



OVGC Funding Request for Fiscal Year 2018



The Ojai Valley Green Coalition (OVGC) is respectfully requesting the continued collaboration and support of the City of Ojai in pursuing our shared interest in advancing a green, sustainable, and climate resilient Ojai Valley.

Our request would allow the OVGC to continue our partnership with the City of Ojai by providing sponsorship and support for the ongoing and new activities and projects that have provided demonstrable benefits to the Ojai community for the past three years. Through our educational and outreach efforts, the OVGC has been able to build a wide range of partnerships and coalitions that are in progressive alignment with the sustainability missions of both the Green Coalition and the City of Ojai. Through these expanding relationships, the Coalition has also been able to cultivate financial resources that have matched City funding in the form of sponsors, grants, and in-kind donations received from our members and supporters. Although the OVGC has worked independently and diligently for 12 years to develop these sustainability oriented relationships, they have been strengthened and enhanced in many ways by the support of our partnership with the City of Ojai.

Proposed Management Plan for City of Ojai 2018-2019 Funding

Administrative Budget				
General Expense Reimbursement	\$1,500			
Management Percentage @ 15%	\$7,500			
Digital Infrastructure (web, social media)	\$4,000			
Computer Hardware	\$1,000			
Total	\$14,000			
Regenerative Community Budget				
Resource Center	\$4,750			
Annual E-Waste & Recycling Event	\$1,500			
Annual Ojai Earth Day	\$3,000			
Annual Ojai Day Bike Valet & Bike Ed	\$750			
Annual Green & Water-Wise Living Tour	\$1,250			
Ojai Dark Sky Initiative	\$1,000			
Renewable Energy Initiatives (Clean Power Alliance, EV, Complete Streets)	\$1,000			
Ojai Community Education Events (incl Ojai Film Festival panel & reception)	\$1,500			
Ojai High School Education Events: Internships/Green Schools Student Leadership Collective	\$1,000			
Restoration & Resilience Council/ Ojai Transition Design	\$1,000			
Sustainable Living Research Initiative	NIC			
Total	\$16,750			
Water Security Budget				
Save Our Water, Ojai Campaign	\$8,000			
Annual Ojai Creek Cleanup Day	\$750			
Total	\$8,750			
Local Food/Healthy Soils Budget				
Ojai Community Demonstration Garden	\$10,000			
Annual Seed Saving & Plant Exchange	\$500			
Total	\$10,500			
Funding Total to Match 2017-18		\$50,000		

OVGC Focus Areas

As mentioned above, the Green Coalition is in its 12th year of offering annual service and education-based events in the Ojai community. The funding from the City of Ojai is used to co-sponsor these activities and the OVGC continues to build an engaged fellowship responsive to the *Focus Areas* listed below:

Water Security

The Thomas Fire, recent events, and the continuation of drought conditions have only propagated increased community interest and awareness for the importance of a *Watershed Approach* to ensure water quality and an adequate water supply. Program strengths that the OVGC intends to expand upon this fiscal year are its integration of Water-Wise educational outreach with aggressive and measurable opportunities to implement Water-Wise best management practices at the residential level. Developing mechanisms for measuring the potential for water efficiency, conservation, and management will be an important focus in this year, as will partnership and coalition building with the stakeholders and organizations that guide our water policies in the Ventura River Watershed.

Local Food, Healthy Soil

Educating and supporting sustainable local food production, activities and projects reduces our carbon footprint, while supporting a strongly emergent cultural component of our local economy. Recent studies indicate that the degradation of healthy topsoil is now exceeding 30% globally, while further studies tell us that healthy soil biology and increasing soil carbon content have significant potential for advancing both water and climate resilience. Sustainable agriculture and applied principles of soil health will be a considerable focus of OVGC public workshops at the *Ojai Valley Community Demonstration Garden*, as well as in our educational outreach events; including the *Ojai Film Festival* this year.

Regenerative Community

The use of *Transition Design* to build a community framework for a climate resilient Ojai is not a new concept for the OVGC. Our work over the last 12 years, and most recently with the newly formed Restoration and Resilience Council has informed our belief in a community process of working together to envision a healthy and vibrant environment, and an infrastructure that builds a positive future in the face of global changes. It is the intention of the Green Coalition to be an active partner and outreach facilitator this year in the Ojai *Transition Design* process being recommended by the Design Institute of Carnegie Mellon University.

