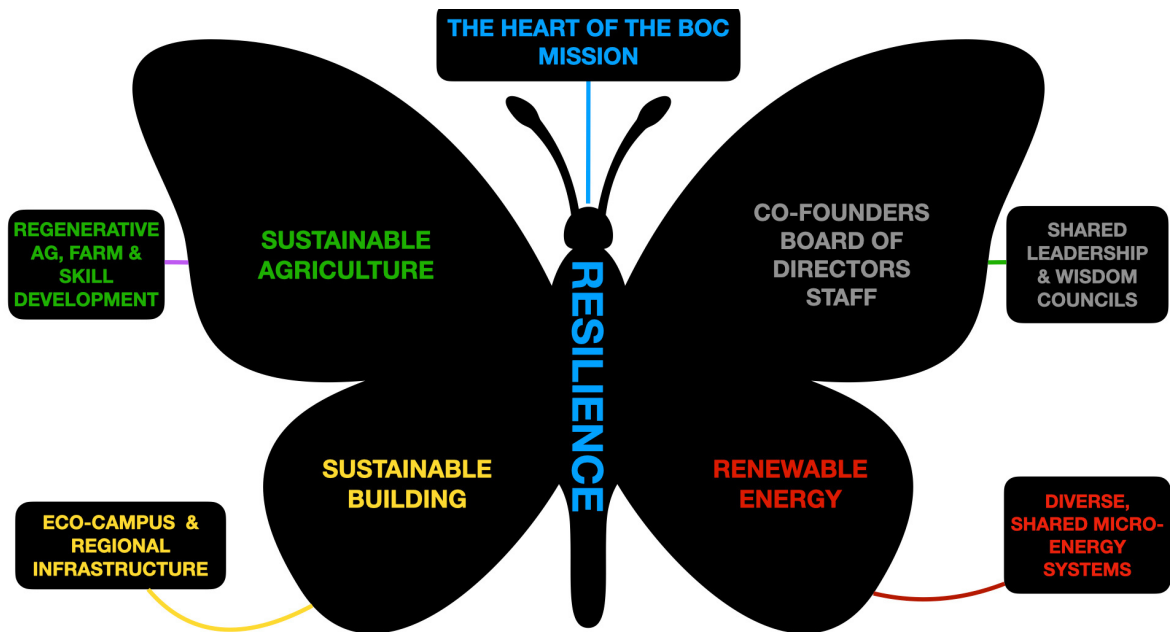
2022 ANNUAL REPORT



BLACKOAKS
Center for Sustainable
Renewable Living

**FACILITATING COMMUNITIES
IN BEING RESILIENCE IN A
POST-CARBON WORLD**

"Committed to Building Resilient Communities"



THE BLACK OAKS CENTER 2022 REPORT

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THE BLACK OAKS CENTER 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CO-FOUNDERS' MESSAGE & SUSTAINABILITY ADDRESS

Since the beginning of the COVID Pandemic, the Co Founding family has deepened their commitment to fulfill the BOC mission: ***Facilitating Communities in being Resilient.*** During 2021, Black Oaks Center experienced first hand, the converging impacts of climate change, eco-social-political disparities, & inflation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Carter family continues to do all we can to mitigate the adverse impacts of resource decline, environmental crisis and low to no growth economy.

Together with the BOC Board of Directors, it became clear that in order to fulfill on our mission, our efforts must stay focused on building the necessary resiliency in ourselves, our organization and the community. We remain committed to achieving a next level way of being within the peri-urban framework we have been constructing from Chicago to Pembroke Township, Kankakee, Illinois.

At a time of unprecedented global transition, Black Oaks Center is creating viable recovery and resiliency strategies with fellow Black, Indigenous organizations & farmers through skill sharing, development and training. These efforts coupled with our generous donors, funders, collaborative partnerships and supporters have allowed us to emerge as agents of change and solution in the region at time of great human uncertainty.



