



# Sustainability Report

Data based on FY 2022-2023

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



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## Letter from our CEO

Another year has passed and we, humans, have continued our downward spiral of increasing carbon emissions, extracting natural resources and widening social disparities. This is disheartening but it's our reality. Given this context, our sustainability efforts seem insignificant and inconsequential, yet it is also good to acknowledge the work we have been able to do, as it positively impacts people and the environment. A tree planted, nutritious food grown, a child receiving an education, a ton of carbon reduced - however small, these do make a difference.

Our environmental efforts focus on using less carbon intensive raw materials, using renewables in manufacturing, supporting indigenous communities and planting trees, while our social efforts are targeted to provide for basic needs of food, water, education, healthcare and increased economic empowerment.

In 2023, we surpassed our goal to direct 35% of our supplier spend to manufacturing partners with on-site renewable energy, which decreases the emissions per unit of product produced and our reliance on traditional non-renewable power sources. We maintained our commitment to donate 25% of profits with a total of over \$17M donated since 2009. Our giving supports organizations working to reduce environmental degradation and improve the lives of the planet's most vulnerable populations. With funds from 2023, our non-profit partners improved the wellbeing of more than 51,000 people living in poverty, protected 194,945 acres of forest, and planted 587,587 trees.

Our ongoing commitment is to positively contribute to society and the environment, striving to make a meaningful difference year after year.

Aseem Das  
Founder and CEO



## 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 to raise awareness of global inequality, poverty, and environmental degradation. While we transitioned to a for-profit company in 2009, supporting positive social and environmental change remains the core objective of our Giving Program, where we donate 25% of our profits to non-profit organizations around the world.

**World Centric's Giving Program consists of five individual programs:** Impact Grants, Regional Giving, Staff Giving, Employee Donation Matching, and In-Kind Product Donations.

### Our Giving Programs

- |  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <br>Impact Grants | <br>Regional Giving | <br>Staff Giving | <br>Donation Matching | <br>Product Donations |
|--|--|---|--|--|
- Impact Grants account for 92% of our funding portfolio*

The largest of these programs is our Impact Grants, which comprises 92% of our funding portfolio. Through our Impact Grants, we fund grassroots organizations working at the intersection of extreme poverty and environmental degradation.