Focus Areas: Activities and Projects

The OVGC will be pursuing our focus area goals this year through the following activities and projects:

Water Security

Save Our Water, Ojai Campaign

Through the *Save Our Water, Ojai* campaign, the OVGC has developed a model program for informing and demonstrating best practices in the *Watershed Approach* for efficient water use and management. In the next fiscal year we intend to supplement our program with the addition of these additional practices:

Engage in aggressive outreach to facilitate comprehensive *residential on-site water-wise evaluations* for interested Ojai City residents:

Timely and thorough on-site educational outreach to the Ojai City population can stimulate a high conversion of residents to increase water conservation and develop informed awareness for personal water management. This campaign will include: educational and informational events and presentations, Water-Wise field trips and demonstration workshops, including our planned Water-Wise Green Home Tour.

Develop an online database of Ojai residents who are actively engaged in water-wise conservation and water-wise management practices:

“A multitude of drops can create an ocean.” An online database on the OVGC website can serve as a supportive community network for water literacy and conservation, while also providing valuable metrics for quantifying and assessing conservation and efficiency measures implemented in the Ojai community.

Edit and develop a printable Ojai version of the Watershed Approach Residential Landscape Guide to be available as hardcopy and downloadable website resource to Ojai residents

The *Green Gardens Group* (G3) has recently published an open source guide entitled, *California Watershed Approach to Landscape Design* that has direct applications as a resource for Ojai residents. The OVGC will be pursuing partnerships with Ventura Water, Casitas Municipal Water District, and Ventura River Water District to adapt and edit a landscape resource guide for direct use in the Ojai Valley.

Partner with Sierra Watershed Progressive (SWP) to utilize OVGC resources to convey and apply Ocean Friendly Watershed Strategies in Ojai that emerge from their Ojai study:

Equipment, technology, expertise and funding can be combined with education, community outreach, and reputation to create impactful and long-lasting benefits to Ojai’s water crisis. A partnership between SWP and OVGC can create exemplary models for the Ojai Valley when it comes to sustainability and regenerative systems.

Develop the proposal for a model program to create prototypes of fully retrofitted, low-impact, water-wise Ojai residences that can be monitored in real time for their water conservation, rainwater catchment, groundwater recharge, and efficient water management properties:

Imagine if our neighborhoods became “water-hoods” and encouraged their immediate neighbors to step-up their water-conservation practices for the rehydration of the Ojai Valley, and the benefit of the watershed. All it takes is for several houses to first “get their feet wet” with a complete retrofit to water-wise systems. We are here to initiate, cultivate, and support these residential water leaders.

Organize and facilitate an Ojai Valley Water-Wise Garden House Tour to demonstrate practical examples of residential watershed approach practices being installed in Ojai, with plant lists to identify the water-wise alternatives:

“A picture is worth a thousand words.” Real, live models of people’s homes— where the curious and the enthusiastic can come, explore and learn— catalyzes inquisitive minds to action. The event production of this tour is designed to inspire people to request residential on-site water assessments for their own homes, followed by more water-wise renovations and installations.

Provide a rain barrel or rain tank purchase event for residents at a reduced price to the community by purchasing a large quantity wholesale:

Creating incentives in the form of valuable savings on water storage options is a way to encourage Ojai residents to begin their water-wise journey. The OVGC would like to co-host a public event with the City offering the discounted purchase of water storage units with the aim of capturing rainwater and promoting a fire-resilient valley.

Sponsor a Kit Stolz Ojai Water follow up research article:

In 2018 the OVGC engaged the services of journalist Kit Stolz to research and address questions of water security in the Ojai Valley. Kit’s article was well documented and received, and was viewed on the OVGC social media over 550 times. The OVGC would like to sponsor a follow up to Kit’s 2018 article.

Host *Watershed Approach Landscaping* Public Workshops at the Ojai Community Demonstration Garden:

The “Demonstration” component of the Ojai Community Demonstration Garden is being re-designed to demonstrate practical applications of innovative watershed management approaches and fire resilient landscaping. Permaculture Design, Watershed Approach Design, and Fire Resilient Design are all public workshops being planned by the OVGC in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Partner with the *C.R.E.W.* to host trainings for *C.R.E.W.* interns in Water-Wise retrofitting and Laundry to Landscape retrofitting:

The *C.R.E.W.* will be partnering with the OVGC at the Ojai Community Demonstration Garden on composting technology and soil carbon demonstrations in 2018-19. We would like to expand that

partnership to include training *C.R.E.W.* interns to do rainwater catchment, rain garden and laundry to landscape retrofits for interested Ojai City residents.

