



Est. 2004

# 2023 Sustainability Report

*We Exist to be of Service to  
People and the Planet*



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# Letter from our CEO

At World Centric, we are keenly aware that we operate within a capitalistic economic system. This system thrives on the exploitation of labor and unbridled extraction of natural resources from a finite planet. The exploitation of people and the planet leads to large profits for a few, with a handful of billionaires owning more than 50% of the world's income. This disparity arises because the true costs of doing business, i.e. labor, extraction of resources and pollution of the environment, are not paid for, but if these costs were fully accounted for, there could be more social equity and less destruction of ecosystems on our planet.

Operating within this capitalistic paradigm is definitely a challenge and our efforts may seem diminutive compared to the problems facing the planet. However, I have always wanted World Centric to be a different kind of company; one which drives positive change in our world. The focus for our products has always been on utilizing sustainable raw materials, reducing water and energy consumption during manufacturing, reducing waste and ensuring that we are not exploiting people and exacerbating social disparities.

In 2022, we transitioned to using bamboo fiber for a majority of our paper products, worked with our manufacturing partners to set renewable energy goals, introduced Leaf Plus (a plant based solution to grease resistance) and celebrated our 12th year as a certified B-Corp. Furthermore, we conducted social audits to ensure that workers in manufacturing were paid fair wages and, last but not least, announced a total of \$13M since 2009 donated to non-profits working on reducing our impact on the environment and supporting those living on less than \$2/day.

Although we are proud to celebrate all that we've accomplished in 2022, there continues to be a lot of work to be done to ensure that we can meet our own aspirations and standards for how we should operate and live in a world facing increasing disparities and ecological issues. With our efforts, we hope that we can continue to make a difference, however small, for the good of all life on this beautiful planet.

Sincerely,

Aseem Das



# Our Mission: To be of service to people and the planet



## We enable our mission by:



Replacing traditional plastics with materials that have lower carbon emissions, use less energy and come from sustainable raw materials



Using our profits to support organizations working on issues of poverty and on reversing the environmental impact of our consumption



Promoting awareness and encouraging others to limit their impact on the planet's ecosystems





# Giving 25% of Profits

World Centric began as a non-profit organization to raise awareness of global issues of inequality, poverty and ecological destruction. Throughout the world we see billions without access to basic necessities like food, water, sanitation, education, healthcare and more. Climate change undoubtedly exacerbates this cycle of poverty, especially in communities where resources aren't available to mitigate the effects of this environmental degradation.

Since transitioning to a for-profit company in 2009, we have given 25% of our annual profits to assist in fighting for equality and sustainability in the most vulnerable communities. It is only when all people have access to the basic necessities to lead a dignified life that we will begin to see a better world.



*"On one hand, we live in a world of excess and on the other, a world of extreme scarcity. It is easy to forget the large disparities in income and resources faced by millions of people. At World Centric we are using our profits to lessen these disparities and reduce our impact on the environment." - Aseem Das*

## Key Links

[Giving Program | World Centric](#) >>



# Giving Program

World Centric’s giving program encompasses three categories: Impact Giving, Carbon Mitigation Projects and Product Donations. Each is defined below:

## Impact Giving Program

Our impact giving program is focused on addressing the dual impacts of extreme poverty and environmental degradation. We support organizations around the world that are providing access to basic needs and economic empowerment in areas where people are living on less than \$2.15 a day. People experiencing extreme poverty often live in the places most impacted by climate change and are more vulnerable to natural disasters. Funding work that integrates climate solutions with socioeconomic development is a powerful way to impact both people and the planet.

## Carbon Giving Program

Every action we take as a business has a consequence, so we have designed a carbon mitigation program by partnering with environmental and social organizations whose programs not only sequester and/or reduce CO2 emissions but engage local communities.

## Product Donations Program

World Centric is committed to supporting organizations and events that align with our mission. We donate product directly to organizations doing work in the areas of social, environmental, and human rights.

Below are our total giving numbers to date since the program’s inception in 2009:



**\$8,419,139**

Impact Giving



**\$4,047,886**

Carbon Mitigation



**\$1,218,117**

Product Donations

**Total Giving:  
\$13,685,142**



# Giving Program Priorities

In 2022, our grants to partner organizations are focused on these critical areas:

Healthcare 

K-12 Education 

Indigenous Land Rights 

Economic Empowerment 

Agroforestry & Reforestation 

Community-Driven Development 

WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) 

Each of these areas provides benefits beyond their direct impact by addressing income generation gaps and gender equality, providing jobs and capacity building, increasing ecological knowledge and much more.

