

RETHINK ENERGY FLORIDA



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



ABOUT RETHINK

MISSION

ReThink Energy Florida's Mission is to educate, engage, and empower Floridians to take action and achieve a just transition to clean energy for a healthier, more sustainable environment through youth education, adult engagement, and community organizing.

HISTORY

ReThink Energy Florida began with a small group of dedicated people, a couple of clipboards, and some ideas on how to educate and engage Floridians on renewable energy. Now we have grown into an organization that is accomplished and well respected across Florida and beyond.

The ReThink Energy Florida family is comprised of two distinct but connected organizations – ReThink Energy Florida, our 501(c)(3) educational charity founded in 2010, and ReThink Energy Action Fund, our 501(c)(4) social welfare advocacy organization founded in 2016.

Our staff continued to be a dedicated group of directors, unpaid interns, and regular volunteers that come in every day to build ReThink Energy Florida into the premier organization in Florida that people look to on energy issues.



2021 News and Successes

YOUTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

STEM-BASED SCIENCE CLUB



At ReThink Energy Florida (REF), we emphasize educating our youth on environmental issues and skills they will need in the future. In our efforts to accomplish this in light of the current pandemic, REF created a zero-fee, online-based school outreach program. Through our school outreach program, REF has been able to offer virtual classroom visits to schools in and around the Tallahassee area that teach students environmental and energy science through curriculum based, experiential activities. We have developed and virtually taught lessons for elementary school and middle school students and have recently developed a more advanced lesson for high school level students as well.

The elementary and middle school outreach presentation focuses on defining non-renewable versus renewable energy, centering in on solar energy, which is the main form of energy related to the activity. The activity allows students to color and create solar-powered insects (solar bugs) that take to movement when placed in the sun. Young students love this activity and absolutely light up when their hand-built bug goes from being still to moving on its own. Similar to the elementary and middle lesson, the high school lesson relays the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy, but at a more complex level. For this lesson we dive deeper into each form of renewable energy, how it is harnessed and its purpose. We also discuss a wider variety of energy forms such as geothermal power, ocean energy and biomass power, which lead into the activity. The high school activity relates to solar updraft and allows students to create their own solar updraft tower using heat energy to power a small propeller.

These programs are designed to be exciting ways for students to interact with renewable energy and each other throughout this year. We are motivated to ensure that students continue to have access to engaging STEM education and hands-on learning from a safe and remote location. Therefore, REF is continuously striving to make and build connections with local schools and communities that value STEM education and could benefit from our program.

ADULT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Too Hot to Work

Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) engaged ReThink Energy Florida (REF) to conduct work in Florida related to the August 2021 release of UCS' report on extreme heat and outdoor workers, Too Hot to Work.

UCS engaged ReThink Energy Florida to conduct work in Florida related to the release of the UCS' report "Too Hot to Work." The team had four main strategies:

1. Generate media coverage for Too Hot to Work
2. Distribute materials to relevant FL-based stakeholders
3. Organize a series of events with key stakeholders around report release, connecting the data to state/local heat-health worker issues in FL
4. Elevate UCS' Too Hot to Work to make the issue of heat a pivotal part of the conversation around climate in Florida

Chasing Ice

Rethink Energy Florida was proud to bring **Chasing Ice** to Floridians for a free virtual screening on Tuesday, March 23rd and Saturday, March 24th. The Emmy winning documentary Chasing Ice is the story of James Balog's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of our changing planet. Chasing Ice will educate those who have questions about climate reality, spark conversations about climate and Florida, and engage participants with ways to educate themselves further and stay involved.

Our guest speakers on March 23rd included Rafe Pomerance, environmental activist who has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Environment and Development, President of the Climate Policy Center (CPC) and led various environmental non-profits, alongside Nicole Hernandez, an experienced Florida sea-level scientist leading to her work as an activist for communities of color and the climate crisis. On Saturday, March 27th, speakers include Holley Rauen, seasoned social justice and environmental advocate from Fort Myers, joined with Rafe Pomerance.

MOTHERS FOR CLEAN ENERGY

In May, during Clean Air Month, we teamed up with groups across the southeast to draw attention to this invisible health threat which causes 1 in 5 deaths globally. Our efforts included a screening of the 20 minute documentary film *Planet Prescription: Healing Healer. Healing The Planet. Healing Us.* which listens to stories from health professionals in the southeast as they witness how air pollution and climate change are impacting human health, especially children's health and the communities impacted most by racial injustice. This collaborative film was made in partnership with the Climate Listening Project, Mothers & Others for Clean Air and Narrative Healthcare at Lenoir Rhyne University.