DR. JIFUNZA WRIGHT-CARTER
CO-FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



FRED CARTER
CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AKIN CARTER
CO-FOUNDER &
FARM PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

THE FUTURE OF DISRUPTION & A COMMUNITY-BASED POST CARBON REALITY

A POST-CARBON FUTURE IS ESSENTIAL FOR MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR HUMANITY. AS WE TRANSITION AWAY FROM USING FOSSIL FUELS AS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF ENERGY AND SHIFT TOWARDS USING RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH AS SOLAR, WIND, HYDRO, AND GEOTHERMAL POWER.

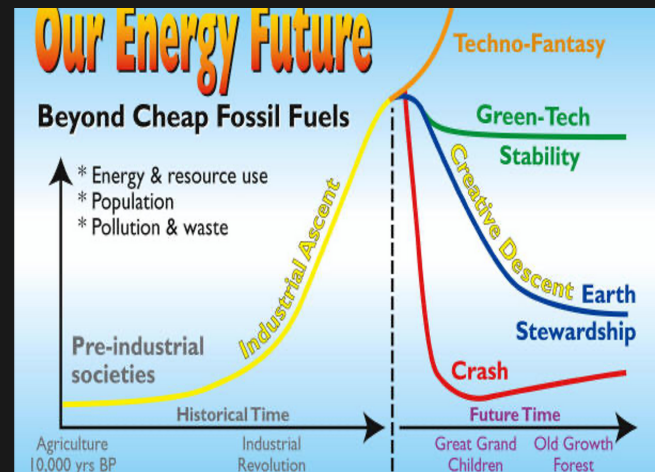
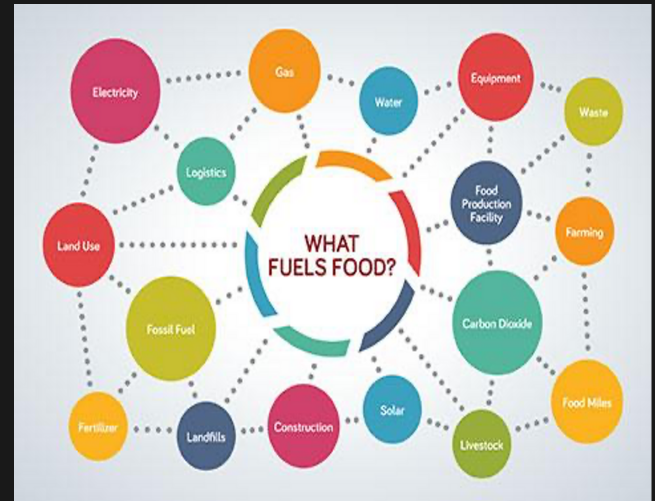
BLACK OAKS CENTER IS COMMITTED TO MODELING, EDUCATING AND PREPARING OUR COMMUNITY TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ADAPT REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES.

HOW WE GOT HERE:

- Pre-Colonialism/Indigenous Life: The Original Earth Stewardship
- 1859, Titusville Pennsylvania, 1st One Million Barrels of Oil Pumped from the Earth
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation the transfer of Black Gold from black labor to black crude oil. The beginning of the Industrial Era
- U.S. Peaked in Oil Reserves in 1970s, the World Peaked in 2000

WHERE WE'RE GOING:

- Build Hyperlocal Infrastructure to Take of The Needs of Those that Live Inside of 50-100 Miles of Pembroke Township
- Build Awareness and Skills Proficiency to Be of Greater Service to Our Community



HISTORY OF PEMBROKE TOWNSHIP

Continuing the Legacy of Black Eco-Intention

The Pembroke Farmland restoration is doing what it can to fill the big shoes left by the iconic black farmers of Pembroke to uphold the rich heritage of this once black agricultural hub. Pembroke farmers were the 3rd largest hemp producers in the U.S. during World War II. Farms that equated to hundreds of acres in production became a major food source for Great Migration families coming from the south in search of a better life. Over 60 years ago, distribution extended over 100 miles to the northwest, including Maywood, the west and south sides of Chicago, the Southland, and the Midwest region. Poultry, eggs, grains, meat, legumes, as well as a wide variety of vegetables & fruits, and value-added products, are what Pembroke farmers were widely known for producing.