We look for organizations that have a significant positive impact in supporting communities and the environment, while making the most efficient and effective use of funding.



# 2022 FY Partner Highlights



ACADES - \$30,000 Grant | New Impact Partner 2023  
*Building thriving communities of small-scale farmers in Malawi, Africa.*

Hastings Nhale and Mada Chipekwe, co-founders of ACADES and both from rural Malawi, developed the “Smallholder Farmer Commercialization Model” to uplift their community by increasing income from small-scale farming. ACADES has assisted over 10,000 farmers by offering training, access to resources, and market opportunities to overcome barriers and improve livelihoods. Learn more at [academw.com](http://academw.com).



Raising the Village - \$150,311 Grant | Impact Partner Since 2020  
*Investing in people. Creating opportunities.*

Raising the Village (RTV) partners with last-mile, rural communities in Uganda and develops initiatives that pave the pathway out of ultra poverty towards economic self-sufficiency. Through RTV’s approach of securing basic needs, improving livelihoods, and sustaining long-term change, households successfully increased incomes and earnings from an average of \$1.03/day to \$2.45/day within 24-months. Every \$100 dollars invested by RTV unlocked \$650 per family within two years. Learn more at [raisingthevillage.org](http://raisingthevillage.org).





Green Again Restoration - \$24,707 | Carbon Mitigation Partner Since 2022

*Rebuilding forest habitats using traditional ecological knowledge in Madagascar.*

Madagascar has lost 87% of its rainforest in the last century, negatively impacting rural communities relying on it for vital resources. Green Again Madagascar works in partnership with communities to restore and protect the rainforest, preserving biodiversity, supporting traditional livelihoods, and promoting sustainable forest management. Learn more at [greenagainmadagascar.org](http://greenagainmadagascar.org).



DESPRI - \$183,295 Grant | Carbon Mitigation Partner Since 2015

*Supporting socioeconomic and environmental resilience and innovation in Northwest Haiti.*

DESPRI empowers communities, particularly women, through self-help groups (SHGs) that focus on capacity building, financial empowerment, and environmental initiatives. They promote women entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture, income-generating value-chains, and environmental restoration. DESPRI currently collaborates with over 5,200 women in 260 SHGs, managing 10 tree nurseries. Two of these nurseries are dedicated to mangroves, which play a vital role in stabilizing coastal ecosystems and capturing carbon. Learn more at [atdesprihaiti.org](http://atdesprihaiti.org).



# Additional Giving Programs

At World Centric, our giving is a driving force behind all that we do. In order to increase staff engagement, we offer several internal giving programs to foster more participation.

Our **Regional Giving** program allows our regional salespeople to find and support US-based nonprofits working on critical issues such as food insecurity, food waste recovery, plastic pollution, and advocacy for composting infrastructure.

**Staff Giving** is an annual program for all staff that allocates funds to donate to nonprofits that are recommended by a volunteer committee of employees (the Giving Team). This year, staff allocated \$136,000 to 20 nonprofits around the world.

In 2022 we matched \$21,530 through our **Employee Donation Matching program** and had 58% participation. Our goal going forward is to increase participation to 65%.

*“Hearing the concern from my customers here in Florida about the future of our local ecosystems, I knew my regional giving funds should be directed to coastal conservation. It’s a privilege to support the work of Miami Waterkeepers and Seaworthy Collective”*



Terry Rentzepis  
Regional Sales Manager

Our Regional Giving program supported Miami Waterkeeper and Seaworthy Collective through the efforts of Terry Rentzepis, World Centric Regional Sales Manager for the Florida Region.



**MIAMI  
WATERKEEPER®**



**ESG GOAL: Increase participation to 65% in the employee donation matching program.**





*Volunteering with Friends of the Petaluma River, April, 2022*

# Our Workforce

**65 Full Time | 2 Part Time | 1 Temporary = 68 Total Employees**

We believe that providing meaningful employment is a significant avenue for businesses to contribute to the well-being and livelihoods of individuals and communities. We're proud to be able to provide a benefits package that includes competitive PTO, Volunteer Time Off, and a range of health and wellness benefits.