Local Food, Healthy Soil

Ojai Community Demonstration Garden

The development of a community-based strategic plan for revitalizing the Ojai Community Demonstration Garden is an initiative that has cultivated significant creative interest and enthusiasm at the OVGC over the 2017-18 fiscal year. We have worked hard to develop a comprehensive plan for engaging the Ojai community and the City of Ojai in a collaborative effort to revitalize the Ojai Community Demonstration Garden as a dynamic educational and recreational public green space. The OVGC believes that successful implementation of a new strategic plan for this Garden must be informed by a thorough effort to engage the Ojai community in a process of education and public input. This is the phase of strategic planning being facilitated at the Garden in the 2018-19 fiscal year, and includes:

Facilitation of public educational landscape design workshops at the Garden:

The Ojai Permaculture Design Workshop was the first in a series of educational design workshops to successfully take place at the Community Demonstration Garden on June 9th-10th. Other workshops being planned include: Watershed Approach Landscape Design, Fire Resilient Landscape Design, Soil Carbon and Compost Technologies Design, Local Sustainable Materials and Landscape Design, Native Plant and Pollinator Landscape Design, and Integrating Educational Components in Garden Design.

Incorporate design elements proposed from public workshops into CAD architectural base sheet

Contract for an expanded site survey of the adjacent areas that immediately surround the garden proper.

Although we have performed a site survey of the Garden proper, further design consultation indicated the need for a more extensive inclusion of surrounding landscape features and structures is important to cultivate a more comprehensive “big picture.”

Contract for new site survey information to be added to existing CAD architectural base map.

Professional services will be required to import the site survey into a CAD format that can be added to our existing architectural base map and integrated into the final comprehensive strategic design.

Contract for a certified arborist to prepare a report regarding the health and status of garden trees to be used to inform future tree management strategies.

A significant amount of tree pruning will be required in the restoration of the garden. Prior to any estimates for tree work a report from a certified arborist will be required to evaluate all trees within the size and species range of Ojai Public Works.

Schedule and facilitate a series of public garden work events to raise awareness for the garden revitalization project, and to thoroughly prune and clean up existing landscape features.

Professionally evaluate all irrigation and electrical features presently installed in the Garden

Provide limited funding for a OVGC staff project manager to facilitate and track progress through the Garden public education and input phase

Regenerative Community

Ongoing Educational Outreach & Annual Community Events

Ongoing Educational Outreach & Annual Community Events are events where the OVGC represents the City of Ojai in co-hosting events that align with the mission of a sustainable and climate resilient Ojai Valley. The annual events facilitated by the OVGC include:

September, 8th Annual Ojai Creek Cleanup Day:

The Ojai Creek Cleanup will be in its 8th year in 2018-19. It coincides with the Surfrider Foundation Beach Cleanup Day, and the statewide annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. This event is well supported by Ojai community residents, especially local schools.

October, Ojai Day:

At Ojai Day the OVGC will continue to host the Bike Valet Service that typically provides the community safe haven for nearly 200 bicycles, as well as information regarding the Ojai Complete Streets plans for a bicycle safe Ojai. The OVGC will also host a Watershed Approach information booth to encourage residential On-Site Water-Wise Evaluations for Ojai City residences

November, The Ojai Film Festival Film:

This November the OVGC will partner with the Ojai Film Festival to advise them on an environmental sustainability documentary series, and host a viewing, panel discussion and reception for a local documentary filmmaker with a sustainable agriculture theme

January, 11th Annual E-waste Collection & Recycling Event:

In Partnership with EJ Harrison, the Ojai Valley Directory, the Ojai School District, and the City of Ojai. In 2018, 324 cars came through our drop off at Nordhoff High School.. We estimate that 10 tons of e-waste was processed including 2,000 lbs. of batteries. Due to global economic impacts on e-waste recycling, EJ Harrison has announced that they will need to charge \$2,000 dollars for their continued service in 2019.