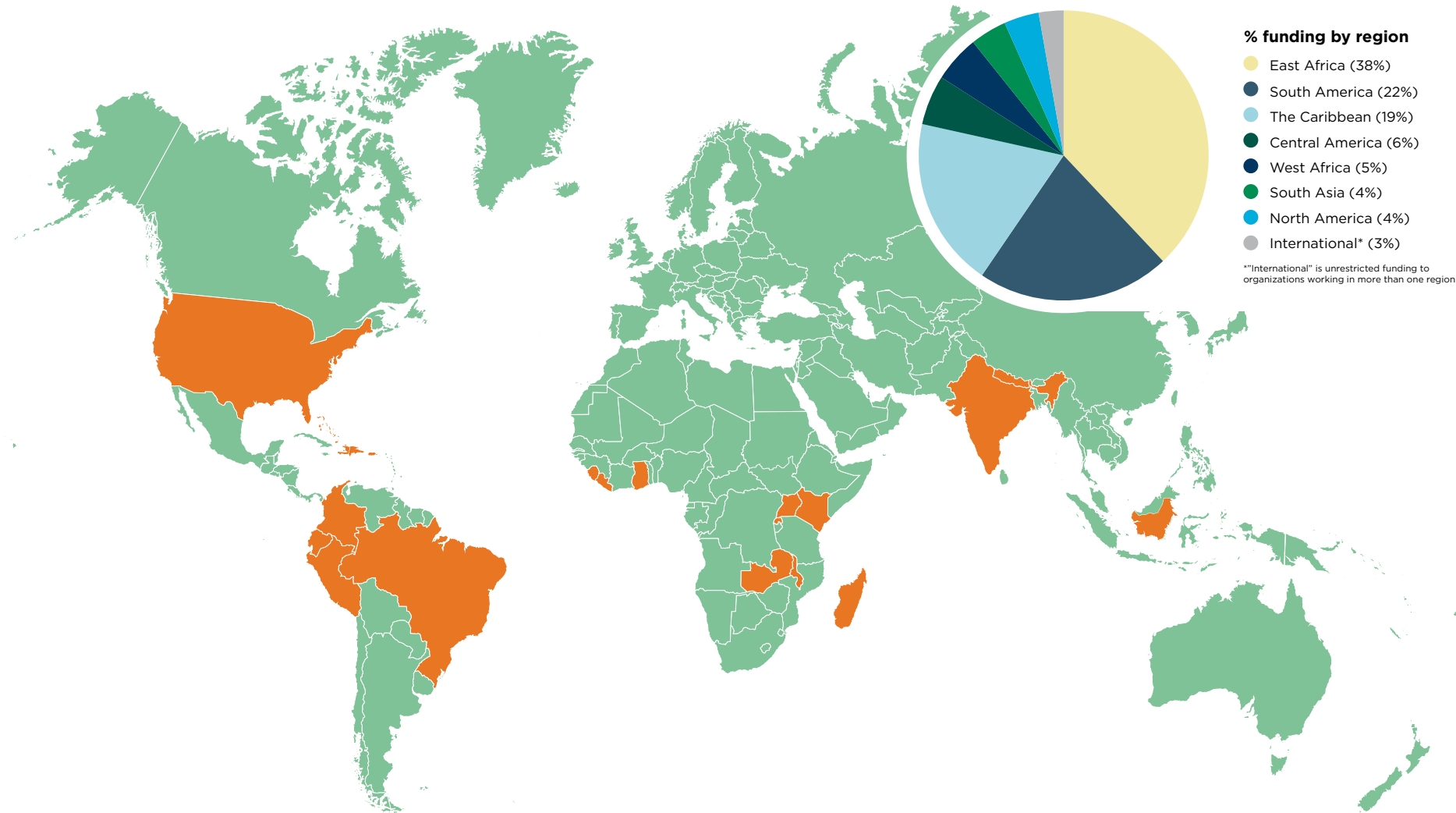
See the link below to our website for more information on where we fund. Learn more about our giving programs in our **2022 Giving Report**.

Key Links

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

# Total Giving Since 2009: \$17,980,765

The map below shows where our giving is focused.



Volunteer clean-up event at Rindler Creek in Vallejo, CA.



Volunteer garden maintenance day at Ceres Community Project in Sebastopol, CA.

## Our Workforce Impact

Each of our employees is given 40 hours of paid volunteer time off (VTO) annually. Employees choose to volunteer individually at the nonprofit of their choice or to join a team volunteer day.

In June of 2023, several World Centric employees participated in a garden maintenance day at Ceres Community Project, an organization dedicated to bringing healthy and organic foods to those facing serious medical illnesses.

In September of 2023, one World Centric employee participated in a volunteer clean-up event at Rindler Creek with Vallejo Watershed Alliance, a habitat restoration and enhancement organization.

**Positive Finding:** In our 2022 sustainability report, we announced a goal to increase employee participation in VTO from 310 hours or 8% participation rate.

In 2023, employees logged 424 volunteer hours, representing 16% VTO participation, effectively doubling the employee participation rate and increasing our small but mighty workforce's positive impact on the planet!

**Doubled the employee participation rate in VTO to 16%**



*"VTO is such an outstanding benefit and really speaks to the values and integrity of World Centric.*

*Volunteering as a group offers a unique opportunity to combine team building and supporting a good cause. Win-win-win!"*

**Adrienne Bragg**



## Sustainable Business Certifications

World Centric maintains the following business certifications and memberships. Learn more about our certifications at the link below.



### Public Benefit Corporation

As a Benefit Corporation since 2013, we prioritize the impact of our business on society and the environment. Benefit corporations create a measurable positive impact on all stakeholders, including employees, vendors and the community at large.



### Certified B Corporation

As a certified B Corporation since 2010, World Centric meets rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency. Learn more at [bcorporation.net](http://bcorporation.net).

### Other Key Memberships & Awards



Key Links

[Business Certifications | World Centric](#) >>

## Sustainable Product Certifications

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



### TÜV Austria Home & Industrial

The TÜV OK Compost certification ensures products are capable of biodegradation in an industrial composting system or a backyard compost pile.



### Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®)

The FSC® certification ensures that forest products used are from responsibly harvested and verified sources.

### Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA®)

The CMA certification ensures products sent to commercial compost facilities are capable of breaking down within the specific compost technology process.



### USDA Biopreferred Program

The USDA Certified Biobased Product Label guarantees products meet program standards for biobased content.



### ChemForward Safer

The ChemForward SAFER designation ensures our LeafPlus® solution has passed the chemical hazard assessment for human health and environmental hazards.

Key Links

[Product Certifications | World Centric](#) >>

# Product Innovations



World Centric launched two new exciting products for FY 2022/23, our 100% FSC® bamboo cutlery and ZeroWare®, our reusable tableware products made from a combination of polylactic acid (PLA), a plant-based plastic, and mineral sources.

## Bamboo Cutlery



- Made from 100% FSC® certified bamboo
- Plastic free
- 100% USDA Biobased
- Can be discarded with yard trimmings

Our bamboo cutlery is made from FSC® certified bamboo and is 100% biobased and plastic free. The FSC third-party certification ensures that the bamboo we source is being

sustainably and responsibly managed. FSC 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.

Designed to replace petroleum plastic cutlery that is not recyclable and is the target of many single-use plastic ordinances around the country, our bamboo cutlery is a more sustainable alternative. Read more at [worldcentric.com/bamboocutlery](http://worldcentric.com/bamboocutlery).

## ZeroWare® Reusable Tableware



Made from a combination of PLA and mineral sources, ZeroWare is the safe and sustainable alternative to other tableware options made from petroleum plastic.

According to lifecycle assessment (LCA) data, the ZeroWare 9” plate has lower emissions than our single-use 9” molded fiber plate after just nine uses. Read more on our website: [worldcentric.com/zeroware](http://worldcentric.com/zeroware).

# 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.

Our manufacturing partners are audited regularly, i.e. every 18-24 months, via third-party Social Accountability standards, including BSCI, SA8000, Sedex/SMETA and WCA.



Each of these Social Accountability standards covers the following topics:

- **Supply Chain Security**
- **Labor Rights and Standards:**  
*Fair Labor Pay, Working Hours, Prohibition of Child Labor, Collective Bargaining, Prohibition of Discrimination, Disciplinary actions*
- **Health and Safety**
- **Environment**
- **Working Conditions**
- **Business Integrity**

**Positive Finding:** As a certified B Corporation since 2010, World Centric meets rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency. One of the six main impact areas of the B Corp Assessment is “Community,” which includes a subsection on Supply Chain Management. On average, companies in the Wholesale/Retail sector score an average of 3.6 points.

By contrast, World Centric proudly scored 7.6 points in this subsection. This high score as well as our auditing practices attest to our commitment to improving social and environmental impacts throughout our supply chain.

**Achieved a 7.6 out of 12 Supply Change Management score on B-Corp assessment attesting to our commitment to improving our supply chain**



## Environmental Performance

As there is indisputable evidence that the burning of fossil fuels is driving the climate crisis, World Centric is focusing on moving away from fossil fuels in product production. As such, we are focusing on increasing the percentage of our products made with renewable energy.

From a product life cycle perspective, the raw materials for our plant-based products produce significantly lower emissions,

***The raw materials for our plant-based products produce significantly lower emissions, compared to single-use plastic alternatives***

compared to single-use plastic alternatives, since cultivation of our raw materials is not fossil fuel-intensive.

The next product stage, manufacturing, accounts for most of our products' emissions as we still rely on electricity from the grid, which is still heavily reliant on fossil fuels, to produce the majority of our products. In 2023FY, we directed over 35% of our spend to suppliers with on-site renewable energy meeting more than 5% of their energy needs. Renewable energy capacity at these facilities continues to increase, reducing our reliance

and need for fossil fuels while also driving down emissions per unit product produced.