There is a need to restore this legacy; to once again, service the needs of the locale, the region, and the nation. We are doing what we can to restore this noble heritage in a time of need. Support is needed to structure a land trust or some sort of innovative entity wherein land can be held, sold, and returned for the purpose of continued black farmland stewardship.

Today, Pembroke Township is poverty-stricken and drug-laden. Unemployed and under-skilled youth have minimal options. The generational transfer of regenerative farming practices has been broken. Still, some hold on to only fractions of family farmland, most of which is fallow. Most of the farms in Pembroke are small; 1-20 acres. It is estimated that 200-500 limited-resource small farms still exist but needs capacity building to restore the land to maximize production. Some farms service community markets in Chicago on a seasonal basis but the returns are not enough to generate economic stability to retain and attract people to farming. Further, farmers in Pembroke lack networks and collaborations to overcome farm/ranch operation deficiencies and access to markets. All these economic disadvantages lead to many descendants losing their remaining family farmland to a tax delinquency for less than 2000 dollars. In addition, there are many heirs' property challenges for which there is no legal support. This prevents heirs from being able to take advantage of USDA programs. In the commitment of the 100-year plan: for black farming to thrive in perpetuity on at least a minimum 1000 to 2000 of the 33,000 acres that were once predominantly black-owned, we must both retain black farmlands and acquire larger swaths of land to diversify ecological production.



CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FARMERS

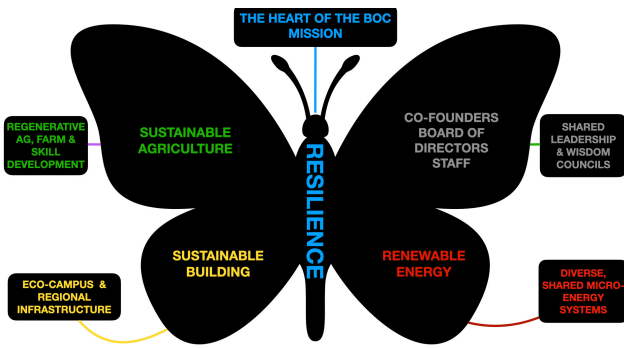
EMPOWERING HEIRS OF HEIRS

Descendents of the original Pembroke farming families face levels of unprecedented poverty, political, environmental threats to their land legacies. Black Oaks Center is a vessel for the needed advocacy, training and economic support that strengthen the capacities of the vulnerable of this independent farming township. Black Oaks Center prioritizes supporting the next generation farmers of Pembroke through employment and skill building.

BOC's holistic youth strategy combines community education, capacity building, organizing, and direct service with emphasis on the following:

- Sharing knowledge and skills through trainings, apprenticeships, technical assistance and coursework in regenerative agriculture
- Offering apprenticeship programs for permaculture and agroforestry training to ensure the next generation have the best practices of succeeding in a post-carbon future
- Providing local school support in student-led regenerative landscaping and place-based engagement
- Conducting summer camp programs and hosting youth groups to introduce concepts of agroforestry, eco-advocacy and working lands
- Providing business training to young farmers while exposing them to profitable markets that support equitable food development and distribution to communities across the region
- And, helping youth organize community and become ecological and cultural stewards





TONI ANDERSON
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

STAFF & ORG DEVELOPMENT

IN 2022, BOC WAS ABLE TO EXPAND ITS STAFFING AND PROGRAMMATIC PLANS TO BUILD ITS OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES IN 2023. THROUGH ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT FOCUSED ON CULTURAL COMPETENCIES, REGENERATIVE OPERATING SYSTEMS AND COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING, BOC WILL STRENGTHEN ITS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL INFLUENCE IN LEADERSHIP.