February, Ojai Valley Seed & Plant Swap:

This event is a collaboration between the OVGC, Food for Thought, the Center for Regenerative Agriculture, the Ojai School District, and the City of Ojai. The Seed and Plant Swap is one of the dynamic events in the year that brings our community of sustainable agriculture farmers and enthusiasts together to educate and share products with the Ojai Valley.

April, Ojai Earth Day:

The OVGC intends to continue to organize this event at Ojai Libbey Park in 2019, and expand partnership opportunities for Earth Day to include other sustainability organizations in the Ojai Valley. In 2018, we estimated over 1000 Earth Day participants, and hosted nearly 50 exhibitors and earth-friendly vendors.

May, Water-Wise Green Living Tour:

Integrated with the OVGC *Save Our Water, Ojai* campaign, the Green Living Tour in 2019 will emphasize residential homes in the Ojai Valley that have integrated exemplary Ocean Friendly and Water-Wise features into their residential landscape design.

Regenerative Community Initiatives

Dark Sky Initiative:

The mission of our Dark Sky initiative in the Ojai Valley is to restore the natural beauty of our night skies, and make the stars above more accessible to viewing by mitigating light pollution sources in Ojai. Ojai Valley Green Coalition members will continue to support the goal of becoming a [Dark Sky model community](#), in 2018-19 by advancing the guidelines established by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). OVGC efforts this year will include:

- Support passage of a Ventura County exterior lighting standards ordinance for Unincorporated Ojai Valley
- Continue efforts for City of Ojai to become a Dark Skies Designated Community: work with City to update exterior lighting standards ordinance to meet IDA standards
- Work with City Public Works to research and potentially upgrade Sarzotti Park field lightings and work with Southern California Edison to upgrade City street lights
- Host one community event, table 2-3 other community events and partner with Thacher School to host Thacher Observatory open houses
- Work with Ventura County/Ojai Sheriff Department to update Police Home Security Checklist to reflect Dark Skies friendly language and provide education regarding exterior lighting safety and security research
- Work with Ojai Valley Museum to retrofit exterior lighting to dark sky friendly fixtures and shielding

Renewable Energy Initiatives

Most recently the OVGC helped to facilitate the entry of the City of Ojai into the non-profit renewable energy consortium, *Clean Energy Alliance (CEA)*. The CEA will provide Ojai residents the freedom of choice to economically select renewable energy generation as the primary source for their domestic energy supply. In 2018-19 the OVGC will take a strong outreach role to inform the Ojai community of the benefits of this community choice energy program, as it begins implementation in our area. The OVGC will also continue to advocate for EV infrastructure and support the *Ojai Complete Streets Initiative* planning to enhance Ojai as a bicycle friendly city.

Restoration and Resilience Council

The Restoration and Resilience Council arose from a strong community response to the Thomas Fire, and meets regularly to explore deliverables that can prepare the Ojai community to be more climate resilient. In the 2018-19 year the OVGC hopes to direct the wealth of ideas emerging from Restoration and Resilience councils toward supporting the *Transition Design Process* being proposed by the *Design Institute of Carnegie Mellon University*.

Supporting Education and Outreach Activities

Resource Center for Environmental Lending Library and Community Meetings

Website, Email Newsletters & Social Media Networks

Concerted efforts by the OVGC to upgrade our website and social media infrastructure will allow us to provide a much more effective network outreach mechanism to convey sustainability information and events in a timely way in 2018-19

Educational Community Events

Ojai Valley Green Coalition networks of relationship with local organizations and schools will continue to generate collaborative educational opportunities in the 2018-19 year. The OVGC is already scheduling film events, panel discussions and workshops with local sustainability organizations and individuals. The OVGC is also planning to provide a supportive role for the newly emerged *Green Schools Student Leadership Collective (GSSLC)*, who formed this past year to exercise their voice and passion for a sustainable and climate resilient future. The GSSLC organized their first environmental event, *Run for the Hills* in 2018, and intend to organize further events in Ojai in 2018-19.

Concluding Statement

The Ojai Valley Green Coalition is founded on the principle of coalition building: with the City, with local organizations, and with the individual citizens who make up our community. We truly appreciate and believe, that our partnership with the City has been productive and valuable, and we look forward to working collaboratively with the City for another year as we move toward the development of a strong, resilient and sustainable Ojai community!