21 Accomplishments in 2021

1. Engaged hundreds of residents and allies in opposition to the electrical substation being proposed in East Boston. When the State approved the decision, GreenRoots filed an appeal with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

2. GreenRoots, CLF and Lawyers for Civil Rights filed Title VI Civil Rights Complaints with several federal agencies for the State’s clear violations of language access and public participation in the substation’s permitting process.

3. Won passage of EJ legislation, as part of the Climate Roadmap Bill, after years of advocacy!

4. Advocated, with city and federal elected officials, to the EPA and DEP for the installation of a permanent air quality monitoring station and nine mobile air quality monitors in Chelsea.

5. Secured a major grant, through an environmental settlement, that will provide for the installation of air purifiers in roughly 200 homes, addressing indoor air quality and reducing asthma triggers.

6. Awarded a Merit Award from the US EPA, an American Climate Leadership Award and our Associate Executive Director was named a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

7. Launched Chelsea’s first Community Land Trust, Communidades Enraizadas.

8. The ECO Youth Crew collaborated with Silvia Lopez Chavez to design and paint Chelsea’s newest mural, a multilingual, multicultural design highlighting resilience and unity.

9. Continued critical COVID-19 response and recovery. Our multilingual, intergenerational vaccine ambassadors helped Chelsea have one of the highest vaccination rates in the state. We continued to support impacted families, the city’s emergency response and through the Anti-Displacement Roundtable, worked collaboratively to obtain additional stimulus funding — to correct an antiquated equation which gave Chelsea far fewer funds than less impacted communities.

10. Supported two major food pantries, Salvation Army and Revival International Church, with infrastructure needs including refrigeration, flooring, storage and more.
11. Our five urban growing spaces flourished! Our Urban Farm grew and donated over 2,500 lbs of food insecure families and local food pantries.

12. Secured a major grant with Mass General Brigham to expand our food justice programming with the design and construction of a teaching kitchen — coming in 2022!

13. Won and piloted the first ever bus lane on the Tobin Bridge! Prevented public transit cuts during the pandemic and ensured service was maintained for transit-dependent riders.

14. Secured major commitments for new open space and public access to the Chelsea Creek, on the site where GreenRoots defeated the construction of a power plant over 10 years ago.

15. Worked with pro bono architects, Michael Van Valkenburgh and Associates, on community design for a new park space along the Mill Creek.

16. Partnered with BU SPH, the city and other partners on community-led heat island mitigation strategies including a "cool block" concept with the Boys and Girls Club involving white roofs, tree planting and transforming a vacant urban lot into lush, green space.

17. With our RUN-GJC microgrid partners and the City of Chelsea, fundraised over $1M for Chelsea's microgrid and began implementation in municipal buildings.

18. Furthered energy democracy in Chelsea through Community Choice Energy which will allow our community to purchase energy from more sustainable and affordable sources.

19. Organized public events including canoeing / kayaking, movie nights, pop-up parks, weekly Caminatas Verdes, tree plantings, Annual Earth Day Clean-up and Celebration, 6th Annual Evening on the Creek and more!

20. Launched an extensive Health Equity Report highlighting dozens of policy recommendations to address health disparities in Chelsea.

21. Celebrated 5 years as an independent organization. In that time, we've grown the budget by almost 7x, increased staff to over 30 and continued internal teamwork on equity, justice and diversity.