Following the film, a live panel discussed "*The Cumulative Effects of Air Pollution & The Role of Environmental Racism.*" We were honored to have as our moderator the Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley a civil rights icon, prominent pastor and activist.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

INTERNS

ReThink operates with the help of our internship program. Interns are encouraged to learn about every aspect of the organization regardless of their position and gain knowledge about a wide range of environmental issues. As most of our interns are either in college or just recently graduated, interns are able to acquaint themselves with nonprofits and local environmental organizations. Not only are they exploring future career paths, our interns are constantly making connections and networking with professionals, which provides for future opportunity and growth. They learn what goes into running a nonprofit while developing their outreach, advocacy, and administrative skills which give them an edge in the job market to help them stand out to employers.



Interns assist kids creating solar ovens at 2021 Energy Camp

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

VIRTUAL RFF

On Wednesday, March 10th, Floridians from across the state gathered on Zoom for our first-ever virtual *Reclaiming Florida's Future for All* event to advocate for utility relief, a statewide transition to renewable energy, and solar expansion. Beyond advocating for these issues, we also took action to oppose preemptive strikes on our local governments' energy autonomy

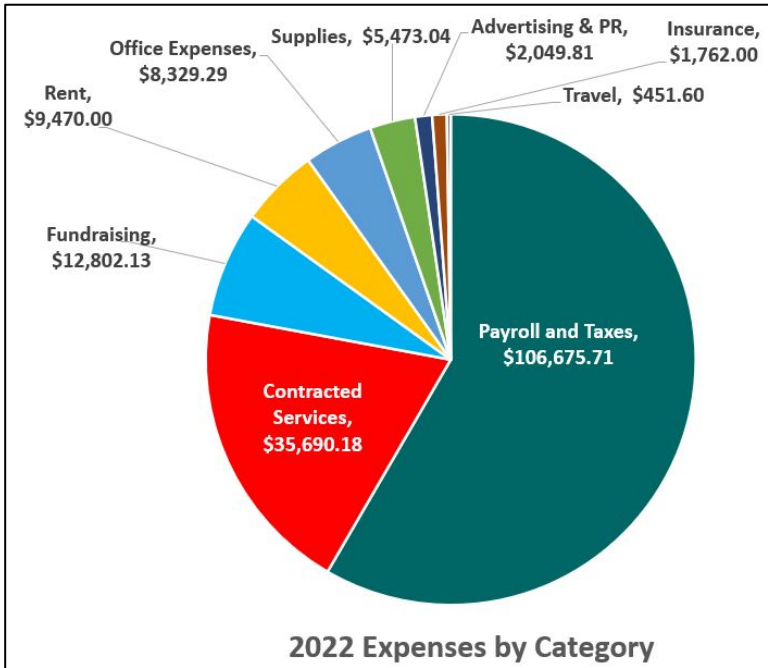


Cumulatively, we were able to connect 66 legislators with their constituents. And, throughout the day, we provided various opportunities for participants to stay engaged while they awaited meetings with their legislators. See a brief overview of our daily highlights below (and see links to recordings of each activity)!

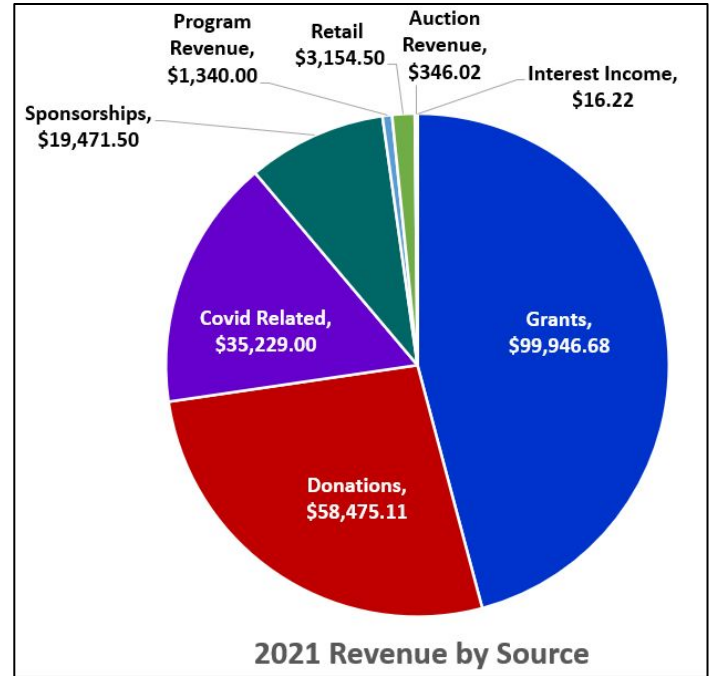
- We began the day with a networking event, Coffee & Conversation, which was followed by an exciting Climate Rally featuring Sen. Lori Berman and Rep. Travis McCurdy, as well as Archer Community Activists Gerie Crawford and Connie Lee.
- These events were followed by a **Florida Climate Leaders Panel** featuring Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Pensacola Councilwoman Sherri Myers, Former State Senator José Javier Rodriguez, and U.S. Representative Darren Soto!
- We were also joined by Orlando's Director of Sustainability, Chris Castro, for a presentation on 100% Renewables.
- RFF continued with a **Climate Justice Panel**, featuring Rev. Michael Malcom, Executive Director of the People's Justice Council and Alabama Interfaith Power and Light, Water Smith (Sierra Club), Jeannie Economos (Farmworker Association of Florida), and Dr. Mila Turner, a FAMU Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice.
- We continued our day with an **Intergenerational Interview** highlight Valholly Frank, a young climate activist from the Seminole Tribe, and Rafe Pomerance, the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Environment and Development under the Clinton Administration.
- And finally, as the day wrapped up, we heard from biologist and author Sandra Steingraber, and gathered in various caucuses, led by Valholly Frank and Catarina Fernandez.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