Each of our employees is given 40 hours of paid time to volunteer. Employees choose to volunteer individually at the nonprofit of their choice or to join a team volunteer day. In April of 2022, World Centric employees came

together to support our local watershed by volunteering with Friends of the Petaluma River. We spent the afternoon picking up trash along the river, removing invasive plants, and building protective cages for young oak trees.

In 2022, our employees logged 310 volunteer hours helping various community projects. This represents an 8% participation. By 2025, we hope to log 15% of available associate hours to further our positive impact on a community level.



**ESG GOAL: Log 15% of available associate volunteer hours.**





# Business Certifications



As well as being a California Benefit Corporation that incorporates social impact into the core mission of our business, World Centric maintains the following business certifications and memberships. Learn more about our certifications at [worldcentric.com/certifications](http://worldcentric.com/certifications).



As a certified B Corporation since 2010, World Centric meets rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency. A score of 80 is required for certification and this year our B Corp score was 120.5. Our certification is good through 2025. Learn more at [bcorporation.net](http://bcorporation.net).



Blue: World Centric's Score - 120.5  
Green: Minimum Score to Qualify - 80  
Yellow: Median Score - 50.9

## Other Key Memberships



# Sustainable Product Certifications



World Centric maintains the following sustainable product certifications from third-party verifiers.



The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is a not-for-profit association that reviews ASTM testing and certifies compostable foodware. For a complete list of World Centric certifications, see BPI's website: [bpiworld.com/worldcentric](http://bpiworld.com/worldcentric).



Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certified forest products are verified from the forest of origin through the supply chain to ensure that the products used are from responsibly harvested and verified sources.



USDA Biobased Product labels indicate that a product has been independently certified to meet standards for biobased content. Visit [biopreferred.gov](http://biopreferred.gov) for a list of our certified products.



World Centric® compostable bags are certified by TÜV AUSTRIA as suitable for home composting, guaranteeing biodegradation in your backyard or garden compost heap.



Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA) utilizes a nationwide partnership of facilities to provide field disintegration testing for foodservice products.

## Key Links

[Composting and Sustainability Certifications | >>> World Centric](#)





# Notable Awards



World Centric received the following awards in 2022:



## Real Leaders Eco Innovation Award

For Leaf Plus, World Centric's proprietary, all-natural, plant-based, fully compostable alternative to fluorinated chemicals in disposable fiber tableware.

Link: [real-leaders.com/eco-award-winners-2022](https://real-leaders.com/eco-award-winners-2022)



## Real Leaders Top Impact Company

World Centric recognized as #4 Top Impact Company in the Manufacturing/Industrial category. RealLeaders recognizes the rise in purpose-driven businesses with their annual Impact Awards. This diverse group of companies from around the world shows how business can thrive and help build a better world.

Link: [real-leaders.com/rliia-2022/12](https://real-leaders.com/rliia-2022/12)



## International Green Industry Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame platform exists to recognize people and organizations for their excellence throughout industry.

Link: [gogreenhall.org](https://gogreenhall.org)



# Product Innovations

World Centric launched the following new compostable products in 2022:

## Cutlery Dispenser



World Centric's innovative new touchless cutlery dispenser works with our specially designed compostable TPLA cutlery to create a clean, easy way for customers to access the utensils they need. Our cutlery dispenser is designed to replace single use plastic cutlery that is not recyclable or compostable. Learn more at [worldcentric.com/dispenser](https://worldcentric.com/dispenser).

## Nacho Trays




## Stadium Tray

Our new fiber nacho trays and stadium trays are designed to replace existing foam and plastic trays at sporting events and concert venues.

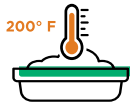
## Plant-Based Oil Resistance

World Centric is proud to announce our new proprietary solution to replace PFAS as an oil and grease barrier in our molded fiber products. Combining cutting-edge technology with an all-natural, proprietary solution, the World Centric Leaf Plus solution is PFAS free, oil resistant, BPI certified compostable, and suitable for hot or cold use.