2023 STAFF GOALS:

- Facilitate Coaching & Development for BOC Co-founders, Staff, Board & Stakeholders
- Succession Plan for Co Founding Family & Organization
- Define/Clarify Roles & Org Structure (Non-Profit/For-Profit, Land Trust)
- Create Onboarding & Training for New Staff & Volunteers
- Establish HR Protocols & Standard Operating Procedures
- Recruit, Enroll & Hire Necessary Key Roles to Implement & Anchor Organizational Strategies (Sustainable Agriculture & Production)



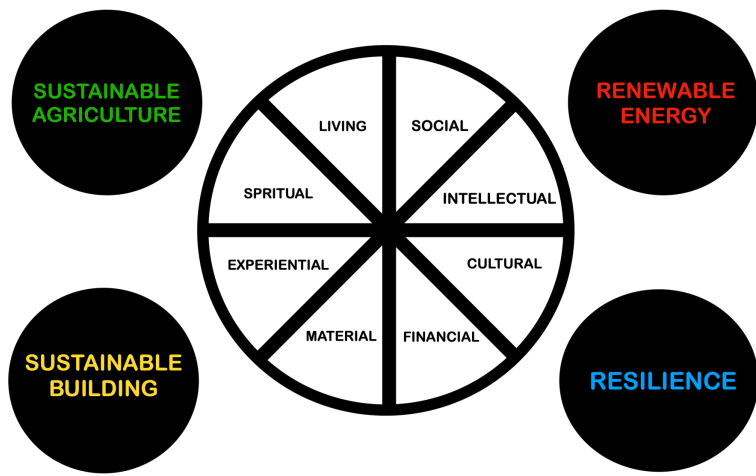
ALEXY IRVING
LEAD APPRENTICE & GRAPHIC DESIGNER



MELODY GIL
PRODUCTION TEAM MEMBER



OUR AMAZING PRODUCTION TEAM
THE PEMBROKE FARMLAND RESTORATION PRODUCERS



THE BOC BOARD TRACK COUNCILS - CREATING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE & ESTABLISHING ACTION-BASED ADVISORY COUNCILS THAT FOSTER:

- MOBILIZING OUR ASSETS THROUGH THE SIX CHANNELS OF WEALTH
- DECOLONIZING OUR GOVERNANCE IN BOARD STRUCTURE WHILE STAYING IN LEGAL COMPLIANCE
- DYNAMIC ENTRY TO SUPPORT BOC
- CREATE A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
- OWNERSHIP & GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION
- MANAGEMENT OF SMALL SCALE PROJECTS & PROGRAMS
- RESOURCE RAISING
- EDUCATION & TRAINING

OUR TRACK GOALS SPAN:

- RESILIENCE (RENEWABLE PEMBROKE, EDUCATION & AWARENESS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)
- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (PEMBROKE FARMLAND RESTORATION, HEALTHY FOOD HUB)
- RENEWABLE ENERGY (MICRO-GRID ENERGY SYSTEMS & RENEWABLE INITIATIVES)
- SUSTAINABLE BUILDING (ECO-CAMPUS & INT'L HEADQUARTERS, ELOQUENT TECHNOLOGY)
- ORG GROWTH, GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE (INTERSECTIONAL GROWTH)



DR. RACHEL LINDSEY
BOARD CHAIR



DR. KIM DULANEY
BOARD TREASURER



DR. PANCHO MACFARLAND
BOARD SECRETARY



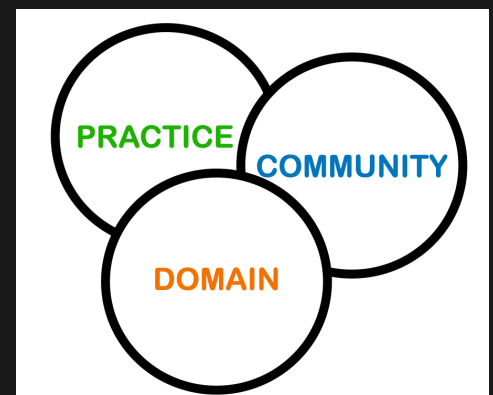
ANTHENA GORE
BOARD DIRECTOR



RAMONA WESTBROOK
BOARD DIRECTOR



OSEI ANDREWS-HUTCHINSON
BOARD DIRECTOR



BUILDING RESILIENCY THROUGH A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

