

**What we do:**

Sonoma Ecology Center embraces a comprehensive approach to sustainability focusing on three strategies:

- Research – We learn about where we live using the best available science.
- Education – We share this information with our community to inform decisions and support the next generation.
- Restoration – We take actions with our community to preserve and enhance our home.

But more than anything, we are collaborators. We strive to build relationships, work with other organizations, share knowledge and resources, and serve as partners in creating and sustaining the kind of world we all wish to enjoy.

A single story:

In 2011, with the State budget cuts, many parks were closed. That December, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park closed for the first time in nearly 50 years. In response, Sonoma Ecology Center led the way in creating Team Sugarloaf – a coalition of five nonprofit organizations – dedicated to keeping the 3,900 acre park open and fully functional. As a result of these efforts, the park reopened in June 2012. Sonoma Ecology Center now oversees general operations, while other partners oversee the campground, trails, the Robert Ferguson Observatory, and the historic features of the park. This is a great example of the kind of collaborative, preservation-focused work Sonoma Ecology Center has been leading in Sonoma Valley for many years. Thanks to this dedication, Sugarloaf remains an open park where tens of thousands of people enjoy preserved natural beauty, year-round camping and hiking, and educational and enriching community activities such as seasonal music concerts and science summer camps.

That single example illustrates how Sonoma Ecology Center works within the community to respond to critical ecological concerns of Sonoma Valley. Now, with a prolonged water crisis in California and climate change a real threat to the security of our lives here and around the world, we are making these concerns central to our work. A third area of focus is “Sustainable Sonoma” – a collaboration with community partners – to identify common goals, evaluate current efforts and gaps, set measurable targets, and bring together resources to help our community become one of the most sustainable places in the state.

Our start:

In 1990, a diverse group of Sonoma Valley residents staged a community-wide event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. The highly successful event demonstrated how much we all cared about where we live and that we were willing to work together to take action to protect the natural aspects of the Valley. The event organizers, realizing the importance of what had occurred, founded the Sonoma Ecology Center to encourage the efforts of the community.

As it has matured over 25 years, Sonoma Ecology Center has deepened and broadened its mission — *to work with our community to sustain and enhance ecological health in Sonoma Valley.*



Impact100 Sonoma
awarded an Impact
Finalist Grant of

**\$2,500 (2010) and a Community
Grant of \$7,000 (2011) to the
Sonoma Ecology Center.**

Our future:

Sonoma Ecology Center is celebrating 25 years of service in Sonoma Valley. We are now focusing on how we can work with others to have the greatest impact over the next quarter century.