**Positive Finding:** In 2023FY, over 10% of the total kWhs used to manufacture our products was powered by on-site solar energy. This led to an emissions savings of approximately 1,367,326 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e or 1,367.3 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e, which is equivalent to:

**Our emissions savings\***

 **3,496,658** miles driven by an average gasoline-powered vehicle

\*Equivalencies source: Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator | US EPA

 **Directed over 35% of our supplier spend to suppliers with on-site renewable energy**



This was a treeless pasture in 2008

## Carbon Giving

Each year, based on our carbon footprint, we allocate funds to support organizations with long-term solutions to reduce and sequester carbon.

Reducing World Centric's carbon footprint is a crucial aspect of minimizing our product's environmental impact. In areas where reduction isn't feasible or sufficient, we rely on mitigation initiatives, which we call "Carbon Giving."

Carbon Giving provides funding to organizations on the frontlines of climate change who are working on carbon reduction and sequestration while also improving community resilience.

### Carbon Giving Program Highlight



**People restoring land.  
Land restoring humanity.**



Ofrenda A'bunna is an Indigenous-led non-profit recovering Arhuaco ancestral land in Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. The majority of this land was clear-cut and/or degraded for monoculture farming or raising livestock. On every acre purchased, 70% of the land is dedicated to regeneration of native forests and 30% for growing organic food, fibers and medicines.

World Centric partnered with Ofrenda A'bunna in 2022 and has since supported the purchase of 458 acres of land.

Learn more about all of our impact partners on our website: [worldcentric.com/impact](https://worldcentric.com/impact).



# Materials Sourcing

**World Centric prioritizes sustainability by responsibly sourcing raw materials, with a focus on plant fiber and certified sustainable papers.**


We are replacing wood fiber with rapidly renewable plants like bamboo and agricultural by-products such as sugarcane bagasse, which is the pulpy residue left over after sugar is extracted from sugarcane which may have otherwise been incinerated or landfilled.

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

## World Centric Product Materials

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

 **Bioplastic**  
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

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](#)

[About Our Products | World Centric](#) 

# 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.**

If our products are not appropriately collected and managed for composting, their end of life value is not fully realized. When they do reach the preferred end of life

***Compostable products contribute to the circular economy by bringing food scraps with them and contributing to increased soil health.***

management, they strongly contribute to the circular economy by bringing food scraps with them and contributing to increased soil health. Healthier soil provides the ability to grow more food without synthetic fertilizers or intense irrigation, ultimately sequestering more carbon throughout the growing and harvesting processes.

A 2023 article by **BioCycle** assessed food waste composting facilities in the U.S. The results show that 71% of compost facilities accepted some form of

compostable packaging. This increase from the 2019 survey was welcomed news despite facility acceptance continuing to be the primary factor for whether or not our products can be processed into a valuable, carbon-sequestering soil amendment. Second to facility acceptance is the issue of limited access to infrastructure and composting programs across the country.

A more recent report released in February 2024 by the **Environmental Research and Education Foundation** provided a positive finding on the infrastructure front through its detailed snapshot of the composting industry's current state. Measured growth in the composting sector was seen not only in the number of facilities but also in their capacity to produce compost. "Overall, the number of facilities increased by 55% between 2016 and 2021 which was outpaced by an 83% increase in tonnage processed by respondents."

## Positive Findings:

**71%**  
of Compost Facilities accept some form of compostable packaging

**55%**  
increase in compost facilities between 2016-2021

**83%**  
increase in compost tonnage processed between 2016-2021

# Advancing the Industry

Because of our commitment to circularity, we are inspired to keep advocating for the expansion of infrastructure and access to compost programs nationwide. A large part of our advocacy work is done through membership and participation in the following professional industry organizations.



Active with the Compostable Packaging Collaborative and Packaging Policy Collaborative



**California Senate Bill 54 Advisory Board Member**  
Representing the Covered Material Category of “Certified Compostables”



Member and supporter of the U.S. Composting Infrastructure Coalition, Membership Committee, Young Professionals Mentorship Program, Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee and several affiliated State Chapters across the country



Active with SB 54 Implementation Group and Compostable Packaging subcommittee



Member

**Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA®)**  
The Circularity of Compostables Futures Search Steering Committee



Impact Partner Ofrenda A'bunna on their ancestral land in Colombia.

**Thank you for your interest in and  
support of our sustainability efforts**



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Visit [worldcentric.com](http://worldcentric.com) to learn more.

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