FINANCIAL REPORT

A YEAR OF RECOVERY & GROWTH

Black Oaks is so very proud and grateful for the harvest from our fundraising efforts which will allow us to radically shift into the deeper implementation of our programs and strategic goals for the coming year. Capacity building sits at the core of our internal organizational goals and, is the key driver for our efforts to build resiliency in Pembroke Township.

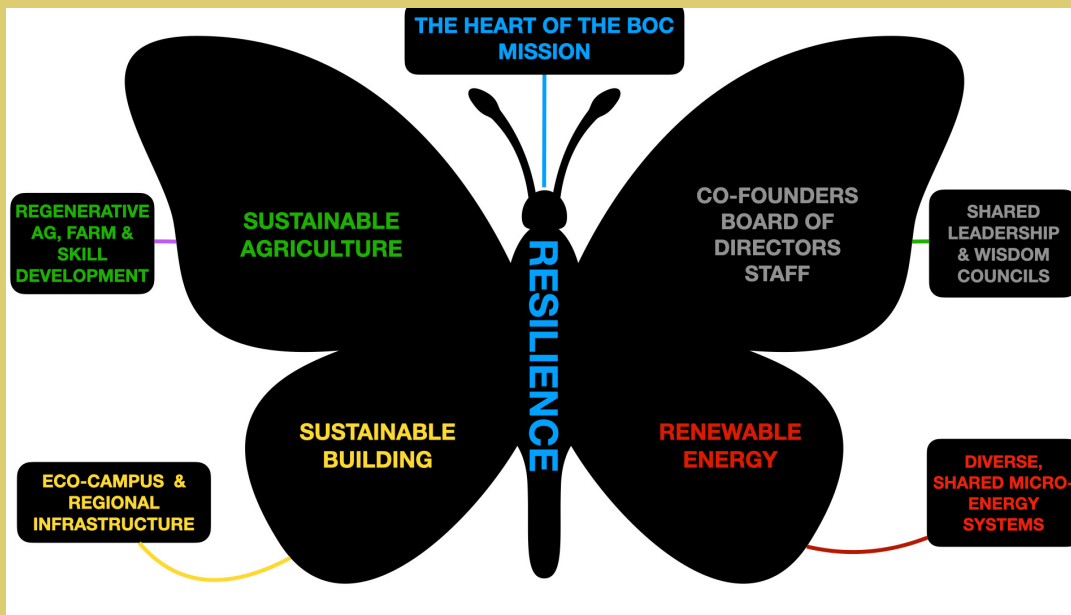
DEC 2022 GRANT HIGHLIGHTS: \$ 1,008,957

- **Successfully Secured Funding from Institutions and Foundations to Increase Program Efficacy: Pembroke Farmland Restoration, Healthy Food Hub and Renewable Pembroke Programs**
- **Emerging Social Enterprises for Sustainable Financial Growth**

2023 FINANCE GOAL: \$ 3.5ML

- **Deepen Donor Relations & Program/Product Driven Donor Campaigns**
- **Implement Full Audit-able, Dashboard Financial Management**
- **Increase Resource & Asset Management**

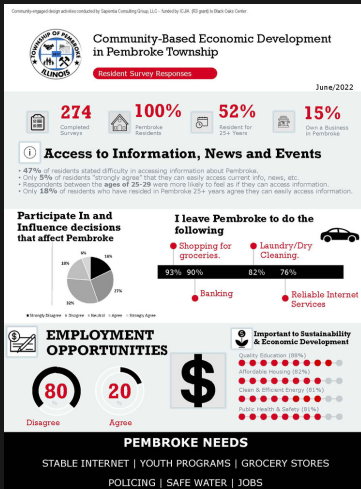
OUR PROGRAMS & ORG STRUCTURE ARE OF A REGENERATIVE DESIGN