### Key Benefits



**Sustainable**  
Composed of all-natural ingredients with no PFAS



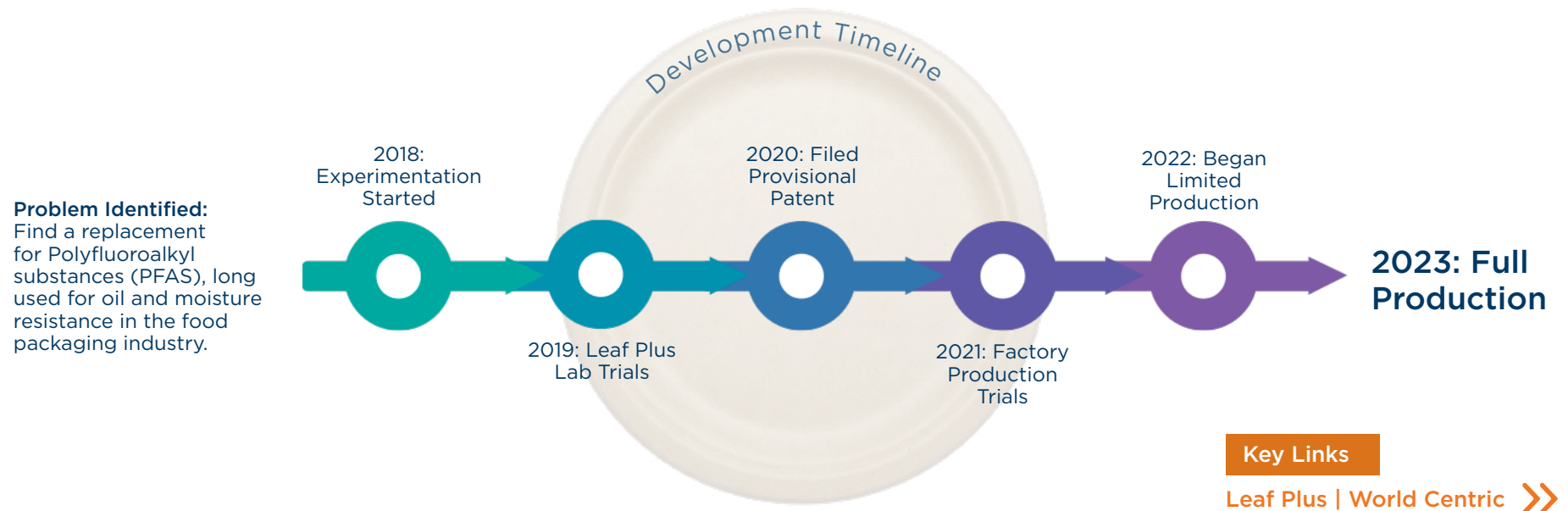
**Performance**  
Oil and grease resistance with higher temps



**Compostable**  
Commercially compostable where accepted

World Centric's own Research and Development team began working on a solution to replace intentionally added PFAS in 2017.

In 2018, the lab started concentrating their efforts on the Leaf Plus solution. In 2019, there were successful lab trials and in 2020 the production scale up trials commenced. We filed a patent on the formula in 2021 and began production in 2022. Read more at [worldcentric.com/leafplus](http://worldcentric.com/leafplus).





# Ethical Business Practices



We consider ourselves a people-oriented company; from our giving program supporting under resourced communities to the ethical business practices we uphold throughout our supply chain.



We regularly audit our suppliers via third-party Social Accountability standards for fair wages and working conditions. At the end of the 2022 fiscal year, 88% of our suppliers had been audited.

By 2025, we strive to achieve 100% supplier compliance with social accountability standard audits to ensure that we are producing products that are made with the earth and people in mind.

- **Social Audits under Fair Labor Association Guidelines**



- **Food Safety Audits in accordance with GFSI accredited standards; FSSC22000, SQF and BRC**
- **ISO9001, Quality Management Systems in place and other factory certifications**



**ESG GOAL: Achieve 100% supplier compliance with social accountability audits.**





## Environmental Performance

At World Centric, minimizing the environmental impact of our products and business operations has always been central to our mission. Evaluating our environmental performance across our supply chain enables us to identify emissions reduction opportunities and track the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives. To strengthen our data-driven approach, we have revised the methodology for our corporate carbon accounting. We are also conducting cradle-to-gate life cycle assessments for our full product catalog to more accurately quantify the emissions from manufacturing, which accounts for the largest source of our emissions.

We are most excited by the increased use of on-site renewable energy at our partner manufacturing facilities, driving down our products' carbon footprints and progressing toward decarbonization of our industrial operations. By 2025, we aim to direct 35% of our business to our partner suppliers with on-site renewable energy.



