

## Annual Report 2024



This was a landmark year for NC Conservation Network as we celebrated our 25th anniversary protecting our state's air, water, and quality of life. Over the past quarter of a century, we've had tens of thousands of activists and supporters send emails, write letters, sign petitions, and place calls to key decision-makers on pressing environmental issues affecting North Carolina's environment and communities. While we faced a challenging political landscape in 2024, with your generous support we made progress on the following important issues:

- Successfully urged Governor Cooper to sign an executive order that protects our state's crucial wetlands. Wetlands are an integral part of our coast's ability to rebound from the impacts of intense storms and this executive order sets goals to preserve one million acres of wetlands, restore an additional one million acres of wetlands, and plant one million urban trees by 2040.
- 2. Worked with partners to ensure state agencies finalized strong action plans to address environmental justice in their work. We also have continued our work with communities and residents impacted by environmental injustices to fight for a healthier future.
- 3. Successfully pushed for state-level action in support of the NC Department of Environmental Quality's proposed temporary groundwater standards against a group of forever chemicals by generating over 1,000 petition signatures from activists and impacted community members.
- 4. Working with many partners, successfully advocated for the US Environmental Protection Agency to set stricter limits on a subset of forever chemicals in our drinking water, which was a historic step to safeguard our public health.

This was also a challenging year as western NC was devastated by Hurricane Helene. Since then, North Carolina's residents and communities have shown incredible spirit and compassion to repair and rebuild, but the impact left on families, homes, neighborhoods, and businesses is an ongoing challenge. Now more than ever, our state needs advanced resilience policies to help us prepare for more frequent and intense storms due in part to accelerating climate change. We will continue to work with partners to build a more climate resilient state and advocate for practices that protect North Carolina and our communities.

## **Support Our Work**

Make a one-time or monthly donation Make a gift through a will or living trust Participate in workplace giving via EarthShare North Carolina (ESNC)

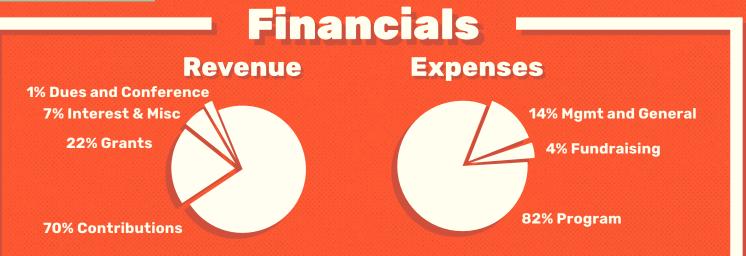
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## **Campus Fellows**

Our Campus Fellows program was launched in 2022 to engage young people on North Carolina campuses. Since then, these college students have been organizing across North Carolina educating their peers on key environmental issues and growing into future leaders. We are looking forward to seeing this program expand even more in 2025. Over the last two years, our Fellows have:

- collected over 18,500 petition signatures on campaigns such as environmental justice, forever chemicals, and energy policy;
- worked with more than 100 different community and campus organizations;
- hosted or attended over 400 events and speaking engagements; and
- engaged students about voting with peer texting and nonpartisan voter guides.



Contact: Alex Johnson, Development Associate alex@ncconservationnetwork.org 919.857.4699