RESILIENCE

THE BUTTERFLY IS A SYMBOL FOR TRANSFORMATION. FOR CHANGE TO OCCUR, THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE NEEDED IS ROOTED IN RESILIENCY, AND FOSTERING GREATER FORMS OF RESILIENCE IS AT THE HEART OF THE BOC MISSION. THE PEMBROKE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD ARE AT THE PRECIPICE OF RADICAL SOCIETAL AND CLIMATIC CHANGE. WE MUST FIND INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE TO WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS IN THE FACE OF COLLAPSING ECO-SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND UNPRECEDENTED DISRUPTIONS.



2022 Highlights: \$300,000

- Renewable Pembroke Campaign yielded 91.8% of Resident Registered Voters to Declare their Desire to Transition to Renewable Energy as a Primary Energy Source
- Completion of a Pembroke Community-Based Economic Development Survey (see left panel for a summary)

2023 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Launch the 'Renewable Pembroke' Website and Monthly Publication
- Launch the 'Save Black Farms' & 'Protect Pembroke' Campaigns Across the Chicago and Southland Regions
- Expand the Resiliency Leadership Track Council
- Establish a 'Black Farmers' Week' State-Wide Initiative
- Base-Build Support for the Black Farmers' Restoration Act & Related Trailer Bills (HB3501)
- Establish a Youth-Driven 'Renewable Futures' Internship for Next Generation Coalition Building

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$150,000



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

RETURNING OUR COMMUNITY TO ITS ONCE FRUITFUL STATE THROUGH REGENERATIVE FARMING IS OUR MISSION AND OUR VISION FOR 2030 IN PEMBROKE TOWNSHIP INCLUDES;

- GROWING 50 VIABLE SMALL FARMS
- ALL FARMS ARE GAP CERTIFIED ABLE TO SERVICE, WHOLESALE, COMMERCIAL & DIRECT RETAIL ACCOUNTS
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOOD ACCELERATOR WITH A COMMERCIAL KITCHEN FOR FARMS TO AGGREGATE, WASH/PACK & CREATE VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS
- ESTABLISH A LAND TRUST TO SUPPORT THE RETENTION OF BLACK FARMLAND

PEMBROKE FARMLAND RESTORATION
RESTORING THE AGRICULTURAL RICHNESS OF PEMBROKE

ATTENTION PEMBROKE LANDOWNERS! OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, March 1st, 4p-6p
LORENZO R. SMITH STA. DISTRICT 259
4120 SOUTH WHEELER RD.
PEMBROKE TOWNSHIP, IL 60984

Learn about enrolling for federal funding support. Eligible farmers and landowners can receive incentive payments for Land Rental and Land Management, including:
 *Cover Crops & Mulching
 *Installation of Tree & Berry Crops
 *High Tunnels and Fencing
 *Rental Assistance to Support Beginning Farmers with Access to Land

Funding made available under the Illinois Working Lands, Water & Wildlife Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.
 INQUIRIES & ENROLLMENT:
 PRFOFFICE@BLACKOAKSCENTER.ORG

2022 HIGHLIGHTS: \$438,750k

LAND RETENTION/LEASE PROGRAM/LAND LOSS PREVENTION

- 3 Parcels Retained in Effort to Mitigate Pembroke Land Loss
- Provide Land Ownership 101 & Heirs Property Intervention
- Leased 63 Acres for Training in 2023

LAND VIABILITY (LANDOWNER)

- Enrolled 21 Landowners(50+ Acres) in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) & the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to Qualify them for Farm Business Microloans
- Conducted Farm Business Bootcamps
- Installed a 5000-Plant, Blueberry Community Nursery for Distribution to Local Farmers
- Secured Over \$60,000 for Farm Viability Projects through the RCPP Partnership