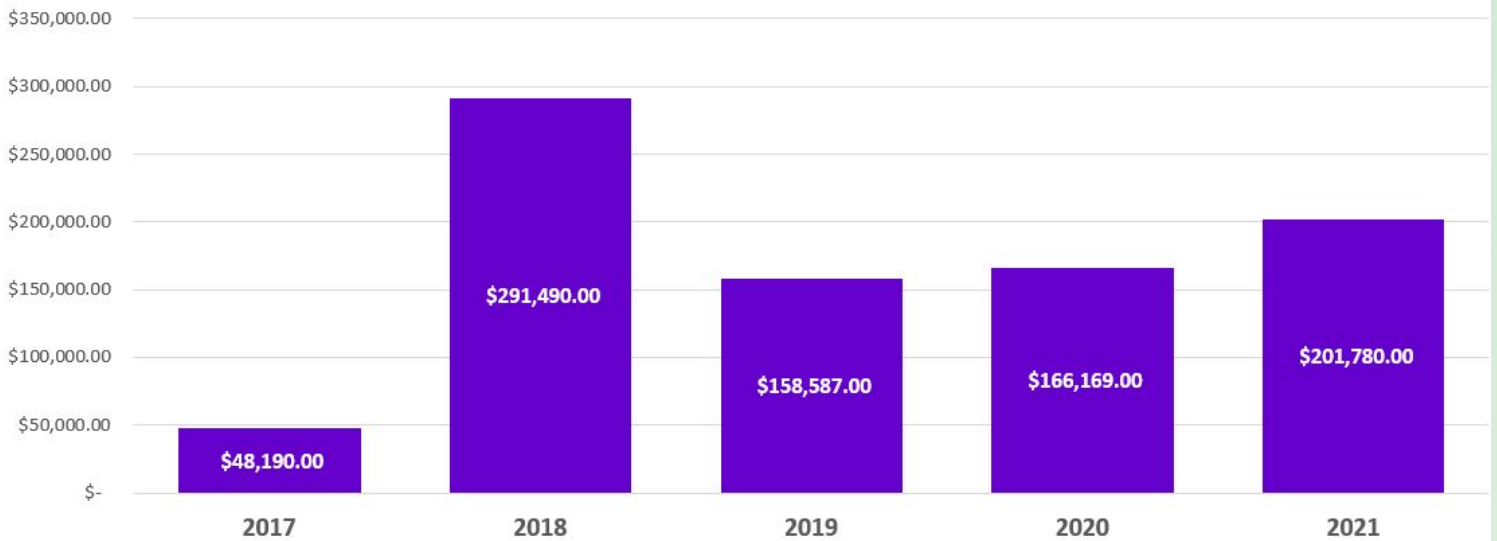
Expense Report



Income Report



Five Year Revenue



BOARD ROSTER

C3



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Executive Director & Ex Officio



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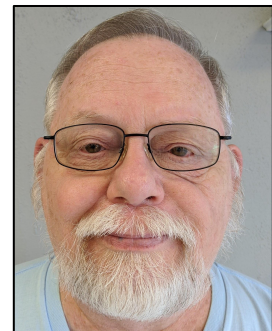
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Leighanne Boone
Action Fund President



Brian Lee
Action Fund Secretary



Kenneth Hays
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