

Soil Cycle



Annual Report

2020



SOIL CYCLE - 2020

Like organizations all over the world, our year looked very different than expected. This year saw new protocols, innovation, and passion emerge. 2020 became the catalyst to create professional online educational tools such as herbal plant medicine workshops, Sci Show Kids YouTube soil episodes, and the "Changing Mindsets" video. We made education the focus; we set up classroom worm composting systems at Frenchtown Elementary school, taught after school programs with the National Wildlife Federation, visited university classrooms, and offered compost workshops for MUD and Garden City Harvest. In Spring, we hustled to sell every cubic foot of compost we made the previous year, teaching young gardeners how to plant their very own "victory gardens."

To meet the needs of the community, we built a "last chance produce stand" to redirect excess local produce back to the people before it went to the soil. With grant funding, we were able to expand our indoor compost operation, building a black soldier fly bin and worm room as education tools.

Even though the year didn't go as planned, we are still extremely thankful to be serving the Missoula community. We wouldn't be here without the amazing members that continued to pay for services in uncertainty and the individuals that made an effort to buy locally produced compost that supports our growing organization. Thank you for all the continued support and love you have shown both me personally and Soil Cycle as an organization.

-Caitlyn Lewis, Executive Director

Mission

Soil Cycle's mission is to promote the natural food cycle by providing environmentally sustainable compost services and environmental education.



OUR PROGRAMS

Food Waste Collection & Composting

Built out of a love for the Earth, Soil Cycle focuses on the environment and easing the process of sustainable living for others.

Our food waste recycling program starts with bicycle-powered collections. Once back at our facility, it is made into nutrient organic compost by volunteers. The materials are turned, sifted and bagged by hand. This process allows rich learning opportunities while providing an emission-free product.

We manage many types of composting modalities such as hot piles, vermicompost, black soldier flies, compost tea, and bokashi. Composting in many ways allows continual learning opportunities and provides quality soil products.

"It's been great for me to not only bring my food scraps, but to grow as a gardener and be self-sufficient in how I produce my own food and take care of my food waste."

-Soil Cycle Member



OUR PROGRAMS

Environmental Education & Outreach

We believe that the act of composting can be revolutionary and we strive to impart that power to individuals through our service and educational efforts.

At Soil Cycle, education comes in many forms, but we prefer the type that gets our hands dirty. This year, we built a free community produce store to serve underserved populations and feed people before soil. We also taught in all types of classrooms from kindergarten to university.

We prioritized creating quality online resources. For example, we partnered with Sci Show Kids to create a national soil education series reaching thousands of viewers. We hope to continue to offer education about the important world beneath our feet.

"This pandemic year has been tough and unpredictable and it's vital and beautiful to come together with community-led efforts like Soil Cycle."

-NMCD Kid's Club





ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH IN 2020

Food waste diverted from landfill

54,000 lbs.

CO2 emissions reduced by using bicycles as transportation

2,244 lbs.

CO2 sequestered by composting

32,260 lbs.

Soil Cycle members

172

Finished compost donated

250 cubic feet

Educational Videos

10

Workshops/field trips hosted

16

GOALS for 2021

Soil Cycle became an organization in 2017, but it has only been an official nonprofit for the past year. As our approach to the organization changed, so did our goals. Our newly founded board went into 2020 with big community-minded goals focused on waste reduction, outreach and education.

Even though achieving our goals took a very different shape this year, we were still able to divert almost double the amount of food scraps from the landfill, add new compost modalities, and offer online education and workshops. We didn't quite reach our member goal in 2020 but are optimistic for 2021.

Our goals for 2021 are focused on improving the quality of our products and services while expanding our current programs.

Organic "Waste" Collections

- Sign up 100 new members
- Create 5 new drop-off locations in underserved neighborhoods
- Partner with local farms

Compost Programs

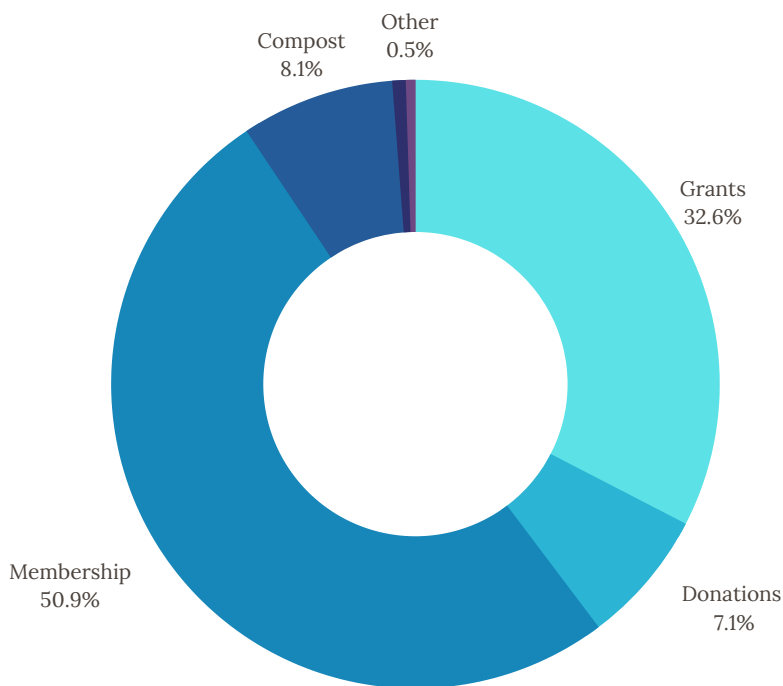
- Increase hauling potential with electric bikes
- Retail worm castings and compost tea