2023 GOALS:

- Hire Expanded Production Team for the Pembroke Farmland Restoration Program
- Install 15 High Tunnels Across the Viability Projects to Increase Productivity and Extend Growing Season
- Conduct 2 Landownership Retreats & 10 Community Learning Days



2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL:



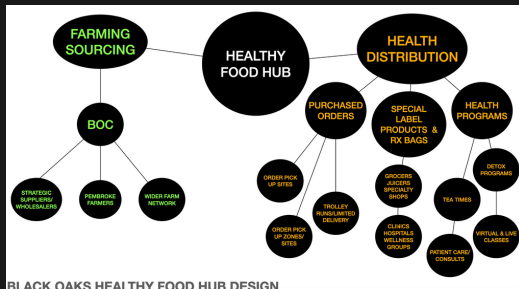
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CONT'D

APPRENTICESHIPS 2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Formed New collaborations: Tuskegee George Washington Carver Sustainability Institute & Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences
- Recruited Apprentices from 1890 Land Grant & HBCU Agricultural Students
- Conducted Two, 90-Day Sessions (Commuter & Immersion) w/Different Farm Track Certifications

2023 GOALS:

- Create Enhanced Curriculum & Methodologies w/Local Experts as Facilitators/Mentors
- Develop Virtual Teaching Platform
- Establish Relationships w/Youth Programs & Institutions
- Provide Farm Resource & Technical Assistance
- Provide Bridge & Scaling Programs for Urban Farmers



BLACK OAKS HEALTHY FOOD HUB DESIGN



HEALTHY FOOD HUB 2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Distributed 60,000 Food Boxes for COVID-19 Relief Efforts
- Partnered with Local Health Institutions to Distribute Over 10,000 Rx Bags: Prescriptive Foods to Address Health Disparities in the Chicago/Southland Communities

2023 GOALS:

- \$363k in Gross Sales for 2023 Healthy Food Hub
- Self Care Series Programming, Custom Food Pharmacy & Prescriptions
- Develop Fair Trade Relationships & Suppliers for Off-Season Production Needs
- Develop Retail Markets for Specialty Label Products
- Tiered-Membership Wellness & Rewards Programs w/Education Components
- Build Food Accelerator for Post-Harvest, Value-Added Production



2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$919,685

RENEWABLE ENERGY

REARDING THE WAY FOR A POST CARBON WORLD. AT A TIME THAT MOST OF THE GLOBE GRAPPLES WITH A CHANGING ENERGY FUTURE, THE PEOPLE OF PEMBROKE HAVE LONG STOOD FOR LOW-CARBON LIFESTYLES. BLACK OAKS IS A FULLY OFF-GRID TOWN, AS IS MUCH OF THIS FARMING COMMUNITY. WHAT LOOKS LIKE A LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN AN INTENTIONAL CHOICE IN FAVOR OF CLEAN WATER, SOIL AND AIR. PEMBROKE HAS LONG HISTORY OF FACING THE CHALLENGE OF THRIVING WITH LIMITED POWER INFRASTRUCTURE.