**ESG GOAL: Direct 35% of business to suppliers with on-site renewable energy usage.**





# Materials Sourcing

Because of World Centric’s strong sustainability commitment, we source raw materials as responsibly as possible. We are replacing wood fiber with rapidly renewable plants like bamboo and agricultural by-products such as bagasse, which is the pulpy residue left over after sugar is extracted from sugarcane which may have otherwise been incinerated or landfilled.

## World Centric Product Materials



**FSC® Certified Bamboo**  
Cutlery & NoTree Papers



**Bio-Polymers**  
TPLA Cutlery, PLA Cups & Containers, CPLA Lids



**Plant Fiber (Wheat Straw, Bagasse, Bamboo)**  
Plates, bowls, containers, cutlery, lids



**FSC® Certified and/or PCW Recycled Paper**  
Paper cups, napkins, cup and container sleeves

Further, 95% of our eligible paper products are from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certified sources.

As the most trusted forest management certification, FSC sets the standards in environmental protection of sustainably managed forests. Criteria include protecting water quality, prohibiting harvest of rare old growth forests, preventing loss of natural forest cover and prohibiting the use of highly hazardous chemicals during the growing process, as well as protecting wildlife and local communities.

### Key Links

[Sustainability Certifications | World Centric](#) 

# Market Regulations



Several important bills were passed in 2022 that had a direct impact on World Centric's food packaging business. They are summarized below:



## California AB 1200

Bans the use of perfluorinated and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in food packaging. Outlaws the sales and distribution of any foodware with intentionally added PFAS beginning on January 1, 2023.



## New York SB S8817

Bans intentionally added PFAS in foodware from being sold or distributed beginning December 31, 2022.



## California AB 1276

Prohibits a food facility from providing any single-use foodware accessory to a consumer unless requested and prohibits items from being bundled unnecessarily.



## California AB 1383

Designed to combat food waste, this bill took effect in 2022 and requires every jurisdiction in California to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses.



## Washington HB 1694

Bans the use of perfluorinated and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in food packaging. Outlaws the sales and distribution of certain foodware with intentionally added PFAS beginning on February 1, 2023.

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World Centric introduced the following innovations that help us stay in compliance with statewide ordinances:



Leaf Plus is World Centric's proprietary compostable alternative to PFAS in molded fiber food packaging. Learn more at [worldcentric.com/leafplus](http://worldcentric.com/leafplus)



World Centric helped educate the public by writing informative articles about these ordinances on our blog Earth Matters at [worldcentric.net](http://worldcentric.net).



World Centric's Touchless Cutlery Dispenser is a safe and convenient way for customers to access only the utensils they need. More info at [worldcentric.com/dispenser](http://worldcentric.com/dispenser)





# Composting Advocacy



World Centric's products are designed with the end of life in mind. Ideally, the end is in a compost system which will allow the products to return to the earth. The unfortunate reality is that many of our products do not reach their intended final destination. There are several barriers preventing compostables from being properly discarded which include a lack of composting infrastructure, access to composting collection or drop off and overall lack of awareness of the benefits of compostables by consumers and businesses.

We are striving to change that through our participation in numerous composting advocacy groups that lobby for more widespread access to composting in North America. Our Resource Recovery Team participates in the following:



## California Association of Compost Producers

Active in the the Marketing Working Group



## Sustainable Packaging Coalition

Active with the Compostable Packaging Collaborative



## Biodegradable Products Institute

Participate with Legislation and Advocacy Committee for both the US and Canada



## ASTM

Participate in working group to develop in-field compost standards



## U.S. Composting Council

Member and supporter of the U.S. Composting Infrastructure Coalition



## CA Compost Coalition

Member





World Centric staff volunteer day at Petaluma Bountly, June, 2022



Tour of Redwood Landfill Compost Site, November, 2022

# ESG Goals

Short for Environmental, Social, and Governance, ESG considers the impact a company has on its employees, customers and the communities where it operates.

For this inaugural Sustainability Report, we have chosen the following four ESG goals for World Centric:



## Renewable Energy

Direct 35% of business to suppliers with on-site renewable energy usage



## Social Accountability

Achieve 100% supplier compliance with social accountability audits



## Volunteering

Log 15% of available associate volunteer hours



## Donations

Increase employee participation to 65% in the employee donation matching program





David Yer  
RIVER HERITAGE



## World Centric

1500 Valley House Drive, Suite 210  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
Tel: 707.241.9190 | [worldcentric.com](http://worldcentric.com)