Environmental Education

- Offer 6+ educational workshops
- Run kids soil summer camp
- Provide free learning library
- Offer weekly volunteer opportunities
- Expand education with Missoula schools & city programs

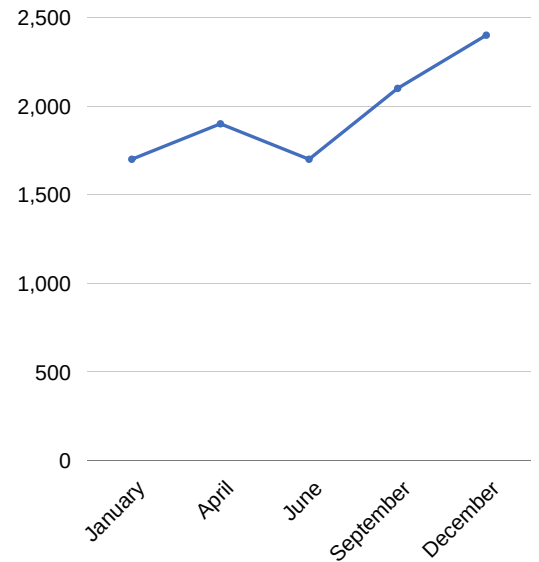
Financial Overview

Below is a basic, comprehensive report of the organization's financial activities throughout 2020 (the 3rd year of operation).

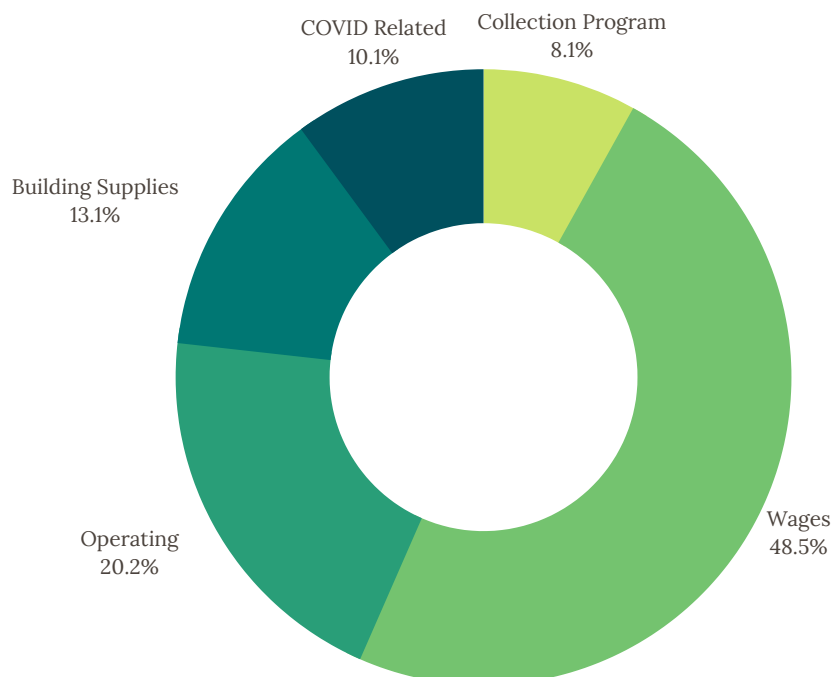


ANNUAL INCOME

Below is an overview of membership income in 2020.



2020 Income Summary



2020 Expense Summary

OUR PARTNERS

There is no greater power for change than a community coming together.

Benefactors

- Patagonia Foundation
- Montana Department of Commerce

Sustainable Partners

- Free Cycles
- Earth In Hand
- Harlequin Produce
- Heritage Timber
- Home ReSource
- Freedom Gardens
- Sun and Swell
- Missoula Urban Demonstration (MUD)
- Turner Farms
- 1000 New Gardens
- Art for the Earth
- Eileen Rafferty
- Garden City Harvest
- National Wildlife Federation
- The Flagship Program
- Missoula & Frenchtown School Districts
- Imagine Nation Brewing
- Bridge Pizza
- Recycling Works
- Tanya Yarrow
- Missoula Bicycle Works
- Planetary Design
- University of Montana
- Sci Show Kids
- Cold Water Metal Works
- Leaf and Quiet
- Rockin' Rudy's

Commercial Composters

- Adventure Cycling Association
- Sacred Ally
- Golden Yolk Griddle
- Heart Beet Herbal Remedies
- Back to the Mother
- Shady Spruce Hostel
- Community Medical Hospital
- Zoo City Apparel
- Earth Within Flowers
- Complexly
- C3 Work Lounge
- Black Cat Bakery





"Thank you so much for all of your help with Garden Project Week - from your soil discussion, to rain barrel installation, to your donation. You truly made the event so much better and we are grateful for your partnership!"

-Missoula Urban
Demonstration Project

TAKE ACTION

Continued support is what keeps our organization going; consider making a contribution:

- SoilCycleMissoula.com/donate
- Venmo funds @soilcycle
- Paypal to soilcyclemissoula@gmail.com

Help us decrease the impact of food waste. Without organizations like Soil Cycle, food waste will continue to end up in landfills, creating methane that pollutes our atmosphere. Your gift will ensure Missoula is a healthier, happier, and more environmentally sound community.

Soil Cycle is a 501(c) (3) Organization: Federal Tax ID #83-2816550.



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