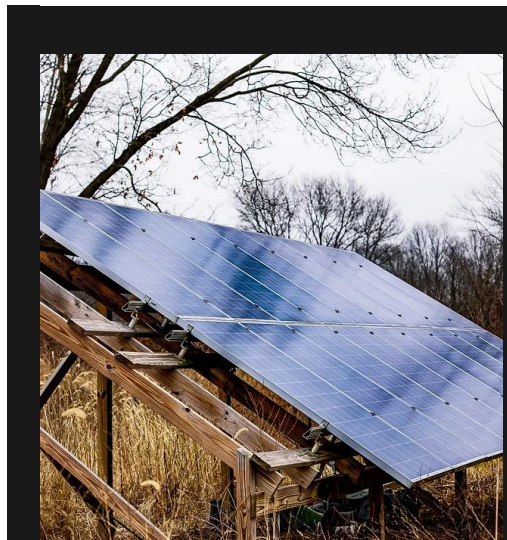
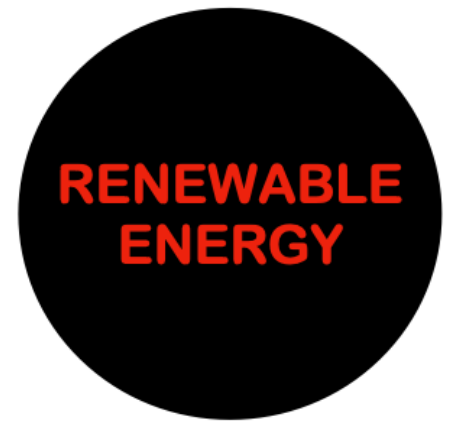
2022 Highlights: \$30,000

- Secured Eco-Campus Batteries and Increased Electric Service to Training Areas & Internet
- Obtained 30Klw Generator w/Capacity to Produce Bio-Fuels

2023 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Minimize Energy Costs
- Facilitate the planning assessment and implementation of a community solar project in Pembroke Township to increase community grid
- Operationalize Energy to Meet Our Needs - 1/5th & 1/8th Energy (Graph of most towns/villages)
- Investigate/Research
- Create Workforce CEJA for Employment, Education & Training
- Models - Community-Rural Based - Micro Energy System Development
- Expand Renewable Energy on Eco-Campus
- Plan & Implement Renewables for International Campus
- Create Power Stations - small solar farms contributing to grid systems

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$145,000



SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

THE BOC ECO-CAMPUS IS AN OFF-GRID, AGRO-FORESTED 40-ACRE FARM THAT SERVES AS AN ANCHOR AS THE CARTER FAMILY HOME, THE ECO CAMPUS, TEACHING FIELD, FOOD DISTRIBUTION HUB & MEETING CENTER. THE BOC CAMPUS UPGRADES ARE MODEL, TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES ON HOW TO BUILD SUSTAINABLY IN A REGION DISPROPORTIONATELY LACKING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (LIKE WATER, PLUMBING, WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENERGY).

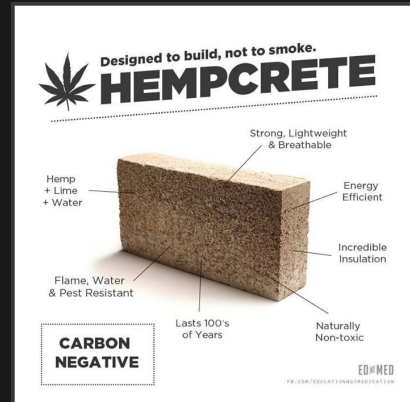
2022 Highlights: **\$413,750**

- Recently the Campus has Expanded through our Acquisition of a Nearby 40-Acre Parcel Designated the Future Black Oaks Center International Headquarters & Eco-Campus; a Community-Driven Food Accelerator, Retreat Center & Housing/Camp.

2023 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Create An Innovation Lab Focused Earth Building for Eloquent Technology & Invention
- Energy Transition Planning & Training
- Implement Comprehensive Materials Management Program
- Design Plan for Eco-Campus & HQ
- Investigate Hempcrete Processing & Manufacturing
- Create Food Accelerator Design
- Create All Things Hemp Lab (3D printing, hemp plastics)
- Increase Biofuel Production

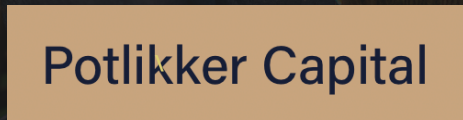
2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL: **\$2,700,000**





BLACKOAKS
Center for Sustainable
Renewable Living

**WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR
FUNDERS, PARTNERS, SPONSORS
& SUPPORTERS FOR
HELPING US REGENERATE!**



CONTACT US AT

INFO@BLACKOAKSCENTER.ORG